

**2019-2020 MCC Governing Board  
Regular Meeting  
December 11, 2019**

**MINUTES**

- Board Members Present:** Julie Waters, Board Chair; Carla Post; Alicia Plerhoples; Xavier Jimenez; Maria Foderaro-Guertin; Terri Markwart; Megan Markwart; Carole Herrick  
Suzanne Le Menestrel
- Board Members Absent:** Elizabeth John; Raj Mehra
- Staff Members Present:** George Sachs, Executive Director; Ashok Karra, Comptroller; Holly Novak
- Guests:** Bill Glikbarg – McLean Community Players; Lori Carbonneau – MPA; Camila Alfonzo Meza – Supervisor Foust’s office; Paul Kohlenberger

**CONVENE THE MEETING**

Chair Waters convened a Regular Meeting of the 2019-2020 Governing Board of the McLean Community Center (MCC) on December 11, 2019 at 7:33 p.m.

**ADOPT AGENDA** The Agenda for the meeting was adopted, as written.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Bill Glikbarg** – from McLean Community Players. He is attending tonight to ‘listen... and slowly learn.’

**Camila Alfonzo Meza** – she introduced herself as the new liaison from Supervisor Foust’s office.

**Lori Carbonneau** – MPA had a fantastic opening of Emerson Gallery, featuring two local artists with amazing works; approx. 120 people attended. Emerson Gallery was open during the recent Holiday Craft Show and Antique Show; many visitors came upstairs to the Gallery! ArtReach: 3,000 students in Fairfax County Public Schools from various special needs communities viewed two exhibitions (during daytime tours). MPA is thankful to be back at MCC because the parking lot suitably accommodates school buses and the volume of students attending. **MPA is managing studio utilization metrics at about 72%**, which is ideal because MPA is not open on Sundays, currently. Nov. 12 Programs & Outreach Committee meeting was an opportunity to brainstorm new ideas about possible evening courses to offer. MPA is working with Maggie Shea and Programs staff to develop such new programs. Everyone is excited to be back in the DuVal Studio – larger classes; wonderful lighting! **Operational changes: MPA has reduced required enrollment to 3 students.** Under the previous 5-6 person enrollment threshold, many folks were disappointed when classes got cancelled. Most classes for the coming term in Jan. 2020 are set to run. “Teas and Talks” have been introduced on Tuesdays, with the curator; tea is served and the public can view the art.

**APPROVE MINUTES - OCTOBER 23, 2019 REGULAR MEETING**

Chair Waters asked everyone to review the Minutes of the Governing Board meeting on October 23, 2019, and raise any questions, concerns or suggested edits. A motion was made to approve the Minutes as written; it was seconded.

**MOTION:** That the Board approve the Minutes of the Governing Board Regular Meeting on October 23, 2019. **Approved unanimously.**

**CHAIR’S REPORT / EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**MOU with MPA:** The Executive Committee reviewed the Management Agreement with MPA on Oct. 23. No action was taken, but the detailed review surfaced points that will need to be revised for the future now

that MPA has moved back into MCC facility. Some aspects of the document no longer make sense. Executive Committee will continue updating this document during the current 2019-2020 board year.

**Succession planning (Executive Director):** With on-the-horizon search for a replacement for George Sachs (retiring), Exec. Committee discussed what the board needs to do in looking ahead to hiring a new person. The current board will think now (in advance) about parameters, so that the next board doesn't have to scramble to get ready once the search officially begins. Soliciting for candidates and interviews will start in January 2021; the 2020-2021 Governing Board will focus on doing the actual search.

**“Standards of Conduct” policy:**

Although the “Standards of Conduct” policy was adopted at the Oct. 23 board meeting the vote was not unanimous. Several expressed ongoing reservations about wording and the purpose of the document itself. It was requested to have the Fairfax County attorney review the document. The county attorney responded back with substantial changes, mainly because Fairfax County already has conflict of interest policies which MCC cannot super-cede. *The entire board received an electronic and printed copy of the county attorney’s red-lined version. Chair Waters apologized because she was working with an existing document that had been developed by the Governing Board of a few years back. She hadn’t done due diligence and realizes now that it was a waste of time for the board to have spent so much effort at the 10/ 23 meeting going over minute details of the document. In the end, it doesn’t really matter because MCC doesn’t need to have such a policy. What remains (red line edits from Fairfax County attorney) is still useful.*

**First Section:** What is struck is referencing ‘...in accordance with Virginia FOIA’ or ‘...the MOU.’

**Section K (p. 4):** the language is fuzzy about when representing individual opinions; we can clarify that language to say: “When designated to represent the MCC Board to other organizations, we must represent the official policies and positions [of the Governing Board] to the best of our ability.” We should insert a portion to that sentence so that it’s clear: “... *when acting as a representative of the entire Board...*”

*Opinions expressed:* But it creates a problem because you are saying “...*when* you are designated to represent MCC, and you are expressing your opinions... it’s not the MCC Board.” But there are very few occasions where we would ever go to any other gatherings as representing the MCC Governing Board. The only time recently was when we sent two board members to the One Fairfax Strategic Plan public meeting.

*Comment by Chair Waters:* Yes, not often – but it could happen.

*Opinions expressed:* But the point of that sentence, though, is not when you are just talking in informal conversations. Individual board members shouldn’t ever talk to the press... only the Chair speaks for the board. So, it’s not referring to when you are interacting with friends or neighbors in regular conversations.

*Comment by Chair Waters:* Perhaps we will just restate that sentence to say: “...in all other situations, board members shall take care not to imply representation, endorsement of MCC Governing Board.”

*Opinions expressed:* No! If you as an individual attend an event, you can do so. But if someone from the public comes up to you (knowing you’re a board member) and asks - ‘Hey, what is MCC doing about \_\_\_\_\_?’ – that is when this rule would apply. You need to take care not to give someone an answer and let them think that you are speaking on behalf of the entire board when you haven’t been so designated to give an official statement. This could come into play very soon with George Sachs’ retirement: if you are out in public and people want to recommend someone. We should be mindful of how to respond, saying: “Thank you very much. There’s a proper procedure for applying through Fairfax County for that position.” And let the person know that you can’t submit the name. But what we’re talking about here is when you go to a cocktail party and somebody comes up and starts saying: ‘I don’t like the windows at MCC.’ We could say: “Yes, I agree with you – I don’t like the windows either, but we voted on the windows as a board.” So that’s not for me to agree with them. If someone makes a remark about MCC, I usually just say: “Thank you very much – I’ll pass it on.” However, the actual sentence here reads broadly enough to make every board member have to make this caveat every time they engage in a conversation about anything. *Comment by Chair Waters:* That’s why you just try to make sure you are not implying that the entire MCC board has this opinion.

*Opinions expressed:* The National Academy of Sciences has a similar clause for people serving on committees – when they are representing a committee opinion vs. when they are speaking for themselves: “I’m speaking on behalf of myself and not representing the committee.” It’s simple, straightforward; and makes the distinction.

*Clarification by Chair Waters:* I think this is about interacting with the public.

*Opinions expressed:* At the Holiday Craft Show, people came up to me and made comments. I responded: “O.K. - thank you for that information. I’ll pass it along to the board when I have a chance to do so.” I didn’t say anything about my own opinion... or about whether their comment was right or wrong.

*Opinions expressed:* This sentence could say: “When discussing the MCC and representing your individual position or opinion, the board member should explicitly state that they are representing their own opinion. You are allowed to do that – but you should just state that it’s your own opinion at that point.

*Question:* *But it’s for MCC-related business, correct?* Yes – because that’s the only time it would become an issue.

**Section L (comment about non-partisan):** This issue is top-of-mind for several folks.

*Opinions expressed:* My concern is that this aspect is what we were afraid of... and it is why, before voting on it, we wanted to send it to the Fairfax County attorney. Even if our Governing Board election had been historically non-partisan and we had tried to keep it that way, now we have this official document that says it’s not in the MOU... so we’ve basically opened Pandora’s Box and it becomes a ‘free-for-all’.

*Question by youth member:* *Do we have control over... or can we vote to change something in the MOU?*

*Clarification by staff:* No – the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors would have to review it. We could request changes... but when that door is opened, then the entire MOU becomes subject to larger edit by the whole Board of Supervisors. If you touch something (that has been grand-fathered-in), then everything gets opened-up.” Once we do that, a lot could get changed; and we may not want to do that.

*Question:* *Was Section L completely added in? Or was there anything about this in the prior version?*

*Clarification by Chair Waters:* This “Standards of Conduct” document had never actually been enacted. It was drafted by a prior board and was much lengthier. It’s unclear why they didn’t follow-through.

*Opinions expressed:* I would think we would strike the entire section. Because, if the county attorney says it’s not in the MOU, then we shouldn’t have it in there. Even if you struck only the first sentence, it would be very odd to keep the second sentence: (What’s going wrong with the board? Why do we have that sentence?).

*Clarification by Chair Waters:* If it’s a ‘tradition’, we can explain so in the Candidate Orientation. But it seems like it probably shouldn’t be in writing here if the county attorney is questioning it.

*Question:* *Will the county attorney look at the final version?* **Yes – I presume this will go back to him again.**

*Clarification by staff:* His strong recommendation is this is how it should be adopted (with these changes).

*Question from youth member:* *If this were scratched, would people be able to run for the MCC Board as party-affiliated?*

*Clarification by Chair Waters:* Yes. And I guess they could have previously (because this wasn’t really enacted until October 23, 2019 meeting, when the board approved it). In theory, they could have. There is nothing really stopping anybody from partisan affiliation other than “tradition.”

*Comment by youth member:* So, we could just change it to say: “It is MCC tradition that the Governing Board election is non-partisan.”

*Clarification by Chair Waters:* I think we should just leave it out of this document and include it in verbal briefings at the Candidate Orientation meeting.

*Opinions expressed:* This point was heavily mentioned last year at the Candidate Orientation.

*Question:* *So, if it was mentioned two years ago when several of us ran... and it was mentioned again last year...and then everything happened about political parties STILL getting involved. So are we’re just saying that the MCC Governing Board election is non-partisan... but we don’t really mean it?*

*Clarification by Mr. Sachs:* **It’s MCC’s history – the way MCC is and what it represents to the community: it’s non-partisan; non-sectoral; not guided by any political platform, or religious beliefs, or anything.**

*Opinions expressed:* **You shouldn't have an 'agenda' when you run to serve on the board – except to be in support of the programs and goals of the McLean Community Center.**

*Clarification by Mr. Sachs:* That's really it. The side stuff that has come up over the last 5-6 years has been unusual in terms of the way candidates conducted their campaigns in the past vs. what is happening now with political signage, banners, etc. It didn't use to be like that.

*Opinions expressed:* It's a different community. It's a different world...everything is done that way now.

*Clarification by Mr. Sachs:* **True. But for us to try to define it, when we really don't have room to do that in our definition of how MCC exists through the MOU understanding with the county...**

This was followed by a brief discussion about the MOU as being the governing document which defines all MCC operations and interactions with residents of Small District 1A-Dranesville.

Details for ENC to consider about the 2020 Governing Board election process:

*Question:* I can't recall: did we sign-off on any guidelines when we became candidates? To assuage concerns of some board members, could we have a one-pager saying: "It is the tradition of the election to be non-partisan." and have the candidates read it and sign it? *Comment by Board Chair Waters:* That you are agreeing to abide by it?

*(continuation of above question):* Yes- then you will know that people have read this. By acknowledging reading, it may help some board members feel more comfortable, in knowing for sure that people have committed to it (like we take the Pledge).

*Comment by Chair Waters:* I guess the ENC can discuss that.

*Opinions expressed:* I don't know of any election that does that. As ENC chair, I'm not sure we would take that up because there is the question of how you enforce it. It's just words on paper; it's too hard to enforce something written as such.

*(continuation of above question):* This is just a compromise being suggested to try to get beyond this particular block.

*Summary by Chair Waters:* It seems that, in the "Standards of Conduct" policy, we probably don't want to mention it and just leave it out. Section L should go away and the rest will be re-lettered accordingly.

**P. 5 – Letter M:** *Clarification by Chair Waters:* The only other substantive question that we should discuss is the attorney's comment: 'How would they intervene?' It's a fair point; maybe we could say: "The responsibility to raise the question, or to speak up, is to bring it to the attention of the full board if they believe a violation has occurred." So that it's not on an individual board member to 'intervene' somehow. It could be to "notify the Board Chair," or to "notify the Executive Committee." It's an affirmative duty to speak up if you see something that's a violation – which is a less weighty meaning than the word "...intervene."

Summary remarks: A large portion of this document will be struck and it will simply say, "...subject to FOIA and must comply with its requirements..." because the MCC Governing Board is already subject to that. We don't need to create our own document.

*Question:* Going back to the policy itself - since the Governing Board doesn't really have any teeth to do anything, and we're already covered by the "Conflict of Interest" act, do we even need this?

*Clarification by Chair Waters:* It is worth putting in there because we are requiring all board members to read it. And it's also saying that "...you are subject to Fairfax County rules." In a sense, you are right; but because we are not requiring board members to read all Fairfax County policies...

*Question:* Did we receive a copy of Fairfax County policies somewhere? We could provide a link. And we were all given a copy of the Virginia FOIA laws in our Board "Policies & Procedures" notebook. It's reasonable to remind people of that – because, MCC Governing Board members are bound by it, as county agents.

**List of Organizations (p. 9):** The "List of Organizations" should come out. It doesn't have any consequences. We will go with what the county attorney recommended.

*Question:* Just to confirm – is this the list that each of us already provided [to the Executive Director earlier this year]?

Yes, we don't need to do that, going forward. At orientation training for new board members, we will explain: if you are on the board of MPA or some organization that is coming up for a decision that the board will be voting on, your personal association needs to be articulated. The person must realize that it's on them to so state.

Further details for ENC to consider:

*Question: Would it be wise to put this in the Candidate Packet so they know from the outset? Or would it be too much paper?*

*Opinions expressed:* Sure – why not. If they are running, put it in there. Especially since, when you are elected, you get briefed on all of this, including the fact that if something comes up about an outside organization in which you are involved, you may need to recuse yourself from the vote and discussion.

*Question from youth member: Is the county attorney saying we can't do this because of FOIA, or that it's just not necessary?*

*Opinions expressed:* He's saying that it's not necessary because there is no consequence if you don't do it. With the Conflict of Interest policy, even if you did (or didn't) choose to list organizations that you belong to, you still have the responsibility to say something in a meeting if there is a decision being made about your business or another organization that you're a part of. It's redundant... and it doesn't get you off the hook just because you did not list it. Because this whole section is changing, you'd need to clarify what organizations you are listing here – because the whole section is now deleted (so therefore, we should just get rid of it).

*Comment by Chair Waters:* Also, it could suddenly change – because some group could randomly decide to meet here at MCC, even though they hadn't in the past. In the new Board member orientation training, this specific point should be mentioned.

*Opinions expressed:* I hear what you're saying, but it's hard enough to get candidates. It could be too much information – they're not going to read all this. It might discourage people from running. However, after the person is elected, they should learn this. It seems like too much paperwork to go through as a candidate.

*Chair Waters asked if everyone was comfortable with the changes that were made by the Fairfax County attorney. The amended document will reflect all changes mentioned in discussion tonight and as the county attorney's edits. The amended "Standards of Conduct" will be submitted again to the county attorney for legal review.*

**MOTION:** That the Board adopts the "Standards of Conduct" policy as amended today in this meeting. **8 in favor. 1 opposed. The motion passed.**

*Chair Waters will submit the exact wording of the revised document to Ms. Novak.*

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Internal Alignment:** MCC Staff updates - new Asst. Special Events Manager was hired on Oct. 15 – Matthew Hockensmith. He is going a great job already. Communication Specialist 1 (Social Media) has been hired – Kyle Corwin starts on Jan. 21. Asst. Theatre Tech: interviews concluded and an offer has been made, to start early January. OFC Programs Manager (Ashlyn Thompson's replacement) – interviews started today (9 candidates). Hopefully they will finish soon and make a selection before year-end. The big news is that Andrew Jennings (Instructional Programs Manager) – who has been with MCC for 12 years, submitted his resignation. He has a great new opportunity and we wish him success! Andrew's last day will be Jan. 10. We will start looking immediately to fill this strategic position. WinterFest Parade was cancelled due to rainy conditions on Dec. 5. There was no alternate rain date because of complexities of permitting local road traffic with VDOT. PIO Sabrina Anwah attended an international LERN conference in San Diego as a presenting panelist. MCC received an international award for our redesigned web site home page in 2018! The plaque will be hung in MCC and a news release will go out about this special award.

**Congratulations to MCC Board member Megan Markwart on a terrific season of hockey at Langley High School – they were state champions!!**

*Mr. Sachs explained background about two recent decisions he made:*

1. A local Girl Scout troop requested to have a bake sale table in MCC lobby (during Holiday Craft Show and Antique Show). It doesn't work for MCC events because: 1. it's not fair to the contracted food vendors to have an additional factor; 2. a table set-up during the week in the lobby isn't effective due to lack of foot traffic; 3. food is not allowed in Alden Theatre during performances. People must eat

rapidly during intermission and not bring food into the theatre. For these reasons, a bake sale table for an outside organization doesn't ever fit the overall ambiance of MCC building.

*Question: Could Girl Scouts participate in other MCC events, such as by selling crafts at McLean Day?*

*Clarification by staff:* It would be the same as any other organization requesting to rent a booth space at McLean Day, which is the appropriate venue. Mr. Sachs also weighs the aspect of setting precedent – many local organizations will want a slot. That's where he is cautious.

2. **Gift Certificates:** A person inquired about purchasing a gift certificate in a designated \$ amount to be used for a class or Alden Theatre performance. MCC does offer gift certificates but we need to do better in making the public aware. It is mentioned in the Program Guide; having a special promotional banner on the web site could generate even more interest. It's an actual 'physical' gift certificate.

A thank you note was received from a judge who attended the Northern Virginia Regional Juvenile Justice Transformation Symposium held in October (170 attendees). MCC was ideal venue (Alden Theatre for main plenary; break-out sessions in other rooms). Feedback from attendees was consistently positive. Many attendees picked up Program Guides and they got to experience the functionality of the entire building.

**External Alignment:** Antique Show (Nov. 9 and 10): the transformation of MCC facility was impressive: 70 'living rooms' were erected to showcase antique and vintage articles. It was excellent visual presentation! Holiday Crafts Show (Dec. 5 – 7): As the first time back at MCC, we made notes about what went well and what can be improved. There was a noticeable difference in how professional everything looked this year among the 80 crafters. It was easy for the public to proceed through the various rooms. It was the first time hiring an outside vendor to facilitate the event. Public comments were positive: the number and variety of crafters; more Christmas-themed items; fewer jewelry exhibits and lots of unique giftware.

*Question: Will MCC receive from the vendor a financial accounting of the revenue?*

Yes – the contracted vendor will produce a financial accounting statement. We will compile additional summary statistics: attendance numbers; entry fee revenues; promotional costs.

Emerson Gallery (MPA) had an opening of their new exhibit on Thurs., Dec. 5 (continues through February). Winter Lights are up in McLean Central Park. Alden Theatre had three successful productions in November. OFC Winter Yule Ball held on Fri., Dec. 6 was a sell-out and a great success! Breakfast with Santa – Saturday, 12/14 (sold-out); Holiday Gingerbread House is Thurs. night, 12/12. Alden Theatre: two "Frosty" shows on 12/14. Chocolate Festival - last Sunday in January; sponsored by Rotary Club (big annual fund-raising event).

**Financial Stewardship:** On December 3, the Board of Supervisors approved the settlement agreement with Sorenson Gross (insurance resolution). The check has been received (written to Fairfax County Board of Supervisors); the funds are being processed back to MCC.

## PROGRAMS & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

- At Nov. 14 meeting, Lori Carbonneau, Brianna Clorey and Helen Frederick participated to brainstorm interesting ideas for new classes and events at MPA (such as 'one-and-done' evenings with wine, similar to Mosaic district in Merrifield). They will try to design some cool, fun ideas for 'socializing while creating art' – hopefully starting in Fall 2020. We will actively market such new options to bring new folks in. Ms. Carbonneau thanked MCC for significant support of MPA ArtFest and provided an update on ArtFest and a summary of feedback received.
- Use of Comment Cards was discussed; still using the lobby kiosks to receive Comment Cards. New smaller comment cards will be designed, for the purpose of distributing out in the community to people who may not have visited MCC facility (or haven't been here in a while), asking what kinds of programming they would like to see offered at MCC.
- MLK Celebration – Howard University Choir will back-up the performer; they are awesome!

- Earth Day 2020 – we are looking into some new ideas and how to work with Fairfax County, building upon CFC’s recent discussion about sustainability.
- Farmers Market – *Update from Mr. Sachs:* It’s unclear whether the Farmers Market will come to MCC in Spring 2020; some issues still need to be resolved regarding access to the upper parking lot. Strollers, toddlers, and elderly people are a huge concern in trying to hike up the incline. Also, MCC is open for business, with full classes going on. They anticipate hundreds of cars coming to the Farmers Market – resulting in much fewer spaces for MCC patrons to park. The Farmers Market will likely stay at Lewinsville Park; but they are still looking the option of MCC.
- Rental Rates for the Scene Shop (Alden Theatre) will be revised in January 2020. These rates haven’t been updated in the past 15 years.

### CAPITAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Nov. 7 meeting focused on sustainability – how MCC can be cognizant and provide meaningful education for the community on this important issue. Ms. Post presented best practices of corporate sustainability, from her professional experience. Mr. McGovern and Mr. Sachs explained what MCC already does to enhance sustainability. It was noted that, although MCC’s renovation project did not meet the total monetary threshold to be designated as LEED-certified, those qualifiers were heeded by the architects during design specifications - so that the renovation actually does align with many LEED goals. In recent Fairfax County initiatives, a sustainability representative for Small District 1A-Dranesville has been assigned to Supervisor Foust’s office. Mr. Sachs and Mr. McGovern will forge a relationship with this new person as a resource, including coming to talk to the MCC Governing Board. Several ideas were brainstormed as positive steps that MCC can take to promote sustainability and educate the public (both immediate and in the future). *Chair Waters thanked Ms. Post for her excellent presentation on 11/7; it was a great meeting on the topic of sustainability!*

*Clarification by Mr. Sachs:* There is much effort going on in the county right now around sustainability. It’s at beginning stages – including today’s announcement that FCPS and other buildings will have solar energy priorities on rooftops and carports. They are starting to identify facilities to retrofit. It’s coming.

*Question: Was the idea of installing electric car chargers in MCC’s parking lot ever explored?*

Yes – it was considered three years ago (during the renovation); but they weren’t available. MCC staff researched a couple of vendors. Back then, they didn’t have “super-chargers”; it was taking 6 hours to charge one vehicle. And we said: “NO!” Perhaps now, it might be a good time to re-think that idea.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE** *In Mr. Mehra’s absence this evening, Comptroller Karra provided the following summary:*

The check from the insurance for remediation settlement was a big achievement. MCC’s FY21 budget was finalized. There will be changes to the FY21 numbers (as the county determines actual increases in Benefits and Compensation). The MCC FY21 budget will show a deficit of \$6K. Any increase in Compensation proposed by the county will be offset by increase in revenue.

### ELECTIONS & NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

ENC’s focus has been on ensuring a competitive slate of candidates. They reviewed a sample “public interest” card to be placed at the Welcome Desk, OFC, and distributed out in the community (at MCA meetings; Rotary Club meetings; other community groups and events). Quantity = 150 cards. Mr. Jimenez (youth member) will distribute to classmates and government teachers at school. An electronic version will also be available, to share on social media networks. Letters will also be sent to all public and private school principals. The 2019-2020 election date sequence (prepared by PIO office) for advertising and public announcements was approved, publicizing each phase of the election: candidate recruitment; absentee voting; McLean Day in-person voting; announcing election results. We will use the same communication methods and media outlets as last year, with same excellent graphic designs created by David Craig. Effective dates will be updated on all

copy to reflect this year's election sequence/timing. **We've had a good candidate slate in the past couple of years; consensus is to continue with the current processes that have worked well.** Chair Plerhoples will proceed to work with Megan Markwart on her excellent idea to make a video for high school youth about running for the MCC Governing Board. Attention now turns to the Candidate Packets; Chair Plerhoples meets with Ms. Novak tomorrow to review and finalize the Candidate Packet contents. Once Candidate Packets are underway, the focus will be on improving the Candidate Orientation experience.

### **LIAISON TO FRIENDS OF MCC**

Friends of the McLean Community Center met on Dec. 9. They have about \$34K in their treasury. A recent check written to MCC for \$25K was a pass-through donation from the McLean Community Foundation. Friends is still reviewing whether their role is to be a 'pass-through' organization. Cecelia Closs plans to talk to the county attorney to get clarity on some minor legal points. Friends of MCC is interested in hosting a reception after MLK Celebration in January 2021 – provided that the event takes place on a Saturday or a Sunday. A historical marker at OFC is due to be installed, sponsored by Friends of MCC, McLean Historical Society and the Fairfax County History Commission. The signage is a 100-word description of OFC's history. There will be a dedication ceremony when it is installed.

Candidate Reception – no date set has been set yet. If this is still an option, please inform Ms. Herrick (Friends of MCC would prefer that it be held on a Saturday or Sunday). Several alternative suggestions were discussed:

Alternative idea #1: Hold it on a weekday early evening.

*Question: You may get a better turn-out from the public if it were held on a weekday early evening. On a Sunday afternoon last April, only the candidates' families showed up. There wasn't much interest from the general public attending.*

Alternative idea #2: Have candidates visit out to various local civic groups.

*Clarification by ENC Chair Plerhoples:* An idea has been floated to take candidates on-the-road: going around to various groups, all candidates together at one time (McLean Chamber of Commerce breakfast; MCA meeting; Rotary Club). Several concerns about this idea: 1. time commitment involved; 2. possibly disadvantaging some candidates who might not be able to participate; 3. Which events to select? (thereby preferencing some particular community groups over others). *Question: Would that be in lieu of a "Candidate Reception?"*

*Clarification by Mr. Sachs and Chair Plerhoples:* It is up for discussion; what this event should be doing for the community is creating interest in the people who are running by listening to their campaign speeches. That's a collective great opportunity; however, it just hasn't taken off. Last year's Sunday afternoon event was not well-received and was poorly attended. We tried to incorporate MCA in spreading the word and attending. But that didn't happen either. We keep trying to force this great idea... but it's just not working.

Alternative idea #3: Hold a coat-tail candidate greet after a well-attended event or A.T. performance.

*Comment from ENC Chair Plerhoples:* That's an interesting idea, because you are actually offering access to people who use the community center (parents who are here bringing kids to ballet). Those are the folks who should have a say, yet they may not be part of MCA or other local organizations.

Alternative idea #4: Hold a Candidate Reception coinciding with an MPA exhibition opening.

*Comment from Ms. Carbonneau:* Two MPA exhibits in March/April will involve the schools with receptions (there will be lots of parents!) – on a weekday afternoon. These are very well-attended. If the timing is such that it works, and you held a Candidate "Meet-and-Greet" on those dates, MPA would be delighted to host it.

*Clarification by Mr. Sachs:* That's a perfect opportunity because we really don't have anything else in March/April from MCC Special Events department at that time. Exact dates haven't been set yet (working with FCPS); but MPA can advise when these exhibitions will be happening.

*Question: Could you do a McLean H.S. pyramid Candidate Reception and a Langley H.S. pyramid Candidate Reception?*

*Clarification by Ms. Carbonneau:* Yes – exactly, which would align well with the respective student candidates.

**The ENC will talk about this in January. Ms. Herrick will report back to Friends of MCC whatever is decided.**

*Opinions expressed by Ms. Herrick:* Friends of MCC does not have a huge role in the community right now and they are looking for ways to garner more publicity for the group. It was a goal of the Candidate Reception last year to try to make the group more visible and create awareness that there is an organization called “Friends of McLean Community Center.” But I don’t think we ever had anything in the newspaper about last year’s “Meet-the-Candidates” Reception.

*Comment by ENC Chair Plerhopes:* We do have adequate publicity about the Candidate Reception in the local newspapers... and there was such publicity last year. This remains up for discussion: it can still be called a “Friends of MCC” Candidate Reception and it can be held after an event where we know there will be a lot of people - with more foot traffic. Or, maybe it could be held in conjunction with an MPA exhibit opening, as has been offered.

*Summary by Board Chair Waters:* What seems to be the issue is trying to get greater visibility for a Candidate Reception by holding it at a more popular timeframe, capitalizing on more foot traffic at big MCC events. It’s time to change it up a little, so it will be good to see what comes out of the ENC discussion on that.

#### **OLD / NEW BUSINESS**

Nothing else was mentioned as a topic for discussion this evening.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Waters wished everyone a happy holiday season and adjourned the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Holly Novak - Executive Assistant to the Governing Board