

City of Mesa Library Advisory Board Meeting

Date: November 15, 2005
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Location: City of Mesa Main Library
64 E. 1st Street

Members Present

Kay O'Connor
Chair

Staff Present

Trisha Sorensen
Dawn P. Kucerak
Kathee Herbstreit

Maria Mancinas
Michael Yates
Jaime Herrera
Alyssa Ratledge
Liz Purtell
Cheryl Laflen
Sharon Corea

Members Absent

Doug Gerlach

Guests Present

Joshua Watler

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION
Call to Order	Kay O'Connor, Chair, called the regular Monthly Meeting of the City of Mesa Library Advisory Board to order at 6:35 p.m. on November 15, 2005. Ms. O'Connor introduced the new board member, Ms. Sharon Corea.
Approval of Minutes	Michael Yates moved & Kay O'Connor seconded that the minutes of the September 20, 2005 regular meeting be approved as presented. Motion passed, all voting yes.
Public Comments	Mr. Joshua Watler, head organizer of the Mesa chapter of the Association of Community Organizations Now (ACORN) addressed the board. Mr. Watler communicated to the board that the ACORN group's mission, as a community organization comprised of low and moderate-income families is to work for social justice and stronger communities. Currently, in Mesa, ACORN has 500 members throughout three charters. Mr. Watler expressed the organization's concern at the loss of services to the citizens of Mesa particularly the closure of the libraries. This action would negatively affect families of low to moderate incomes. To demonstrate community support and awareness of this potential cut in library service and other essential City services, the ACORN group will partner with the Friends of the Library (FOL) to host a candlelight ceremony, "Save Our Libraries" on Tuesday, December 6, 2005 at 7 p.m. at the Main Library, 64 E. 1 st St., in the parking lot. Guest speakers that include former council members, librarians, and citizens, and media coverage will participate.

AGENDA ITEM**DISCUSSION****Director's Report**

Trisha Sorensen presented the director's report. Ms. Sorensen reported that all three-library locations would be closed on Wednesday, November 16, 2005 while the library switches over to the new Horizon software system that is replacing DYNIX. While the library is closed, staff will participate in practice scenarios to identify and resolve any problems before the library goes live to citizens on Thursday, November 17, 2005. The vendor for the Horizon software will be on sight to assist with upgrade to the Horizon software system.

Ms. Sorensen reported that the Library has decided not to participate in the statewide Summer Reading Program in 2006 because of staffing uncertainties. With the hiring freeze, and vacancies that exist, we were unsure about having adequate staff to support the program. In early 2006 we will evaluate the possibility of providing a modified, in-house program.

Ms. Sorensen reported that the Mesa Room is now accessible to citizens by appointment only and 1.7 FTE were reassigned to other areas. The change was necessary because of vacancies and extended leaves due to health issues in other areas of the library.

Ms. Sorensen reported that the Leadership Team is working on strategies to accommodate reductions in staffing levels at all three library locations particularly in the paging area. At January's library advisory board meeting, Ms. Sorensen will present a plan of action for the service areas, paging, reference, circulation that will address service levels and staff reductions. Discussion on this topic followed. Volunteers would not positively contribute to the staffing levels at the library since volunteers would not be able to meet the scheduling needs of the library. Also, volunteering means "an individual gives of their time because they want to." As a result, we cannot count on their availability for the shift coverage needed because of vacancies. In addition, the performance expectations for volunteers are not the same as that of a paid staff member. Mr. Yates re-introduced his recommendation to alternate the closure of both DR and RM and to post signage, "Closed due to budget cuts." Ms. Corea inquired about educating the Council, however, for the Council anything not included as a Tier 1 service is under consideration for possible reductions because of the severe financial position the City is in. Tier 1 services are public safety related and include things such as police, fire, courts and transportation. The board acknowledged that the public is uninformed and inquired what the Library/City can do in this regard. Ms. Sorensen reported that the library may provide information to education the public on our current staffing and financial situation. Factually, we can explain the various budget issues and what program will be cut depending on the revenue resources. It cannot be done in a manner that "tells" people to vote a certain way. Ms. Sorensen asked the boards' input with regard to service at the circulation desk (particularly at checkout) as staffing shortages increase. The library board supports an increased use of self-checkout with support staff available to help the patrons complete their transactions. However, the board does not favor relying solely on self-checkout.

Ms. Sorensen reported that three candidates for the Administrative Librarian II (Branch Manager) at Main would be interviewed on Thursday, November 17, 2005.

Ms. Sorensen reported that budget and staffing continue to be issues.

Ms. Sorensen reported that operational planning is almost complete for each of the six services in the library: administration, reference services, circulation and shelving, collection support services, technical support services, and outreach services. The operational plans are due November 16, 2005. These plans will be

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION
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linked to the strategic plan and the budget.

Ms. Sorensen reported that the one-desk project at Dobson Ranch has progressed. Modular furniture for the new one-desk has been ordered. Permits for demolishing the existing circulation desk and building the new wall were finalized and Facilities Maintenance will be putting the project out for bid.

Ms. Sorensen reported that the Coffee Cart vendor is still working on getting the necessary permits.

Ms. Sorensen reported that the Library was selected to receive \$250,000 in Indian Gaming money. This money will be used to purchase children's and young adult materials.

Ms. Sorensen reported that the Leadership Team decided that part of the Reciprocal Borrowing money the library received (approximately \$88,000) would be used to make ADA improvements for patrons. Improvements would include purchasing adjustable workstations, adjustable tables, and upgraded software.

Ms. Sorensen reported that the County would increase the current reciprocal borrower reimbursement of \$20.00 to \$24.50 next year and \$29 the year after. Per capita costs determined these next increases. A formula will be developed for future increases beyond the \$29. The Board concurred with the amendment.

YAAC Report

Ms. Ratledge reported that it is quiet in Youth Services. She also reported that FRANK and Open Shelf continue to be published. In addition, Teen Read week occurred October 16-22, 2005.

Ms. Ratledge also reported that the Young Adult Advisory Council (YAAC) teen group would partner with the Friends of the Library to host a booth for advocacy and to sell holiday CD's at Merry Main Street on Friday, December 2, 2005.

Friends of the Library Report

Ms. Herbstreit reported that the "Make A Difference Day Book Sale" held on October 22, 2005 made \$3009.75 in sales of which 10% will go to New Orleans Libraries affected by Hurricane Katrina. Thirty-three volunteers contributed 76 hours toward the success of this book sale. A bookmark and an article that appeared in the "Rancher's Roundup" promoting advocacy were also handed out at book sale on October 22nd.

Ms. Herbstreit reported that the Macy's Community Shopping Day held on October 27, 2005 made approx. \$2000.00 from ticket sales for the Friends of the Library.

Ms. Herbstreit reported that the Friends of the Library (FOL) would be part of a Candlelight Rally with ACORN on December 6th at 7 p.m. in front of the Main Library at 64 E. 1st St.

Ms. Herbstreit reported that the annual FOL meeting would be held on January 28, 2006 at the Red Mt. Library from 2-4 p.m. In addition, the FOL will be active in the FOLUSA Friends State-wide conference on April 28, 2006.

Ms. Herbstreit reported that the FOL would partner with other City of Mesa Friends' groups to pay the corporate membership to the Volunteer Center of Maricopa County for 2006. The Volunteer Center promotes and supports volunteerism in Maricopa County. The Center also hosts the "Make A Difference Day" events and advertisement for volunteer jobs to enhance the quality of life in the community.

AGENDA ITEM**DISCUSSION****Action Item
MCC Project**

Ms. Sorensen reviewed the MCC draft vision for the joint library project between the Mesa Public Library and MCC. The board supported the draft vision for this joint library project. Ms. Sorensen reported that the City of Mesa (COM) has 1.1 million in bond money to fund the project for building construction. Should the cost of the building exceed the 1.1 million no direction has been given as to which party would fund the remainder of the building project. Ms. Sorensen also reported that there would be community forums to receive input from the community and visits to other joint libraries to observe their processes. MCC and the COM are unique in that this joint venture will occur with an existing structure whereas most joint libraries have been built from the ground up. Ms. Sorensen will keep the board informed on the project's progress. The Board supported the vision as outlined.

Budget Update

The Council will make a decision in December as to what goes on the ballot, a sales tax and/or a property tax.

Announcements

Liz Purtell will be absent for the January and possibly March 2006 Library Advisory Board meetings. The board approved these as excused absences.

Adjournment

Liz Purtell moved & Jaime Herrera seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on January 17, 2005, at 6:30 p.m. in the Main Library Boardroom, 64 E. 1st Street.

Patricia Sorensen, Library Director