



**McLean Community Center
Public Hearing on MCC Programs for FY 2017
and
Governing Board Meeting
March 25, 2015**

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Chad Quinn, Chair; Susan Bourgeois, Vice Chair; Jay Howell, Secretary; Dennis Findley; Paul Kohlenberger; Debbie Sanders; Lathan Turner; Laurelie Wallace; and Amanda Whitfield

Board Members Absent: Craig Richardson, Treasurer, and Tarun Kamath

Staff Members Present: George Sachs, Executive Director; Ashok Karra, Comptroller; Maggie Shea, General Program Director; Ryan Brookes, Intergenerational Program Director; and Ellen Barial, Executive Assistant

Guests Signed In: Ben Wiles, Office of Supervisor John Foust; McLean Project for the Arts: Joe Wetzel, Chair, Board of Directors, and Susan Corrigan, Executive Director; Patrick Smaldore, McLean Citizens Association; Joel Stillman, McLean Youth Athletics, Inc.; Ambika Bathija, Friday Night Bridge Group; and Jennifer Chronis, Candidate for Dranesville Supervisor

Board Chair Chad Quinn convened the following meetings of the Governing Board of the McLean Community Center (MCC) at approximately 7:30 p.m.: A Public Hearing on MCC Programs for FY 2017 and a monthly MCC Governing Board meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING ON MCC PROGRAMS FOR FY 2017

Laurelie Wallace, as Chair of the Governing Board Program Committee, presided over the public hearing. Ms. Wallace opened the public hearing giving the following background:

- The annual public hearing on MCC Programs is an opportunity for residents to give MCC comments and recommendations on programming plans.
- Tonight's public hearing addresses program plans for FY 2017, which begins on July 1, 2016.
- The MCC Board will begin working on the FY 2017 programs and budgets this summer.

INTRODUCTIONS

Members of the audience introduced themselves and indicated who they represented at the meeting. Guests signed in are shown above.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Two individuals signed up in advance to speak at the public hearing, and they were heard first: Joel Stillman, representing McLean Youth Athletics, and Ambika Bathija, representing the Friday Night Bridge Group.

Joel Stillman: Mr. Stillman said that the thrust of MCC's mission has been around a long time. A part of that mission is to promote recreational activities. While MCC does a lot of performing arts programs and classes, Mr. Stillman said that he believes MCC is not providing the recreational programs intended in its mission.

Ambika Bathija: Ms. Bathija distributed a letter to board members that described the Friday Night Bridge Group's request to the Governing Board. Excerpts from Ms. Bathija's letter are below:

- We are a group of around 20 - 28 ladies and gentlemen, mostly senior citizens with a few not so senior (still gainfully employed), who have been playing bridge on Friday evenings at the McLean Community Center for the past several years. This is an activity we have enjoyed for many years and are grateful that the MCC has a place for us to get together. Most of our bridge players are residents of the McLean Community Center taxing district.
- In the past, we regularly played in the MCC's Stedman room upstairs, unless there was a function or activity that the Community Center had committed to and hence the room was unavailable; at those times, we would play in MCC's basement room # 3. However, for the last year, the MCC Staff has made basement Room # 3 the "regular" room for our activity, even when the upstairs Stedman room is vacant and not being used for any activity.
- The Stedman room upstairs is a much larger room that can easily accommodate 6 bridge tables (24 people) and another long rectangular table for supplies. On days when we have had more than 24 people arrive to play bridge, the Stedman room has been able to accommodate an additional one or two bridge tables (4-8 additional people).
- On the other hand, Basement room #3, which is a much smaller room, can only accommodate 4 bridge tables comfortably. We usually have 20 people and, as such, we need 5 tables and the cramped space of basement room #3 forces us to literally sit back to back with hardly any space to move around, which we have to do after every round of 30 minutes. Furthermore, with so many people sitting so close to each other in such a small room, it is difficult to communicate with one's partner without sound interference from people talking at adjacent tables. These problems are further exasperated for a number of us who are seniors with mobility, health and hearing problems. Some of our regular players of the past have stopped coming to play bridge on Friday evenings because they are not comfortable playing cooped-up in a small basement room where even the air may be unhealthy because all players are crowded together. A number of us are also concerned that some of our members with mobility difficulties will have a hard time climbing the stairs in case of an emergency when we are not allowed the use of elevators.
- We have requested the MCC staff including Mr. Joe McGovern the Facilities manager and his supervisor, Mr. George Sachs, to allow us to use the Stedman room upstairs to no avail. We are now requesting that you and other Governing Board Members kindly grant us

permission to use the MCC's upstairs Stedman room on a regular basis for our Friday evening bridge, with Room #3 as a back-up for when the Stedman room is being used for other MCC events.

Linda Ham: Ms. Ham sent written comments to be included in the hearing record. She addressed the following “ideas regarding future programs at the Center:”

- 1) The bridge program is great – having multiple times to play that includes different levels. The classes have been exceptional and well attended. One other suggestion that the class members have raised is a daytime supervised bridge where the instructor gives recommendation for improvement with each game played – therefore, adding on to what has been learned in the classes.
- 2) The Senior Program has been a great addition to the Center with topics of interest for the senior community – the program also giving the community an opportunity for social interaction. One suggestion, since seniors like interacting through games (as you can see from the bridge program at MCC) – a game day once a week with games such as canasta and American Mah Jongg.
- 3) We attend the evening concerts and events. Perhaps some bluegrass and contemporary folk could be added to the future possibilities – (Ocean Celtic and Shenandoah are two such groups as examples).

Ms. Wallace thanked members of the public for their comments and their support of MCC programs. She said that the Program Committee will consider their comments at an upcoming meeting. Mr. Sachs will reply to commenters who have provided contact information.

There being no further public comments, Ms. Wallace adjourned the public hearing at 7:40 p.m.

MCC GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Mr. Quinn convened the MCC Governing Board meeting at the conclusion of the public hearing.

Mr. Quinn alerted other board members and members of the public that he was doing double duty that night. In addition to chairing the board meeting, he was also making opening and closing remarks at the James C. Macdonald Fine Arts Scholarship Awards Competition taking place in the Alden Theatre at the same time as the board meeting. Ms. Bourgeois would step in to chair the meeting during that time.

ADOPT AGENDA

The meeting agenda was unanimously approved.

INTRODUCTIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no further public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 25, 2015 MEETING

Minutes of the February 25, 2015 Governing Board meeting, included in the meeting materials, were approved unanimously.

CHAIR'S REPORT/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Chad Quinn, Board Chair)

Susan Corrigan

Mr. Quinn welcomed Susan Corrigan, the new Executive Director of the McLean Project for the Arts (MPA), and said that she brings a wealth of experience to MPA from both the arts world and fundraising.

Ms. Corrigan described her past work and volunteer experiences and pointed out that her new position at MPA provides an opportunity for her to draw on each of those experiences. She spoke about her first artistic experience as a filmmaker, her work at the American Art Therapy Association, serving as a volunteer board president of a community art center, and her leadership positions with the United Way of America, Mental Health America, and the YMCA in Pittsburgh.

Ms. Corrigan also talked about Gifts in Kind International, a charity she founded and ran from 1983 through 2005. She said that Gifts In Kind International, which allows businesses to donate products to charitable organizations around the world, is now the third largest charity in the United States and operates in more than 20 countries.

On her second day at MPA, Ms. Corrigan said that she met with MCC's Executive Director, George Sachs, and they have already begun looking at additional ways to work together.

Ms. Corrigan touched on upcoming classes and exhibits at MPA. Information on MPA classes and exhibits can be found at www.mpaart.org.

MCC Annual Plan Update

Mr. Quinn said that there were twenty-four sets of goals adopted by the Governing Board for the year, designated as internal alignment, external alignment, or financial stewardship goals. Developing and completing goals are collective tasks for committee and staff members. A final report on how well MCC accomplished its goals for the 2014-2015 board year will be provided at the June 3, 2015 board meeting.

Mr. Quinn gave an interim report on committee goals:

- *Capital Facilities Committee:* The committee is carrying out its primary goal for the year, which is to lead MCC's plans to renovate and expand the Ingleside building while keeping the project within its budget.
- *Communications Committee:* The committee has been working on its goals, including joint goals with other committees, like the Program Committee. Tomorrow marks the completion of a key goal for the year when the MCC staff participates in social media training preparing them to take advantage of Fairfax County's decision to allow all agencies to develop more social media programs.
- *Elections & Nominations Committee:* The committee is meeting its goals this year: raising awareness of the elections, getting a sponsor for the "Meet the Candidates" event, among others. The committee is poised to complete a key goal of having a competitive slate of candidates when election petitions are returned by Friday at 5:00 p.m.
- *Finance Committee:* The committee has completed almost all of its goals, partly because its primary work takes place during the budget planning process that ends with the September Governing Board meeting. However, the committee has ongoing goals to monitor the budget and report to the full board quarterly. The next quarterly financial report will be given at the April 22 board meeting.
- *Program Committee:* The committee is achieving goals. Under the leadership of MCC's new Special Events Director, Catherine Nesbitt, new McLean Day modifications will be on display at McLean Day on May 16. The committee will present the second of two annual program performance reports at the June 3 board meeting.

2014-2015 MCC Annual Meetings Calendar

Included in the meeting materials was an updated meeting calendar, which includes meetings through the end of the current board year. Mr. Quinn noted that the MCC Board has had a busy year with each board committee diligently working through its annual goals.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (George Sachs)

Mr. Sachs reviewed his monthly report to the Governing Board. A copy of the report is shown below:

Internal Alignment

- Office Manager Lindsey Hogan had a baby boy (Hunter James Hogan) born February 25; all are well.
- Given our situation with this winter's untimely snow days, Joe McGovern was able to find a contractor to plow the MCC parking lot the day before our last predicted snow fall in an attempt to remain open for our scheduled performances and rentals. Unfortunately, the snow accumulation made it too difficult for patrons to even get to our facility; so, we had to cancel our activities. Since our lot had been plowed, we were able to reopen on time the next day, which was a Friday, and our weekend activities went on as scheduled.
- Also related to our rough winter, from January through March, we have had to cancel a total of 134 of our classes for which make-ups are being scheduled.
- McLean Day Sponsorships are continuing to be received; we currently have the following sponsors signed up: State Farm Insurance; M&T Mortgage Company; Verizon Fios; McLean Properties; and Wheat's Landscaping.

External Alignment

- The Annual Jewelry Show on February 7 went well with an attendance of 418 jewelers and patrons. There were many favorable comments from patrons and jewelers on the overall high quality of the event.
- Our Valentine Soiree was unfortunately cancelled due to snow and ice conditions.
- The Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon was held Sunday March 22, where MCC staff honored our many valued volunteers. This year's H. Gordon Randall Outstanding Volunteer Service Award went to Kay Bransford.
- February Alden Theatre performances included:
 - Headliner: Chita Rivera
 - Silent Films: "The First Westerns"
 - Kids & Family: "Pinkalicious"
 - Midday Movie: "The Thin Man"
 - Cancellations: We had to cancel our musical performance by "Rani Arbo" and a kids' performance of "Fly Guy" due to snow closings.
- The Teen Center hosted the 5th & 6th Grade St. Patrick's Dance on Friday, March 20, with a sellout crowd of over 200 kids.

Financial Stewardship

Joe McGovern once again found a discrepancy in an invoice from a contractor. Contractors who are on county contract have pre-negotiated prices for their services, and since we are a county agency, those prices also apply to us. Sometimes we are invoiced at a higher rate than the county negotiated rate, and thanks to Joe for watching this closely.

More information on MCC programs can be found at www.mcleancenter.org.

CAPITAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE (Susan Bourgeois, Chair)

Ms. Bourgeois and Committee Member Dennis Findley gave the Capital Facilities Committee (CFC) report. The CFC met twice during the month, March 10 and March 24.

There are three upcoming meetings sponsored by the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES), to share with the community the status of the Ingleside Renovation and Expansion Project and to get public comment. (DPWES serves as MCC's project manager.) The meetings are scheduled on March 26 for immediate neighbors of MCC and on April 15 and May 12 for a broader public audience. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Ms. Bourgeois reported that the schematic design process is almost over. (A schematic design establishes the general scope, conceptual design, scale, and relationships among the components of the project.) Ms. Bourgeois said that we have a general idea of what the addition will look like, but that it would change over time.

Mr. Findley reported on the most recent meeting of the CFC. He noted that the storm-water management issues involved in the renovation and expansion project will not be resolved by the first two DPWES meetings. However, the architect for the project is continuing to work on a solution and plans to discuss the issues at the third DPWES meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE (Jay Howell, Chair)

Mr. Howell reported on the March 4 Communications Committee meeting.

McLean Central Park Signage

Mr. Howell asked Mr. Sachs to update the Governing Board on the most recent meeting of the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) Signs Committee for the McLean Central Park. The committee has developed preliminary designs for signage throughout the park in connection with planned renovations of the park.

Mr. Sachs, who represents MCC on the Signs Committee, said that the committee had not met since the last Communications Committee meeting. Mr. Sachs said that representatives of the other two organizations that make up the Signs Committee, FCPA and the Dolley Madison Library, were still getting feedback from their boards. The Communications Committee provided its feedback on the project at its March 4 meeting.

Ms. Bourgeois said that MCC is working with the FCPA and the library, as well as Supervisor Foust to come up with a dynamic approach to campus oriented signage for the park.

Mr. Howell pointed out that MCC would not be in total control of the primary signage, which would replace the current MCC sign in the park at the corner of Dolley Madison Boulevard and Old Dominion Drive.

Mr. Howell also said that Supervisor Foust has some concerns about having a LED sign in the park, which current designs include, given some of the large, excessive LED signs in other locations in the county.

Marketing Tools

Staff members are looking at the marketing tools available through the Active.net ticketing system used for MCC programs. There are marketing tools that can provide more ways of reaching out to program participants and to get feedback on MCC programs online and through mobile devices. Staff will provide more information on how MCC can take advantage of the marketing and feedback aspects of its ticketing system.

ELECTIONS & NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE (Paul Kohlenberger, Chair)

Mr. Kohlenberger reported the following:

- Candidates' petitions are due back by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 27.
- There were three official candidates as of March 25.
- Committee and staff are finalizing the orientation for board candidates, scheduled on Monday, April 13. All board members are welcome to attend.
- MCC has finalized its contract with the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area, which provides that its McLean Unit volunteers will serve as tellers and counters for the board elections.
- The Board of the Friends of the McLean Community Center has agreed to sponsor a "Meet the Candidates" reception on Sunday, May 3 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

FINANCE COMMITTEE (Craig Richardson, Chair)

The Committee did not meet in March, but was scheduled to meet on April 16.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE (Laurelie Wallace, Chair)

Ms. Wallace reported on the March 4 meeting of the Program Committee:

- The Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on March 22 was a lovely event and, as Mr. Sachs reported, Kay Bransford received the H. Gordon Randall Outstanding Volunteer Service Award.

- The Garage Sale is scheduled for April 18 at 1420 Beverly Road. Booth space is selling out. There is also an accompanying recycling and shredding event sponsored by the OFTC.
- McLean Day is scheduled for May 16. All 90 exhibitor booths have been sold out.
- Staff will conduct onsite surveys on iPads at McLean Day.
- A variety of snack/food vendors have been lined up for McLean Day.
- Sponsorships for McLean Day are still being pursued; they range from \$2,000 to \$7,500.
- Programs canceled due to snow have been rescheduled or in the process of being rescheduled.

LIAISON TO FRIENDS OF THE MCC (Paul Kohlenberger)

Mr. Kohlenberger's report included the following:

- The Board of the Friends of the McLean Community Center is developing new marketing plans to attract members.
- All board members and members of the public are encouraged to join Friends.

NEW OR OLD BUSINESS

There was no new or old business.

CLOSING REMARKS AND ADJOURN MEETING

Mr. Quinn's closing remarks included:

- April 22 is the next MCC Governing Board meeting.
- Ms. Wallace was thanked for chairing the public hearing.
- Ms. Corrigan was again welcomed.

There being no further business, Mr. Quinn adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jay Howell, Secretary
Governing Board
McLean Community Center