

City of Mesa Library Advisory Board Meeting

Date: September 21, 2004
 Time: 6:30 p.m.
 Location: City of Mesa Main Library
 64 E. 1st Street

Members Present

Kay O'Connor
Chair
 Jaime Herrera
 Doug Gerlach
 Charlie Hendrix
 Maria Mancinas
 Liz Purtell
 Michael Yates
 Alyssa Ratledge

Members Absent

Jim Driskill

Staff Present

Floran Becker
 Molly Rice
 Heather Wolf
 Trisha Sorensen
 Joe Holmwood,
 Community Services
 Director

Peggy Haney
 Elissa Smith
 Kate Havris
 Michele Meyer
 Brynn Burton
 Rob Price

Kathy Little
 Karen Peterson
 Debbie Zander
 Nicole Lind

Guests Present

Bob Gottsfield
 Gary Klingaman
 George Linn, KTAR Reporter
 Keno Hawker, Mayor
 Debbie Spinner, City Attorney

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Call to Order	Kay O'Connor, Chair, called the Regular Monthly Meeting of the City of Mesa Library Advisory Board to order at 6:32 p.m. on September 21, 2004. Ms. O'Connor introduced two new board members, Alyssa Ratledge and Michael Yates. She also welcomed Mayor Keno Hawker and City Attorney Debbie Spinner to the meeting.
Approval of Minutes	Maria Mancinas moved and Jaime Herrera seconded that the minutes of the May 18, 2004 regular monthly meeting be approved as presented. Motion passed, all voting yes.
Public Comments	There were no public comments.
Election of Vice-Chair	Ms. O'Connor reported that Mr. Herrera had graciously volunteered to serve as vice chair for the coming year. The Board voted unanimously to accept the appointment of Mr. Herrera as Vice Chair.
Library Director Recruitment Update	Prior to turning the discussion over to Joe Holmwood, Community Services Manager, Ms. O'Connor informed everyone that both she and Mr. Herrera served on the original interview panel and that they would do so once again for the second round of interviews. She also acknowledged the Board's presence at the reception held for candidates in late August. Joe Holmwood reported on the recruitment efforts to date. He stated that this has been an interesting process with several applicants withdrawing, as well as an applicant withdrawing and then reentering. He stated that we are still in the interview phase with the second round of interviews coming up in a week. The original interview panel has agreed to come together once again. Maria Mancinas asked why we have a need to call more applicants. Mr. Holmwood replied that the larger the applicant pool the better, and with the reentrance of a previous applicant, and the submission of an application at the last minute, it made sense to go to the second round of

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	interviews.
Chairman's Report	Ms. O'Connor stated that she has nothing to report since this is her first meeting as Chair and the Board has not met since June.
YAAC Report	Alyssa Ratledge presented the YAAC (Young Adult Advisory Council) report stating that YAAC and the Young Adult section are continuing with the same things they have been doing during the past year. They are participating in book reviewing and will be working on FRANK magazine for the coming year. She reported that this past year's FRANK magazine is now available. She also stated that one of YAAC's members, Lori Eubanks, had been chosen to be on a national youth advisory council. The council's interest is in youth volunteering and she was chosen to represent teens in library volunteerism nationally.
Friends Activity Report	Molly Rice, Liaison to the Friends group, presented the Friends Activity Report. She stated that the Friends are presently selling Macy's discount savings coupons to make money for the library. They sell for \$10 each and the Friends get to keep the proceeds. If the coupons are used the Friends will receive another \$3. She stated that the Friends group is concerned with our inability to do programming so have volunteered to do this year's Halloween Boo. They are also looking at the possibility of holding a night golfing activity in March to raise money. Doug Gerlach reported that the annual meeting of the Friends will be held in January and that the organization badly needs additional members for the Board. He asked that if you know of anyone who might be interested or if anyone on the Board were interested that they please contact him.
Director's Report	Trisha Sorensen stated that the last two or three months had been busy but that her report would focus on the last 30 days. She reported that strategic planning has been focusing on staffing reductions and subsequent increased workloads. Ms. Sorensen reported that the library's Organizational Structure Team had met about seven times in the last six weeks and has another meeting scheduled for Thursday. They are presently doing scenario planning...What if we lose (position)---what are our options for dealing with that? Mr. Herrera asked for clarification of what Ms. Sorensen meant by "losing" someone. She replied that that would encompass anyone leaving because of resignation or retirement. The savings from these empty positions would then help to fund transferring Quality of Life funded positions to general funding. She stated that we presently had \$380,000 of the 1.2 million needed. Mike Yates said that he would like to see standards to go with the figures presented in the charts that had been distributed to the Board. Ms. Sorensen agreed that this would be helpful. She reported that the staff is creating cross training to cover future position vacancies. They are also flow charting core processes and making training manuals for those processes. Ms. Sorensen also stated that the programming team prepared a short six to twelve month programming plan after looking at staff levels in connection with programming. She reported that performance measures would be brought back to the board for their suggestions. She asked that the Board look at the charts that had been supplied and let her know if this is the information you would like to see tracked. She asked that they consider what measures will decide the health of the library. Mr. Herrera asked if we had considered working with Mesa Community College and their library tech program to use students to cover some of our shortages in personnel with students. Ms. Sorensen thanked Mr. Herrera and stated that we had not thought of that option.
Review of Current Policy on Filtering Patron Computers	Ms. O'Connor introduced Debbie Spinner, Mesa's City Attorney. Ms. Spinner presented the law as it stands regarding whether the library can legally place filters on computers. Citing a Supreme Court decision, she stated that it is legal for libraries to filter their computers. She also reported that it is legal to allow patrons to ask to have filters removed during their use. The library does have the ability

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(with extra staff time) to lift the filter for a patron when asked. Ms. Spinner stated that we are within our legal rights to do so. The Court states that a library's purpose is not to serve as a public forum but to facilitate learning and recreation based on requisite and appropriate quality. Filters do not infringe on First Amendment rights. Filters could be removed for patrons. Ms. Mancinas asked about pornography that is available in books. Ms. Spinner responded that we already filter written materials. Ms. Sorensen stated that written materials are not a part of our agenda for tonight's meeting but that we can put it on a future agenda for discussion. Mr. Yates asked about the library's policy of removing patrons who look at pornography on library computers. Ms. Spinner responded that the courts had not addressed that. Floran Becker, Library Administrator, reported that currently the library uses Websense software to provide filtering. She stated that filters are installed on computers in the youth services room and on two computers at the Dobson Ranch Branch. Right now the filter is being set by computer. She stated that the library would like to move to a software filter that would work according to a patron's individual library card. They would be asked at the time they get their cards whether they want the computer filter on or not and their card would designate filters. Ms. Spinner offered to look at the legality of the Smartcard for us. Charlie Hendrix asked how we developed our standard of appropriate internet sites. The reply was that we use the Arizona Revised Statute related to displaying or importing sexually explicit materials (SRS 13-3501, 13-3506, 13-3507, and 13-3508). Ms. Becker stated that filters are not perfect. They also filter many appropriate sites. We do have ways to check sites that are reported to us as appropriate but that won't come up. Ms. Mancinas asked if we had heard from the public regarding the filtering issue? Ms. Becker reported that we had received two e-mails. She stated that they had been forwarded to the City Council. Mr. Herrera asked if these had been the reason for our review of policies. Mayor Keno Hawker responded that he would like to know if we want to keep the policy the same, have patrons come to the librarians to have the filter removed, use the smartcard, etc. He asked the Board to make recommendations to go to the City Council. He stated that the request for a review of policy came from him. Ms. Becker stated that the only things presently being filtered on the adult computers are hacking and proxy avoidance but that we do filter youth computers. A parent can state that they do not want their children to have access to the internet and it will become a part of their library card information so they cannot access the internet. Mr. Gerlach asked if the city was concerned that it could be held legally liable if a child were to walk by a computer with an inappropriate site displayed? Ms. Spinner replied that it was not a legal concern. Ms. Sorensen asked if there were any other questions. Liz Purtell asked if there had been problems with this in the library. Ms. Becker replied that the packet that was distributed states how many problems we have had. She reported that she believed there were more before the library had security at all three libraries as they have now but that there were no more than every day in any public library. Mr. Yates compared hits on filtered versus unfiltered sites such as Breast cancer and found that there were many legitimate sites that were unavailable on filtered sites. He felt that we should not have to filter useful sites just because other valley libraries do. Ms. Purtell and Ms. Hendrix stated that they like having the filter while preserving the ability to remove the filter when needed for appropriate sites. Ms. Becker stated that we would probably not filter "sexual education" but would filter "sexual content" sites. She reminded the Board that the library does have a rule that children under ten years of age must have a parent or guardian accompanying them. Ms. Spinner said that even though it is not stated that it is required to remove filters for adults, we would be on stronger legal grounds if we were to allow lifting the filter for adult patrons. Ms. Becker stated that there would be a cost involved in staff time if we were to elect to have staff remove filters for patrons while there would be no cost involved with the use of smartcards. Ms. Hendrix asked if we had received complaints about youth computer filtering. Ms. Becker replied that she was not aware of any. Ms. Hendrix then moved that we add adult content, nudity and sex

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to the items filtered on adult computers. Ms. Purtell seconded the motion. Mr. Gerlach asked if we would be able to remove the filter when asked by an adult. The response was yes, that we would. Ms. Hendrix stated that she felt that since patrons are not to use pornographic sites anyway installing the filters would only make the librarian’s job easier. Mayor Hawker asked if we actually ask patrons to exit inappropriate sites. Molly Rice responded that we do. Discussion of “obscenity” followed. Ms. Becker stated that her concern is that if we say we are filtered it will create a false sense of security. There is no absolute on the filter. Filters don’t touch items such as e-mails where attachments could be obscene. Ms. Hendrix then amended her original motion and asked that “adult content and sex” be added under the list of items filtered on adult computers and that it be stated that filtering can be removed upon request. Ms. Purtell seconded the motion. Mr. Gerlach stated that he is troubled by some of the items that should not be filtered. The board voted on the motion with three voting for and five against. The motion did not pass. Discussion once again ensued. Ms. Spinner stated that we are manually filtering now with the vigilance of librarians and security. Mr. Yates asked if the library can bar computer access to a habitual offender? The reply was that yes we have that ability at present but have not had to use it to date. Ms. O’Connor moved that we keep the policy as it is. Mr. Yates seconded. No vote taken, discussion followed. Ms. Spinner stated that if the Board would like to postpone a decision she would do some research on the CIPA (Children’s Internet Protection Act) requirements and report back to the Board. Ms. O’Connor suggested that the board meet on October 19 to discuss this further. Ms. Spinner suggested that the Board e-mail questions to her at : Debbie.spinner@cityofmesa.org or call her at (480) 644-2325.

Announcements Ms. Mancinas announced that the Mesa Latino Town Hall for 2004 will be held on October 9. She brought registration forms and asked that they be displayed in the library. The question was raised concerning the Board retreat that had been planned for earlier in the year. Discussion of this item will be placed on the agenda for the October meeting.

Adjournment Ms. Hendrix moved and Ms. Mancinas seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be October 19, 2004, 6:30 p.m. in the Main Library Board Room, 64 E. 1st Street.

Trisha Sorensen, Acting Library Director

Jan Klingaman, Scribe