
**2022-2023 MCC Governing Board
Elections & Nominations Committee
February 6, 2023 – 6:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

Committee Members Present:	<i>in-person:</i> Shivani Saboo, Chair; Kristina Groennings; Sarah Tran
Committee Members Absent:	Ari Ghasemian
Other Board Members Present:	Barbara Zamora-Appel
MCC Staff Present:	Betsy May-Salazar, Executive Director; Holly Novak, Executive Assistant
Guests:	Nina Garces

CONVENE MEETING

Chair Saboo convened a meeting of Elections & Nominations Committee of the Governing Board of the McLean Community Center on February 6, 2023, at 6:36 p.m. She announced that the meeting was being audio recorded. No changes were requested to the Agenda; it was adopted by acclamation.

PROGRESS TO-DATE: CANDIDATE PACKETS

As of today, three candidate packets have been picked up – all from Langley H.S. students. Postcards were mailed to all Small District 1A-Dranesville households announcing the opportunity to become a candidate. It was requested to have postcards for youth board members to hand-out at their schools. MCC staff will provide to Youth Board Members and Youth Ambassadors at their orientation meeting February 7.

Increasing Candidate Participation:

A discussion took place regarding increasing candidate participation including:
Executive Director May-Salazar sharing at meeting with local civic groups on February 10 and Board members reaching out to the local organization list that was provided tonight.

1. Chair Saboo will send an e-mail to the local organizations (on the list provided tonight).
2. E-mails to candidates in past years? (Consensus was that it's O.K. to do this individually.)

CANDIDATE ORIENTATION – MARCH 11 **A preliminary list of local organizations was provided for review in this meeting.*
Headshots for publicity photos will be taken for MCC website and campaign materials. Executive Director May-Salazar discussed revised draft of candidate orientation presentation. Presentation focuses on the “Why?” and character qualities of serving on MCC Governing Board to set tone for campaign including serving as an ambassador in the community, pledging commitment to defined principles, supporting the Executive Director in role, conducting oneself in a spirit of collegiality and subordinating personal interests to the best interests of the MCC. A discussion took place regarding the use of the word ‘ambassador.’

“Rules & Tips for Campaigning”:

1. Discussion took place on how to streamline and clarify the rules related to campaigning at MCC facilities and events. Ms. May-Salazar suggested adopting Reston’s policy which is consistent with Virginia law - Recommended adjustment: No campaigning within 40-feet of MCC facility or perimeter of MCC outdoor events. This will clearly define us in our space and at our programs. Suggestion was made to include a map showing allowed campaigning spaces if the 40-foot distance rule is included. After discussion it was agreed this change will be further evaluated by staff with revised language proposed at next meeting.
2. Methods of Campaigning: A discussion took place regarding campaigning and the role of MCC facilities and programs in campaigning. There is an interest among candidates to have opportunities to meet people attending events at MCC however this must be balanced with the visitor experience of MCC users and staff. Current policy

does not allow campaigning in MCC facilities. Staff will clarify if this is county policy or best practices. Candidates are encouraged to campaign in the community at non-MCC events such as Farmers Market, and in neighborhoods. Discussion also included the opportunity for more meet-and-greets with candidates hosted my MCC.

CANDIDATE PRESENCE /GREETING EVENTS

Meet-and-Greet for adult candidates – Saturday, April 8

Open Game Night at OFC for youth candidates – Wednesday, April 12

McLean Day – Saturday, May 20

Summary: Chair Saboo acknowledged the issues that may arise from changes to the policy and recommended that either the rule be removed or keep it as it is (inside the facilities) with better definition about events (by the MCC staff). After evaluating, staff will present new language at the next ENC meeting on March 6.

VOTE-COUNTING LOGISTICS PREPARATION

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area brings a capable team of volunteers who have experience in several past MCC Governing Board elections. They will be on-site on Thursday, May 18 (day after Absentee Voting concludes) to annotate the printouts of tax district residential addresses to note who has already voted prior to McLean Day. They have a systematic process of opening the ballot envelopes, stapling each Affidavit and ballot together and then grouping into organized piles according zip code. The computer printouts are then annotated to show who has voted (property owner; renter; occupant) at each address.

The contract amount was increased last year because of an extra step of alphabetizing all Absentee Voting Affidavits to reveal if there were any instances of fraud by people impersonating as residents of other addresses. This added step consumed an enormous amount of time and effort by the LWV team that they had not anticipated. It delayed their thorough work of annotating the printouts (which involved additional hours working into the night). There was only one instance of duplication discovered last year. Taking into consideration the amount of work required for an unknown problem that was basically non-existent, we recommend omitting the process step of alphabetizing the Absentee Voting Affidavits before annotating the printouts. ENC generally accepted in this meeting that it will not be necessary this year. The contract amount to League of Women Voters will be appropriate for the level of effort required of a large team of people over several days, including on-site presence in the Voting Tent at McLean Day and vote-tallying late into the night at MCC on Saturday, May 20.

We will ask Fairfax Co. Dept. of Taxation to produce an updated printout of all residences in Small District 1A-Dranesville that will be converted to a user-friendly format, sorted by zip codes and arranged alphabetically by street name within each zip code. This facilitates efficient handling by the League of Women Voters team.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Executive Director May-Salazar will clarify the 40-foot rule (what we are required to do).
2. Sarah Tran will receive postcards at the Thursday meeting of Youth Ambassadors (2/7).
3. Chair Saboo will reach out to groups in the organization list about recommending candidates.
4. Executive Director May-Salazar will mention the opportunity to run for the MCC Governing Board at the Civic Group meeting on Friday, February 10.

OLD /NEW BUSINESS *Chair Saboo asked if there were any other topics for discussion this evening:

Regarding previously-proposed “pledge” for candidates and board members: We tabled the signing of the pledge. We are making the candidate orientation presentation more friendly without a list of written rules (infographic containing charged language was removed). It was agreed that Governing Board and MCC staff will not be able to campaign for candidates.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business, Chair Saboo adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Holly Novak - Executive Assistant