

City of Mesa

Library Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date: November 19th, 2024
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Location: Red Mountain Library, Roadrunner Room
635 N Power Rd
Mesa, AZ 85205

Members Present

Ralph Wilson, *Chair*
Lonica Rowley, *Vice Chair*
Jo Wilson
Kristin Ricklefs-Johnson
Ellen Bachman
James Martherus
Mark Powell
Christal Cline
Karina Wilhelm

Staff Present

Polly Bonnett
Jesse Simms
Brandon Williams
Tony Garvey
Megan Guderian
Erin Jones
Zach Gomez-Robinson
Brenna Klassen

Members Absent

Guests Present

Troy Neiman and Maxie Adler

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION
Call to Order	Chair Member, Ralph Wilson, called the meeting for the City of Mesa Library Advisory Board to order at 5:31 p.m. on November 19 th , 2024.
Approval of May 21st meeting minutes	The May 21 st meeting minutes were moved by Ralph Wilson and seconded by Christal Cline. Upon the tabulation of votes for the meeting minutes, the results showed: AYES – R. Wilson, J. Wilson, Ricklefs-Johnson, Martherus, Powell, Cline, Wilhelm NAYS – None
Public Comments	There were no public comments.
Introductions, Recognitions, and Announcements	All staff and board members present introduced themselves.
Election of the Chair and Vice Chair	Jo Wilson motioned to nominate Ralph Wilson as Chair; Ellen Bachman Seconded. Ralph Wilson is elected Chair with no opposition. Motion passed. Ralph Wilson motioned to nominate Lonica Rowley as Vice Chair; James Martherus seconded. Lonica Rowley is elected Vice Chair with no opposition. Motion passed.
Presentation On the Dobson Ranch Public Art Project	Maxie Adler and Troy Neiman gave a presentation on the Dobson Ranch Public Art Project. They shared the inspiration for the pillar designs, topographic maps of Mesa and nearby landscapes. The materials being used are powder-coated steel, perforated aluminum, and paint. They shared the benches attached to the pillars, have been approved by the City of Mesa for ADA compliance. A photo of the fabricated steel is shown. Ralph asked how the steel was cut, it was shared that plasma cut is used. Ralph asked about the height of benches. The height of the benches is 17 inches.
Presentation of the Community Outreach & Engagement Ambassador Program	Supervisory Librarian, Megan Guderian gave a presentation on a new volunteer position. The position will be called Community Outreach & Engagement Ambassador. This volunteer will join the outreach team at events to share all the good things the library is doing. Additionally, Megan shared that so far there are a total of 2 ambassadors at this time. Ambassadors will receive information training, a PowerPoint presentation, as well as on the job training. Kristin asked the number of ambassadors

AGENDA ITEM**DISCUSSION**

would be they are aiming for, and Megan shared that no more than 10 at any time. Christal asked about time commitment. Megan shared that ambassadors could expect to volunteer for 4-5 hours a week during a busy season but could even be 2 hours a month; it will vary based on volunteers' availability. The outreach team has a total of 6 outreach team members, as well as 2 members of volunteer services. Jesse reported the outreach team has talked to over 10,000 people since January.

Mesa Reads Update

Librarian III, Brenna Klassen, provided an update on Mesa Reads, a yearlong initiative in 2025 to encourage reading in Mesa. The goal is for individuals to read a total of 15 minutes per day, with a community goal of one million minutes. Mesa Public Schools and local businesses supporting literacy are key partners, and staff hope Mayor-elect Mark Freeman will declare a Year of Reading Proclamation. In January, a "One Book, One Mesa" committee will select a book for community-wide reading and discussion. Monthly challenges, winter and summer reading programs, events, and an end-of-year celebration will be part of the initiative. Brenna also announced that the first winter reading challenge will begin in December through Beanstack, which will track minutes for Mesa Reads, 1000 Books Before Kindergarten, and Native American Heritage Month. Paper forms will be available for those who need them.

Director's Update

Library Director, Polly Bonnett, introduced the "Connect with a Councilmember" program, where each board member will be invited to connect with a member of Council to brief on library related topics. She announced two recent awards: the Mesa Express Library/Monterey Park expansion won Project of the Year, and the Gateway Library received a 2024 ALA/IIDA Library Interior Design Award. Polly also shared that Marketing/Communications Specialist, Veronica Coronado, will be interviewed via Zoom on the Kelly Clarkson Show about a viral Reel. Gateway Library, set to open in Fall 2025, is under construction, with Erin Jones as the new Branch Coordinator. The Bookmobile is coming and will hopefully launch on March 1st at I Love Mesa Day. Polly provided a preliminary update on the Library Master Plan, highlighting a focus on children's spaces, programming, and expanding collections, with Sunday hours as a common request. The Family Resource Center is now open and well-utilized, with community members emphasizing the importance of free services. The Mesa West Rotary Club recently donated 30 VR headsets for system-wide programming. Lastly, exterior renovations at the Main Library, including solar parking structures and facade improvements, will begin soon, with a completion date of Spring 2025. A question was asked about the mural above the front doors; Polly responded that the mural above the front doors will be repainted but remains in place.

Identify items for future agenda

Board member, Karina Wilhelm, shared her experience navigating the library's website with recommendations on improvements.

Next Meeting Dates

January 21st, 2025 – Main Library Board Room

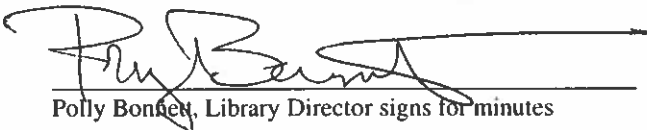
Adjournment

Board member Jo Wilson moved, and Ralph Wilson seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 pm. Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Bachman, Cline, Ricklefs-Johnson, Wilhelm, Powell, and Martherus

NAYS – None

The next meeting will be held on the 21st of January 2025 at 5:30 p.m. in the Library Board Room at the Main Library.



Polly Bonnett, Library Director signs for minutes