

City of Mesa

Library Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date: January 16, 2024
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Location: Main Library, Board Room
64 E. 1st Street
Mesa, AZ 85201

Members Present

Ralph Wilson, *Chair*
Jeff Clubb, *Vice Chair*
Lonica Rowley
Ellen Bachman
Jo Wilson
James Martherus
Steven Miner

Staff Present

Polly Bonnett
Jesse Simms
Anna Mathews
Megan Guderian
Tenecia Philips
Erin Jones
Tony Garvey
Brandon Williams

Members Absent

Alisha Ward
Kristin Ricklefs-Johnson

Guests Present

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION
Call to Order	Chair Member, Ralph Wilson, called the meeting for the City of Mesa Library Advisory Board to order at 5:34 p.m. on January 16, 2024.
Approval of November 21st meeting minutes	<p>The November 21st meeting minutes were moved by Jeff Club moved and seconded by Ralph Wilson. Upon the tabulation of votes for the meeting minutes, the results showed:</p> <p>AYES – Wilson, Clubb, Rowley, Bachman, Wilson, Martherus, and Miner. NAYS – None</p>
Public Comments	There were no public comments.
Introductions, Recognitions, and Announcements	Library Director, Polly Bonnett, welcomed the Board members and all staff present for the first meeting in 2024.
Gateway Library Update	Library Director, Polly Bonnett, gave an update on the Gateway Library discussing the budget constraints, shared the programming of the space, and timeline for a groundbreaking. Polly shared pictures/perspectives from all angles of the branch library, both internal and external, so the Board could visualize the design. She shared that the groundbreaking will be taking place in spring of 2024 and estimated project completion in late Summer 2025. The board discussed the project scope, with Board member Ellen Bachman asking about lights on the shelves in the adult section of the library and Board Chair Ralph Wilson, asking about the heights of the shelving. Polly confirmed that lights are included on the shelving located in the adult section of the library and that the standard height of shelving being used is 5 ft. Board member Lonica Rowley asked about the size of the branch, its location, and Ralph Wilson asked about onsite solar panels in the parking lot. Polly shared that the Branch is roughly 28k sq ft, located in the Great Park in Eastmark next to the Basis Charter School, and that Solar panels are a potential add-on to this project but budget options are still being discussed.

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Program Development	<p>Branch Coordinators, Erin Jones, Anna Mathews, and Tenecia Philips discussed Mesa Public Library’s approach to program development, program evaluation, and the current and year-over-year statistics on the programs. They shared that MPL was able to offer over 1,700 programs to over 43,000 patrons in Fiscal Year 2022-2023. They discussed how programs have been selected in the past and highlighted the larger and most well-known events MPL hosts each year: Summer Reading Program, Halloween Boo, and the Local Author Fair. The Board discussed program selections and complimented the Teen Mental Health programming that MPL hosted. Board member Jo Wilson asked about the data collected from the Teen Mental Health series and Ralph Wilson asked about the marketing of the program and if MPL will continue offering it. Branch Coordinator III, Erin Jones, shared what types of teen mental health programming their was, best practices we were able to take away from the series, and mentioned MPL would be interested in continuing to offer programming like this.</p>
Director’s Update	<p>Library Director, Polly Bonnett, shared with the Board that City of Mesa’s budget season is kicking off starting in January, and Fiscal Year 2024-2025’s budget will be in development for the next few months. Polly then highlighted how First Things, First Family Resource Center is coming to the Main branch, to be located in the basement, taking the place of the former Arizona@Work offices. This agreement is being brought to City Council in March. Polly then discussed the concept of lobby stops and how soon the program will be kicking off, supported by MPL Outreach team. She also reminded Board members of the Volunteer Appreciation luncheon on February 3rd. Ralph Wilson asked about the current collection budget. Polly shared with the Board that our physical print budget is over \$500k and MPL was excited to let the Board know that we have hired and brought on an additional Librarian II selector. This position will be a key part of the Opening Day collection being developed for the Gateway Library. Polly concluded her update sharing that MPL is working with the County Library system to come to an agreement on a new county book sharing initiative that valley library systems are considering.</p> <p>Board member Steven Miner, asked about how to increase program attendance for toddlers, and Lonica Rowley asked about how our Teen Programming has been going. Polly and the Branch Coordinators shared that we continue to reach out into the community and look for new ways to highlight and promote our programs to current and potential new users. They also discussed how Teen attendance is always a focus of improvement for MPL, as Teen patrons historically do not show the same engagement level in program attendance as our younger participants, but MPL continues to look for new ways to connect with and excite teens about library services.</p>
Identify items for future agenda	<p>The Board is looking forward to a tour before the March 2024 meeting.</p>
Next Meeting Dates	<p>March 19th, 2024 – Main Branch Library Board Room</p>
Adjournment	<p>Board member Steven Miner moved, and Ralph Wilson seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 6:41pm. Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:</p> <p>AYES – Wilson, Clubb, Rowley, Bachman, Wilson, Martherus, and Miner. NAYS – None</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on the 19th of March 2024 at 5:30 p.m in the Library Board Room at the Main branch Library.</p>