



**2021-2022 MCC Governing Board  
Regular Meeting  
February 23, 2022 6:30 p.m.**

**Board Members present:** Barbara Zamora-Appel, Suzanne LeMenestrel, Lisa Mariam, Bill Glikbarg, Rasheq Rahman, Melanie Sletten, Ivy Chen, Carla Post, Shivani Saboo, Maria Foderaro-Guertin

**Board Members absent:** Max Blacksten

**MCC Staff present:** Daniel Singh, Executive Director; Holly Novak, Executive Assistant, Sabrina Anwah,

**Guests:** Camila Alfonzo Meza (Supervisor Foust's office); Richard Porter; Johnna Sachse; Kathleen Gillette Mallard; Michele Walter (AMS Planning & Research); Meg Friedman (AMS Planning & Research); Paul Kohlenberger; (Deb Bisson (MPA);

**CONVENE MEETING**

Chair Zamora-Appel convened a Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of the McLean Community Center on January 26, 2022, at 6:35 p.m. The meeting was tape-recorded and the required courtesy verbal announcement about audio recording was duly-stated by the Chair.

**ADOPT AGENDA**

No changes were requested to the proposed Agenda; it was adopted by acclamation.

**APPROVE MINUTES**

Minutes of January 26, 2022 Regular Meeting were reviewed. No changes were requested; accepted as written.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Chair Zamora-Appel announced that this meeting would now transition into "Closed Session." She read aloud the following MOTION to go into "Closed Session" and took a vote on it:

**Motion Going into Closed Session:**

**Chairperson or designee:** I move that the McLean Community Center Governing Board go into Closed Session, pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) for the purpose of discussion, consideration or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of the Clerk to the McLean Community Center Executive Board. The subject matter to be discussed and considered is the job performance of specific members of the McLean Community Center staff.

**Vote to go into "Closed Session": Unanimously approved.**



After the MOTION was read aloud and voted on, all members of the public and all MCC staff exited; only MCC Governing Board members remained in the room. The audio recording device was turned “off” and remained “off” during the entire “Closed Session.”

**Closed Session began at 6:45 p.m.**

**Closed Session ended at 7:22 p.m.**

### **RECONVENE INTO PUBLIC SESSION**

Chair Zamora-Appel announced that the public and MCC staff were now welcome to re-enter the room. They did so. The audio-recording device was turned back on and remained on throughout the remainder of this meeting. The cleansing MOTION to reconvene into Public Session was stated aloud by Chair Zamora-Appel and a vote was taken to come out of “Closed Session:”

#### **MOTION Coming Out of Closed Session:**

In accordance with Virginia Code Section 2.2-3712, I move that the McLean Community Center Governing Board members certify that, to the best of each member’s knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the Closed Session was convened were heard, discussed, considered or consulted upon in Closed Session.

**The MOTION passed unanimously.**

#### **MPA – Deb Bisson**

- 2/18 Friday night opened during ballet performance and it was successful
- Youth art exhibitions: Langley March 2-14 & Mclean March 17-28
- Art classes for winter

#### **Kevin Osborn –Deputy Director of Fairfax Library**

- Partnerships – North to South of the County—extremely appreciative
- Hip Hop group on Juneteenth
- Working together programmatically 100% backing!
- Ideas for partnership—film screenings; overflow space; shared community space; synagogue

#### **Michele Walter, AMS**

- Concluding 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of work—internal interviews with staff & board
- Long tenured staff
- How effective is MCC?
- Divergence between board & staff



**Vision:** MCC inspires joy and unity in McLean and its communities —came up with it as an aggregate of responses to surveys

**Mission:** The mission of the McLean Community Center is to provide access to exceptional arts and cultural experiences, learning and social activities in an inviting equitable manner to all Dansville 1A residents.

**Values:** Not changed—Need to take a look; maybe use “one word”—innovation, equitable etc.; should be actionable

**Align w/County strategic plan—used other places as a comparison**

**\*Be Visible**—Celebration, Learning & Support (*Jewish Community Center in Orange County, Florida*)

**\*Listening**—Listening & Multiple Destinations (*Lake Anne location as an extension of their center*) --Social Media (*Reston Community Center, Fairfax County, VA*)

**\*Striving for inclusion** –Arts & Culture for all; Sunnyvale Unity; Local Users (*Sunnyvale Community Center in Santa Clara County, CA*)

**\*Representing diverse Communities** –Resident Companies, Bolero Texas, Dedicated Resources (*Irving in Dallas, Texas*)

**\*Making inclusive communities**—A Community-Building Coalition & Targeted Support (*JCC in Orange County, FL*)

**\*Creating pathways to learning**—Passive and Participatory & Educator Resources (*Dallas County, TX*)

**\*Celebrating Expertise**—Recognition & Expert Engagement (*Reston Community Center, Fairfax County, VA*)

**\*Sustainability**—Climate Action Alignment & Interagency Coordination (*Santa Clara County, CA*)

**\*Organizing to manage risk**—Reorganization & Risk

**Chair’s Report --Barbara Zamora-Appel**

- SharePoint—Daniel to follow-up with Bill Glikbarg and Maria Foderaro-Guertin
- Motion to have Suzanne & Shivani to look at MOU to make recommendations to update—make for next months, March meeting
- MCA—have a liaison; other partnerships with in community
- Invite staff leads of MCC departments participate in MCC Governing Board Meetings

**Executive Director’s Report --Daniel Singh**

- Person placing order has to be different than the person receiving the order
- Site visits for short term & long term repairs
- Google acct
- Partnerships with community—CWCA; Principals of McLean & Langley HS; Student Advisory Councils; Flags for Heroes; Friends of McLean Central Park; Website work continues; Strategic Planning continues; combining positions; collaborate across MCC on certain events; Autism Awareness Month to create a sensory event; interfaith event; Sedar events
- Reviewed survey responses after performances

**Finance Committee --Shivani Saboo**

- On budget



### **Capital Facilities --Carla Post**

- Former board member Mr. Finely who was an architect; green roof or solar; Wakefield HS
- Work closely with Foust; pipes are too small; engage engineering company; engage VDOT with water issues; install bathrooms closer to all the programming area; project list 1) rewiring—only one vendor; 2) stage floor—incorrectly milled but went forward because it may have gone unrepaired due to a supply chain issue; 3) roll drop sets; 4) completed projects—Great conversation and is willing to help out
- Updates at the next CFC meeting in March

### **Programs & Outreach Committee-- Suzanne Le Menestrel**

- Interested in having the board revisit the value of having the Programs Committee
- Idea of “pop ups” –events that aren’t high cost and more flexible in scheduling;
- More support for HS youth: interviewing skills; resumes; head shots; linked in

### **Elections & Nomination Committee --Maria Foderaro-Guertin**

- Election process—correcting orientation presentations; confirming FOIA training and tutorials; publicity postcards; online voting option and the role of LWV;

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Procedure: Chair Zamora-Appel invited the public to introduce themselves and give verbal remarks if they wished. Some had requested in advance to speak. Those individuals were verified as being a Small District 1A-Dranesville resident. Incoming letters are documented the same way – as being from a verified Small District 1A-Dranesville resident. Ms. Novak on MCC staff has access to the residential address database to provide this verification. Additional attendees tonight may request to speak provided they first state their residential address for verification as being tax district resident. Each person will be allotted three minutes to speak.

#### **1. Richard Porter**

Good evening. I live in District 1A on Chadsworth Court in McLean. Really, I only have a few questions related to the election, so I will address them to Maria. I know you generally don’t like to dialog with the audience but perhaps you can answer me specifically. What is the process or procedure you’ve got in place to make sure that persons who are eligible to vote don’t cast more than one ballot? At some point, someone needs to be checking. If someone votes early... they forget and come to McLean Day and cast another ballot. Who’s responsible for checking that?

*Ms. Novak requested permission to speak to address the question because she works with the League of Women Voters*

*directly and is happy to explain the process; she was granted opportunity to do so.*

In this room on May 19 (which is the Thursday before McLean Day), they will open all of the Early Voting

Ballots and Affidavits. They have computer printouts of the residential addresses, separated by zip code and street name and house number. So on those printouts, they take each ballot and they mark that it’s “Joe Schmo” at this address. Then they separate it – the ballot goes in one pile for counting later (that’s a qualified Affidavit checked-off). It’s noted in the computer printout because those

printouts to go McLean Day. So, if someone comes up and says: “Hey, I’m here to vote.” And we see that Joe Schmo already voted; it’s noted. And also... I bring all the Affidavits alphabetized to McLean Day. In fact, I had an instance two years ago from someone who did that – he came up saying: “I’m ready to vote.” And I said to him: “Oh – I see you’ve already voted.” And I fished-out his Affidavit and asked: “Is this you?” And he backed away from the voting table! So, we do have those checks-and balances.

*Comment by Mr. Porter.* That’s good. I appreciate that information. The biggest concern I have as I looked at your “Key Dates is that I don’t see anything on the calendar for a ‘candidates night,’ where the candidates who are running would basically sit in this room and take questions from the audience about what their goals are and what their qualifications are and so forth. It seems to me that you need to program that in, in some way.

*Comment by ENC Chair Foderaro-Guertin:* We went ahead and were trying to find a time when we would have more people here on-site at MCC. What we found was that there were very few people who attended past “Meet-and-Greet” for the candidates. So, instead of making it a singular event, we are now doing it during SpringFest this year, on April 16. The candidates will be here, they will be introduced and the platform/format will be more interactive and mingling so the audience can ask questions and get to know the candidate that way.

*Comment by Mr. Porter:* So, you will be sending out information on that?

*Comment by ENC Chair Foderaro-Guertin:* Yes – we will publicize that information. It’s tricky because when the resident picks up the packet, that’s not when the campaigning starts. They are not officially a candidate until after March 11 at 5:00 p.m. for verification of all signatures (and submission of their personal statement). Then that resident now becomes an official candidate and that list of names gets forwarded to Supervisor Foust’s office. At that point, campaigning begins and that’s when dates go out about the candidate. As an FYI, our youth board member suggested that we have a Youth Town Hall. After candidate orientation, there will be a one-hour slot where just the youth candidates are going to be able to meet up with the people in the community.

Youth Town Hall: Saturday, March 12 at 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.

*Comment by Mr. Porter:* I just think there was a need for that opportunity and it sounds like you’re going to have it.

Okay. That’s it. Thank you.

## 2. **Johnna Sachse**

I just... I had some concerns about the equity presentation at the last meeting that I just wanted to make some comments about. The presentation seemed to posit that any given outcome, if it doesn’t match the demographics of society, then there was likely some kind of systemic racial inequities that caused it. And “equity” is basically a social-engineering project attempting to give people resources with the idea that they will then be able to compete on an equal footing. But competition does mean that there will be winners and losers and everyone is not going to end up with the same outcome.

And I just wanted to mention: there’s many factors that contribute to peoples’ career choices, education choices, their success - and what they even deem for themselves a what ‘success’ is. And many factors

would include: biologics; their sex; their I.Q.; their nutrition; their innate talents; their work ethic; their life experiences; whether they come from a two parent home (which always gives children a leg up). So, the fact that there's like, a multitude of factors that explain why, even in the same family siblings often end up in very different career fields, with varying degrees of success in their chosen fields, and even define maybe 'success' differently between themselves as to what they think the successful life would be.

So, rather, as a community, than trying to dictate what an equitable outcome for society should look like? What percentage of this or that group should be here or there... in this field or that? Wouldn't it be better to let people live their own lives and make their own choices?

And I feel like this community center can have a positive impact on the success of children in our community through the programs that are offered that help children explore and develop their talents: tutoring for the school children; programs that support single parents in our community, since children of single parents often are very disadvantaged. Single parents are very stressed to meet all the needs of their children. Children of single parents are the most vulnerable for not graduating from high school and for seeking follow-on trade school or college education. And they are more likely to have teen pregnancy within the families just because of the struggles with single-family households. And I feel like we should not as a community dictate what demographics should make up each and every career field and sport. But rather, provide the programs that help each child reach their highest potential and choose a career based on their own interests and talents. Thank you.

### 3. **Kathleen Gillette Mallard**

Hi. Good evening, everyone. And thank you so much for this opportunity to be here. Holly - your Minutes are really great, I tell you! It was good to read over the Minutes from the last meeting - January 26. Several of the community participants (myself included) expressed concern about the comments related to racism and dog whistles of white supremacy. I don't want to repeat that event. I mean, we really hashed it out; and it was great.

I thought it was great that we had some lively exchanges when you all were asked for some examples.

As I went home that evening, I sort of kicked myself because I realized: I know what several of our board members were talking about, especially those involved in the high school, working with students. Those were the examples we got. And it suddenly clicked: because Fairfax Co. public schools, although they have kind of denied it, they have embedded... (Does everyone know what critical race theory is, right?) CRT is saying that white people are superior and they are the oppressors; people of color are inferior. This is embedded now in our Fairfax County Public Schools. So, you board members who work with high school students may be feeling the effect of that more.

There's a claim that it's not being taught; however, we know that FCPS entered into a contract with Ibrahim Kendi. He wrote *How to be an Anti-Racist* but he is really teaching people to look at each other through the lens of race.

So, what occurred to me is: MCC doesn't need to take on the CRT project. They really don't. You all don't. We members of the community - we love theater, music, classes and other events. Now, I'm sure with the teen center... of course, teenagers and high school kids are coming around with these 'problems,' so-to-speak, that are being taught to them in their schools. So, that's... my main concern is that MCC doesn't try to be everything to everyone. But stay focused on your mission: which is to provide wonderful, uplifting, beautiful theatrical, musical performances, the wonderful classes. I'm looking forward to participating in SIA, which I told you all last time. So that's basically all I have to say.



And I'm really excited that you are going to do the Flags for Heroes, Mr. Singh! That's really nice to hear that.

So, we'll look forward to that next year.

*Summary remarks by Chair Zamora-Appel:* Thank you for your comments. We thank members of the public for contributing their feedback this evening. The MCC Governing Board takes your suggestions very seriously and you're welcome to attend our meetings. All MCC Governing Board meetings are open to the public and you can view the board's schedule on the website. Thank you.

**The following public comments by Small District 1A-Dranesville residents were submitted in writing in advance of this meeting.**

**1. Nicholas Kalis**

**From:** Nick Kalis <nkalis@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 27, 2022 8:20 AM  
**To:** Glikbarg, William <William.Glikbarg@fairfaxcounty.gov>  
**Subject:** McLean Community Center Board - A question

Given that we read of charges emanating from the McLean Community Center of *White Supremacy, Dog Whistles* and other such accusations, it might be time to ask of our **McLean Community Center Board**

What qualifies you to pronounce "sentence" on your community?

Which of you, presently or retired, have accomplished or served in any of these capacities such as many of your McLean neighbors have?

- Scout Master
- Girl Scout Leader
- School Principal
- President, McLean Rotary
- Head of a think tank
- Police Chief
- Ambassador
- University Full Professor
- Physician
- Optometrist
- Raised an Eagle Scout in McLean
- Dentist
- Real Estate Developer
- Veterinarian



- Home Builder
- Partner in a Law Practice
- Partner in an Architecture Practice
- Airline Pilot
- Jurist
- Best Selling Author
- General
- Admiral
- Governor
- Distinguished Journalist
- US Congressman/woman
- US Senator
- Patent Holder
- Engineer
- Creator of jobs (besides a job for yourself and family)
- Commercial Property Owner (more than a rental house)
- Chief Executive (besides a closely held family enterprise)

Nicholas Kalis, JD

## 2. Nicholas Kalis

**From:** Nicholas Kalis <[nkalis@kaliscompanies.com](mailto:nkalis@kaliscompanies.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 31, 2022 10:08:54 AM  
**To:** Rahman, Rasheq <[Rasheq.Rahman@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Rasheq.Rahman@fairfaxcounty.gov)>  
**Cc:** Mariam, Lisa <[Lisa.Mariam@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Lisa.Mariam@fairfaxcounty.gov)>; Le Menestrel, Suzanne <[Suzanne.LeMenestrel@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Suzanne.LeMenestrel@fairfaxcounty.gov)>  
**Subject:** A Delusion?

**Daniel Phoenix Singh** assures us “**we are all in this together, and that we will get to the other side**”

One might rightly ask after reading the above: Is this a *Jesus Delusion*? A *Moses Delusion*\*?

\*The *Old Testament* tells us Moses led the Israelites out of bondage in Egypt and into the promised land; is this how Singh sees himself?

**Source:** “Searching for Answers to Racism in McLean” *The Connection* January 5, 2022

## 3. Nicholas Kalis

**From:** Nick Kalis <[nkalis@verizon.net](mailto:nkalis@verizon.net)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 3, 2022 2:23 PM  
**To:** Novak, Holly R <[Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov)>; Mariam, Lisa <[Lisa.Mariam@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Lisa.Mariam@fairfaxcounty.gov)>  
**Cc:** 'William Glenn Yarborough, Jr.' <[wgyarc@aol.com](mailto:wgyarc@aol.com)>; Glikbarg, William <[William.Glikbarg@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:William.Glikbarg@fairfaxcounty.gov)>





**Subject:** Three (3) questions the MCC Board Should Ask of its Executive Director at its February 2022 Board Meeting

Dear MCC Board Members:

Was Executive Director Daniel Phoenix Singh quoted correctly in the January 5, 2022 *McLean Connection* "Searching for Answers to Racism in McLean" as saying the following about our community?

"Being an anchor comes with the responsibility of stabilizing our community even amid strong crosswinds such as the multiple pandemics of COVID-19, racial tension, and dog whistles of white supremacy."

<http://m.mcleanconnection.com/news/2022/jan/05/searching-answers-racism-mclean/>

I would think this Board would request some clarification from this Executive Director.

**Question 1 - Is McLean in need of stabilizing?** If so, please elaborate.

**Question 2 - Is McLean in the throws of "racial tension" as his quote seems to suggest?**

**Question 3 - Does this Executive Director hear "dog whistles of white supremacy emanating from our community?"**

If he does, can Singh cite examples of these dog whistles he hears?

Sincerely,  
Nicholas Kalis, JD  
Resident, Small District 1A-Dranesville  
McLean, Virginia

#### 4. Cheryl Sim

**From:** Cheryl Sim <[simcheryljane@gmail.com](mailto:simcheryljane@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 23, 2022 5:39 PM  
**To:** Novak, Holly R <[Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov)>  
**Subject:** Last Summer's Drag Queen Story Hour

Ms. Novak,

It's come to my attention that some members of the greater McLean Community continue to express outrage or otherwise condemn a story hour program the MCC held last July. I want the MCC Board and MCC Exec Director Daniel Singh to know that a number of MCC district residents support innovative programming aimed at audiences and participants of all ages. I hope those who continue to express concerns about the July 2021 story hour are also offering positive, productive comments about what type of programs they would like MCC to offer.

Thank you for your time.



Sincerely,  
Cheryl Sim

**VFOIA requests:**

1. **Jeffrey Shapiro** – February 7, 2022  
VFOIA-56404 Performance contracts and tickets
  
2. **Jeffrey Shapiro** – February 7, 2022  
VFOIA-56406 contracts (including amendments) between the McLean Community Center and AMS  
Planning & Research
  
3. **Nicholas Kalis** – February 22, 2022  
VFOIA-56946 DIT e-mail search results about antique show

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Zamora-Appel announced that this now concludes the meeting. She asked for a MOTION to adjourn (it was unanimously affirmed) and adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted – Holly Novak, Executive Assistant to the Governing Board