

City of Mesa Library Advisory Board Meeting

Date: October 23, 2006
 Time: 6:30 p.m.
 Location: City of Mesa Main Library
 64 E. 1st. Street

Members Present

Doug Gerlach
Chair

Cheryl Laflen
 Maria Mancinas
 Liz Purtell
 Michael Yates
 Alyssa Ratledge
 Kay Henry

Staff Present

Kate Havris
 Heather Wolf
 Perla Anderson
 Kathy Little

Members Absent

Sharon Corea
 Jaime Herrera

Guests Present

Lt. Craig Walter

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION
Call to Order	Board chair, Doug Gerlach called the special meeting of the City of Mesa Library Advisory Board to order at 6:35 p.m. on October 23, 2006.
Approval of Minutes	Not discussed at this meeting.
Public Comments	There were no public comments.
Director's Report	Not discussed at this meeting.
YAAC Report	Not discussed at this meeting.
Friends of the Library Report	Not discussed at this meeting.
Action Item:	<p>Doug Gerlach asked Mike Yates if he had had a response to his email to the Mayor and Council? Mike stated that he did receive a response from Heidi Gast, the Mayor's Assistant, as well as a response from the City Manager's office. The e-mail stated that the decision had been made to approve and pay overtime to municipal security to continue monitoring the libraries.</p> <p>Lt. Craig Walter, head of municipal security spoke to the board. He stated that there is a big shortage of officers. Due to the budget cuts, he lost 10 positions, going from 48 to 38 officers. Since then, an additional 11 positions are now</p>

AGENDA ITEM**DISCUSSION**

vacant due to retirements and resignations. Currently, there are just 27 officers. Citywide, several locations lost assigned coverage: the South Center campus, Dobson Library, and Red Mountain Library. There is currently one bike officer.

Even at the current level of service, the officers are doing what they can with overtime. The primary shifts are during the day with the exception of the Mesa Arts Center. This makes OT hours difficult as they can fall within a regular shift. Covering 5-7 PM is easier.

Liz Purtell asked what was Lt. Walter's understanding of the overtime agreement? And what was the difference? When the level of service is back at 38, they should have enough people to staff the libraries. For RM, this means relying on rovers from the East Mesa Service Center.

Liz also asked Heather when the issues started. Heather stated that the start of the new school year was a major component of the problems.

Maria Mancinas asked about the library working with the schools on this issue. Heather explained that the library used to make more attempts to contact the Mesa Public Schools about our resources but because of budget issues, staff are no longer available to do this.

RM is Heather's main priority. She feels that they have lost important coverage and without a consistent security presence, problems after school are increasing.

Kathy Little, RM Branch Coordinator, spoke about the situation at RM. She stated that they had security until August 7, 2006 and that after that they just had a roving person.

As of September, because of the vacation of one officer at the East Mesa Service Center, they lost even the rover. During times with no security, there has been a purse snatching, two fights outside, the kids are louder, and there have been prank calls to 911 from the pay phone. The coverage is most needed between 3:00 p.m. and closing. With OT hours, they have gotten some coverage from 5-7 p.m. The staff is concerned that as they leave the building there are groups of teenagers left waiting to be picked up.

Kate Havris, MN Branch Manager, spoke about the situation at MN. MN still has coverage from 1:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. For several weeks, MN had additional OT hours for the evening and this helped. Once the four individuals were trespassed things were better. The OT hours will end soon and we'll wait and see what happens when the month long ban is over for the four individuals. MN will be losing Teresa Van Galder and Kelly Kimmel will be taking her spot. MN also has a bike rover.

Doug asked how long it would take to hire officers? Lt. Walter stated 2-3 Months!

Dobson is okay. They know their patrons, have always had fewer problems, and having the substation next door is helpful.

Liz wanted to clarify that Mike understood the overtime approved and Lt. Walter's use of overtime. Ultimately, there is not enough staff to cover. They have been creatively moving people around.

Kay Henry asked if there was a maximum of overtime allowed?

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION
	<p>Lt. Walter stated that there was no maximum, but that he would not allow an officer to work 80 hours and was careful to ensure the health and safety of the officers.</p> <p>Heather asked how they prioritized where the most coverage is needed?</p> <p>Lt. Walter explained that many factors were considered including feedback, log activity, officer feedback, nature of the site itself, all with minimum staffing.</p> <p>It appears that everyone is doing everything that can be done.</p> <p>Cheryl also recommended that Kathy talk with the surrounding schools around RM and express the concerns.</p> <p>Mike pointed out that the City Council promised to keep public safety a priority. People need to know that 20% of security has been cut and is compromising the libraries.</p> <p>Mike will draft a sentiment statement/recommendation regarding the ongoing security issues, which will be sent to the City Council. It will be discussed at the next regular meeting.</p>
Budget Update	Not discussed at this meeting.
Announcements	None.
Adjournment	<p>Doug thanked Lt. Walter. Lt. Walter encouraged the board to contact him at (480) 644-5089 if they had any additional questions.</p> <p>Liz moved & Alyssa seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>The next regular meeting will be held on November 21, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. in the Main Library Boardroom, 64 E. 1st. Street.</p>

Heather Wolf, Library Director