



Mesa County Libraries  
**BOARD**  
 OF **TRUSTEES**  
 • BOARD MEETING •

## Special Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: September 18, 2024 – 5:30 p.m.

Location: 443 N. 6<sup>th</sup> St., Grand Junction, CO – Monument Community Room

#	Agenda Item
1	<p>Opening: Call to Order and Roll Call            Board and Foundation presidents Dow and Anna called the meeting to order at 5:29 p.m.</p> <p><b>Board Present:</b> Cliff Anson, Randy Spydell, Jill Delavan, Abby Landmeier, Mary Watson, Jackie Sievers, Ruth Anna, Alice Dow, Ira Creasman</p> <p><b>Staff Present:</b> Alayna Adamson, Ami Schiffbauer, Michelle Boisvenue-Fox, Tamara Vlieg, Shana Wade, Blair Wade, Rachel Hanson,</p> <p><b>Guests Present:</b> Aaron Schonhoff</p>
2	<p>Approval of Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Dow moved to approve the agenda via acclamation. None opposed, <b>Motion Carried.</b></li> </ul>
3	<p>Community Needs Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Schonhoff presented the results of the Mesa County Libraries Community Needs Assessment. He covered research questions driving the project, comparisons with similar library service areas, forecasted growth, other statistics, and summarized the key findings and recommendations from the survey.</li> <li>● Gathered feedback on the library and library services from community members through a survey, focus groups and interviews.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 2,468 survey responses</li> <li>○ 29 focus group participants                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 8 interviews with Spanish-speaking members of the community.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ The feedback was generally very positive and highlighted staff and services.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Are the current locations enough for the communities?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fruita and Orchard Mesa                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Orchard Mesa Branch has a smaller location for its population. It has fewer visits than the Palisade branch despite serving more people. The branch size for Orchard Mesa is smaller than Palisade as well.</li> <li>■ 58% of patrons in Orchard Mesa zipcode identified Central library as home library. Some constructive feedback was received on the size of the branch and offerings.</li> <li>■ Key considerations for a new Orchard Mesa Branch locations are to be roughly equidistant from Central and Clifton Library locations, have space for events and studying, provide</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>opportunities to partner and create a community hub, and have accessible building and available parking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fruita Library has to contend with other programs in the same building such as swim classes that puts stress on available parking.</li> <li>○ The community in Fruita desires more space due to the popularity of programs such as adult craft classes.</li> <li>○ Parking is often an issue.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Where should our libraries be located to best serve those who would benefit from library services? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Anything falling within a 40 minute walk (approximately 2 miles) was close to a library location. About 43% of Mesa County residents live within that walking distance of the library. 73% live within a 10 minute drive of the library. They're distanced fairly well from each other to maximize people being served.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Are there alternative ways to serve our most rural communities with lower populations other than a library location? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What have other libraries done? Where in the county are the rural communities most underserved? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The most populated rural communities with no library location are Mack and Loma. Most patrons from these regions identified the Fruita Branch as their home library.</li> <li>■ Some ideas were smart lockers and book vending machines, and a self-service library model.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>● What amenities do residents of Mesa County want or need? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increased capacity for Fruita Branch</li> <li>○ A new location for Orchard Mesa Branch</li> <li>○ Alternative service models to reach rural populations</li> <li>○ More community room space</li> <li>○ More programming for adults</li> <li>○ Increased parking at Central</li> <li>○ Improving the website, particularly around mobile device usage</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
4	<p>Adjournment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Dow adjourned the meeting at 7:09 p.m. via acclamation. None opposed, <b>Motion Carried.</b></li> </ul>