



**2021-2022 MCC Governing Board
Regular Meeting and Public Hearing on FY2024 Programs
March 23, 2022 6:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

- Board Members present:** *in-person:* Barbara Zamora-Appel; Lisa Mariam; Rasheq Rahman; Suzanne Le Menestrel; Carla Post; Melanie Sletten; Max Blacksten; Maria Foderaro-Guertin; Shivani Saboo; Ivy Chen
- Board Members absent:** Bill Glikbarg
- MCC Staff present:** Daniel Singh, Executive Director; Mike Fisher, General Programs Director; Sarah Schallern Treff, Performing Arts Director; Holly Novak, Executive Assistant
- Guests:** Principal Kimberly Greer – Langley High School; Principal Ellen Reilly – McLean High School; Michel Walter (AMS Planning & Research); Rebekah Boggs (AMS Planning & Research); Camila Alfonzo Meza (Supervisor Foust’s office); Paul Kohlenberger; Alice Middleton; Charlotte Loving; Jamie Loving; Bonnie Weston; Catherine Nesbitt; Deborah Bissen (MPA); Lauren S. Kahn; Kathleen Gillette Mallard; Mr. Mallard; Debra Butler; Quinton St. Paul

CONVENE MEETING

Chair Zamora-Appel convened a Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of the McLean Community Center and Public Hearing on FY2024 Programs on March 23, 2022, at 6:34 p.m. The meeting was open to the public attending in-person and was tape-recorded. A courtesy verbal announcement about audio recording was stated by the Chair.

ADOPT AGENDA

Secretary Foderaro-Guertin stated she needed to leave early and requested to give her Elections & Nominations Committee report before 8:00 p.m. The decision was to discuss this topic after the Public Hearing on FY2024 Programs. With this revision made, the agenda was adopted by acclamation.

APPROVE MINUTES

Minutes of February 23, 2022 Regular Meeting were reviewed. No changes were requested; accepted as written.

MOTION: To approve Minutes of February 23, 2022 Regular Meeting. **Unanimously approved.**

Minutes of March 10, 2022 Special Called Meeting #1 were reviewed. No changes were requested; accepted as written.

MOTION: To approve Minutes of March 10, 2022 Special Called Meeting #1. **Unanimously approved.**

Minutes of March 10, 2022 Special Called Meeting #2 were reviewed. No changes were requested; accepted as written.

MOTION: To approve Minutes of March 10, 2022 Special Called Meeting #2. **Unanimously approved.**

Minutes of March 16, 2022 Special Called Meeting were reviewed. No changes were requested; accepted as written.

MOTION: To approve Minutes of March 16, 2022 Special Called Meeting. **Unanimously approved.**

STATEMENT BY BOARD CHAIR

Good evening and welcome. I'd like to start this meeting by addressing a topic that has been brought up by multiple stakeholders in our community. One of our agenda items tonight is to address potential updates to the MOU that was established several decades ago between the McLean Community Center and Fairfax County. At our last meeting, we asked two of our Board members to start the process of reviewing the MOU and determining whether anything should be



updated to reflect where we are in 2022. The pre-read for today's meeting includes a number of ideas that individual board members have raised for potential changes. I want to emphasize that:

- The Board as a whole has not proposed any changes to the MOU, and hasn't even begun deliberations about potential changes
- Anyone is welcome to propose updates, and our two board designees are working to capture suggestions and raise topics for discussion
- We are very early in any discussion of potential changes, and we will not move forward on any proposed changes unless and until we have had sufficient input, discussion, Board decisions, pros and cons, and discussions with Fairfax County officials

I truly appreciate the interest that our community members have shown in this process -- it underscores how important MCC is to the members of our community, and the importance of our work to diligently research and review any steps we may or may not propose. Thank you.

LIAISON WITH LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS

Executive Director Singh introduced Principal Kimberly Greer and Principal Ellen Reilly as academic leaders in our community.

Ensure our youth board members can work with the principals to help us embed MCC's programs and work with the schools in a more thoughtful way.

Comments by Max Blacksten: Four main things to increase the partnership between the school and MCC:

1. More events on-site at the high school facilitated by OFC staff. This will increase participation here.
2. More opportunities for McLean/Langley competitions or collaborations (extra activities): mini-debate competitions; entrepreneurship competitions; open stages and talent shows – this could happen at the high schools facilitated by MCC; increase the opportunities for getting McLean and Langley students together
3. Study hours on-site at MCC (with snacks provided) – for McLean H.S. and Langley H.S. students to do group study sessions together. Many students go to the library; they could come to MCC and use this as a study location.
4. Leverage vendor relationships for McLean Day and other events to help McLean H.S. set-up other events at the school in partnership with MCC.

Comments by Ivy Chen: Three pillars of involvement to establish effective partnership:

1. Students heavily focused on service-oriented projects: National English Honor Society does a lot of service-oriented events. National Honor Society has "Adopt a grandparent." We suggest offering more opportunities for students to get involved with MCC and OFC. Beneficial if MCC were to offer more opportunities of service projects – hanging out with the elderly at OFC; signing up for seasonal events; would help students accumulate volunteer hours for graduation requirements.
2. Improve preparation for professional development: Beneficial for seniors entering into post-secondary life to understand how to connect with people on platforms such as LinkedIn; As we go into college, we would be prepared with resources and the ability to network with people our own age and with people in the workforce; resume writing is very helpful for college applications, submitting for interviews, or applying for internships and jobs. Targeted day for seniors (similar to "Ethics Day") to learn about professional development: "how to" workshops; resume workshop; schedule this closer to the end of the school year.
3. Host school-oriented events at MCC. Robotics and other competitions. Not just public schools – also include private schools in the MCC tax district. McLean and Langley and private schools could have a small competition: DECA; debate; robotics competition held at MCC.

Summary by Max Blacksten: Happy to figure out how we can make this a longer-lasting impact with more events in partnership with Langley H.S. and McLean H.S. and MCC.

Principals' Comments:



Comment from Principal Reilly: **Transportation to MCC is an issue.** Kids prefer relaxation after school: ‘mall without stores.’ From my perspective, going to the community center is difficult. How do you get them to come to MCC without transportation? **If things were brought to them from MCC to do after school, that would be very positive.**

Comment from Principal Greer: I agree with that. As well, if we can **consider opportunities for our kids to push back into the community. Understanding the fact that we are not isolated; we are part of a larger community and can be doing things to support the community.** We have students ready willing, able to assist serve in a myriad of ways when it comes to community service; but we don't always have targeted activities ready for them to do. That would be an opportunity for us to partner with the MCC – develop this partnership and then use the school as a way of advertising positive for everybody within the community. **How we can get MCC to come into the schools [to help develop life skills].** What we can do to help develop those skills as they are looking to move into post-secondary life? **The partnership with MCC is vital. And we definitely are interested in building partnership - but making sure it's going to be in a way that really has long-lasting impact on our students.**

Q & A by board members:

*Understand communication rules for MCC to be able to advertise programs to PTSA's

*feature MCC's annual Governing Board election process as a learning tool in high school government classes
McLean Community Center has elections that are open for people who are under age 18
Mentioning the election in government classes: this is why you should vote and here's a place a local place where you can actually exercise that right while you learn it.

*showcase theater & musical talent of both *at The Alden*. During the summer, McLean and Langley theater students could get together to do a children's play and bring in local students from Alden Theatre UTP to do it. Our schools get shut down during summer for clean-ups, MCC would be a great place to have a joint effort. McLean and Langley have very strong theater programs.

PUBLIC HEARING ON FY2024 PROGRAMS **opportunity for additional public remarks on other topics occurred later in the meeting*

Chair Zamora-Appel officially convened the “Public Hearing on FY2024 Programs” as an opportunity for the public to give comments specific to programs and budget planning for FY2024.

In-person attendees: in addition to those who requested in advance to speak, anyone was invited to give a verbal comment provided they first state their residential address for verification as being tax district resident. Each person was allotted three minutes.

1. Kathleen Gillette Mallard

Good evening and thank you for this opportunity to comment on MCC FY2024 programming. I glanced at 2023 programming and the budget. It was hard for me to absorb everything but you have been doing a very good job in many areas. I'd like to encourage the MCC board to provide more programming and special events that celebrate and commemorate our military and first responder heroes and related patriotic days, such as the 9/11 anniversary, Memorial Day and Veteran's Day. Recently Director Singh indicated that MCC will sponsor Flags for Heroes. I think that's a wonderful commitment to show our community that we value them. There are so many retired military in this area and my husband is a Viet Nam vet. As I understand it, the display of Flags for Heroes will be on Memorial Day and Veteran's Day.

I also encourage you to have history programs which expand our knowledge and that of our young people about significant historical events, with particular emphasis on the McLean community, e.g. the Civil War Battle of Lewinsville, the temporary housing for the U.S. President Madison and his wife Dolley at Salona when they fled the White House in 1814, and the Kennedy's family restored home, “Hillwood.” Have you ever been to Lewinsville Park and seen the placard? That would be interesting to help our young people and older adults to understand this area.

I would tend to discourage programming which pretends to fix something which is not a serious systemic issue and hence, does not need fixing, e.g. racism and white supremacy – with the introduction of Critical Race Theory as a tactic. Likewise, eliminate some of the programs that include Drag Queen and issues like that for little children. Certain programs such as the Drag Queen Story Hour and the Trocadero Ballet do not elevate the MCC performing arts program to its intended height of inspiration and beauty. Thank you for your consideration.

2. **Alice Middleton**

I know tonight that you just spent about a half an hour discussing something that I do not feel the One Fairfax equity clause that Fairfax County has adopted. If you were to... if McLean Community Center were to sponsor programs in high schools, it would eliminate all those students from this Dranesville 1A district who do not attend either McLean High School or Langley High School. So, I think the board needs to keep that into consideration when they are scheduling programming: it just would not be equitable.

I want to commend the McLean Community Center for some wonderful programs that they've had: the classical piano violin duo that performed here in October at The Alden Theatre. Local artists and local talent search, I think, should be a focus for this upcoming fiscal year. And quality theater - troops such as the Black Friars that come up from Staunton, Virginia. I'd like to encourage you to continue to fund that. What we are not interested in: I'm not interested in its funding any drag queen story hours for children, which only seem to confuse and scare young children and young people. So, I would encourage you not to put that into the budget. And I'm also not interested in applying McLean Community Center funding to any gender dysphoria programs. Thank you.

3. **Bonnie Weston**

Well, I guess I represent a senior to seniors in the community. My friends just feel like when they get the catalog that it's all for families and children, which I'm happy about of course. But they don't see the people: that some of the people I know do not really use the Kennedy Center. They should be because they're paying for them with the tax for the MCC programs. I ushered for the Ballet Trocadero and it was totally packed, sold-out program, because it probably was a program for older people. They finally could go out and see something. I also thought the program for with the Chili Bowl display that was set up was fantastic. And yet, when I talked to people, a lot of them didn't seem to even realize... so I don't know if we're not advertising enough for what you know. But my friends like to go to, to plays and we did go to stuff last year (the drive-thru theater). I didn't do that; it was all my friends; and those were students doing plays. So, maybe not only for children, maybe you could do them for adults, because we like going to plays. I also go to exercise classes; but the difference is that the cost for classes here is a lot different than through the Virginia Hospital Center. And so, I don't take that many classes here because it's expensive. It is expensive: I don't know - maybe three times as much; or I can go three times a week (30 classes for one section), and it's \$180 Whereas here, you know, one, one session may be... I don't know (I can't think. I had it written down somewhere) but a lot more. So that, I think, discourages people. So anyway, I wish we could do more adult programming, any anything at all: music; plays; and I don't even think there's been that much. And, like Mahjong, I know there were classes where you could go and play; but I don't know if there have been any classes. I looked in the catalog and I didn't see much on Bridge.

4. **McLean High School student - Quinton St. Paul**

I've voted in the past election so I'm pretty sure I'm in the Dranesville district. I go to McLean High School. Thank you. I'm going to junior at McLean High School, and I really, really enjoyed all the talk about a collaboration between the local high schools, both public and private and McLean Community Center. I think it's a great way to you know, utilize all that the Center has. Some of my ideas for the Community Center programming involvement with the school: events held at the school in collaboration with the MCC so that students can get more enrichment. So, just like a kind of a joint adoption (of the Adopt-a-Grandparent program), a study with a snack that can be either at the Center or at a high school; trivia and game night. And then a fun activity that the MCC could bring to schools - kind of advertise for other programs, such as food trucks to commemorate holidays at the end of department



holiday [breaks] and weekends in school. I also think a great addition to the MCC building would be beneficial to the community is: a weight room that can be available to the public. Thank you.

Written comments that were submitted to the Board Chair for the Public Hearing on FY2024 Programs were read aloud into the record as “public comment” in lieu of verbal remarks. When comments were submitted, they received assurance that their remarks would be included in the official record of this meeting.

1. Eleni Olmem

From: Eleni Roumel <emroumel@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 5:26 PM
To: Novak, Holly R <Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: 2024 Programs

Hi Holly - I cannot attend the March 23 public hearing but wanted to encourage the board to continue to have more classes for children offered. My son participated in youth t-ball at the MCC last fall and it was a great experience. He loved it - the instructors were excellent and he was able to meet kids from the area. We are hoping that the MCC will continue offering a wide range of sports and arts programs for younger 5-7 kids in the future.

Thanks for your consideration.
Eleni Olmem

2. Margaret Young

From: myoung068@cox.net <myoung068@cox.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2022 11:19 AM
To: feedback@mcleancenter.org
Cc: Zamora-Appel, Barbara <Barbara.Zamora-Appel@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Novak, Holly R <Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Written Public Comment for 3/23/22 Meeting

Below is the letter for submission for the public comment section on programming for this evening at MCC. Please read this aloud. I'm live in the MCC district and would appreciate your help in incorporating the comments to tonight's public comment on programming. Thank you. - Margaret Young

Dear MCC Board,

For your fall programming consideration, it would be great if you would have a month long commemoration of the 9/11 event that brought our entire country into unity regardless of race or status to remind ourselves of the sacrifices of those that died for us. The courage exhibited by the flight attendant, Betty Ong, an Asian American who first reported the event. The sacrifices made by United Airline 91 of all the people on board who died preventing the airline from flying into the White House.

Historical accounts and readings can be wrapped into a series of lectures offered by the Community Center to the public. The aim and purpose is to show how a nation can come together in time of crisis to overcome adversity.

I remembered the exact moment in my life when it happened. I was driving along Falls Road on my way to work and the radio reported that it was a small plane that hit the tower and upon arriving at work to learn otherwise. Many of us could still remember the exact minute in our lives that changed on that day. An ordinary day turned into something more. Although we can reflect that we want to protect our children, but our children were there when it happened. They, too, were affected by this event.

It would be excellent to invite the public to thank our Arm Forces, the police and fire officials and all those ordinary and the extraordinary in us who showed fortitude and courage. Speakers could give lectures on what happened. Citizens can also participate in giving speeches on what they were doing and how they dealt with it.



It would be noble for us to come together every year as a community to remember what happened and learn that in time of trouble we will overcome and survive. We should always honor the memory of all those who die on that day so that their death would not be in vain. But, a reminder that we find strength in what remains behind.

So, in ending this letter, I leave you with this thought from our poet William Wordsworth who wrote these lines from "Ode to Intimations of Immortality."

Though nothing can bring back the hour
Of splendour in the grass, of glory in the flower;
We will grieve not, rather find
Strength in what remains behind;
In the primal sympathy
Which having been must ever be;
In the soothing thoughts that spring
Out of human suffering;
In the faith that looks through death,
In years that bring the philosophic mind.

3. Katrina Emery

From: Katrina Emery <katrinaf.emery@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2022 2:25 PM
To: Novak, Holly R <Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Programs and Services at MCC

Hello,

I would like to request Zumba at the MCC. It would be nice if there were fitness classes offered early (like 6 or 7 am) or later in the evening too. Thanks!

Kat Emery

4. Linda Walsh (2nd Vice President - McLean Citizens Association)

From: Novak, Holly R
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2022 9:00 AM
To: lawmclean@aol.com
Subject: FW: Technology for conducting Hybrid Meetings

Dear Ms. Walsh,

Executive Director Daniel Singh forwarded your e-mail to me to document this important feedback from the community. We appreciate your comments about the need for upgraded technology infrastructure in meeting rooms at the McLean Community Center to make this facility versatile for local civic organizations to conduct hybrid meetings. This request is relevant for our budget cycles in FY2023 and FY2024.

All community feedback is valuable and will be taken into consideration.

All MCC Governing Board meetings are open to the public. You can view the board schedule on our website at: <https://mcleancenter.org/about/governing-meetings/meetings-agendas>

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Holly Novak
Executive Assistant - McLean Community Center



From: Linda Walsh <lawmclean@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2022 3:12 PM
To: Singh, Daniel <Daniel.Singh@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Technology for conducting Hybrid Meetings

Daniel:

Again, thanks for inviting MCA to the community group meeting. Something I have been wanting to do for a long time! Very productive and think moving forward it will help us further support the other community groups. When I come back from Florida (sorry, I hear it is cold back in Virginia), I have a meeting with the gentleman that is managing the the McLean Revitalization Community Calendar. I will be talking to him about getting public events sponsored by local groups posted on the MRC calendar. Will send the group an update after I talk to him. This would not replace the internal group calendar.

MCA will be moving to hybrid meetings come May/June (hopefully, if the numbers do not go up). I know that other community groups will continue to offer a virtual option for their meetings. MCC has invested in equipment in the McLean Room to facilitate hybrid meetings (virtual/in-person). I was wondering if the MCC plans to invest in more technology to accommodate virtual/in person meeting beyond the investment in the McLean Room?

Hard to adequately explain our goals via email, so would love to chat with you or your tech lead if you are planning additional improvements.

Regards,
Linda Walsh
2nd Vice President - McLean Citizens Association (703) 300-0819

Comments from board members in response to public comments just shared:

*the need to invest in a system where people can be made aware of MCC's programming by their life stage

Budget for this capability

MCC's Seniors in Action was on the front of MCC program guide – that was robust programming. Need smarter metrics by demographics. The staff put together a really great program for seniors. The new program guide is separated: a seniors section, a family section, a young teen section. Is it posted in the same way on the website.

*lack of programming for adults with grown children (specific demographic not well-served) Several community members have said they don't believe there is anything for them at MCC: they are not a senior adult, nor a parent of young children. The challenge is that the current programs and activities happen during the work day. There are people who need to be able to attend programs in the evenings and on weekends.

ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC HEARING ON FY2024 PROGRAMS

Chair Zamora-Appel thanked everyone for participating and giving worthwhile comments that will enhance MCC's future planning of program offerings for FY2024. The feedback loop is ongoing: individuals can send comments and ideas anytime to Ms. Novak on MCC staff. The public is welcome to attend any time. We are committed to transparency and making the process open to the public.

Chair Zamora-Appel then transitioned to the remaining items of business on the agenda.

ELECTIONS & NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

ENC Chair Maria Foderaro-Guertin gave an update on progress of the election for 2022-2023 Governing Board.

*The postcards to tax district households did yield more interest; many packets were picked up.

*Candidate Orientation meeting was held on Saturday, March 12 to explain campaign guidelines. Some candidates who could not attend on 3/12 met separately with ENC Chair Foderaro-Guertin for individual orientation on Sunday, March 15th at 5:00 p.m.

*Town Hall for youth followed after the orientation on Saturday, March 12. Although the food and refreshments were great, participation was low because of snowy weather. Thank you to Ms. Novak and Daniel Singh for setting it all up.



- * Meet-and-Greet for adult candidates will be at SpringFest on Saturday, April 16 – in McLean Room to increase exposure.
- * update on electronic ballot. The ENC didn't see a demonstration of the new method and felt uncomfortable going forward. In the future, George Mason University will assist MCC in working with the League of Women Voters – who actually touch and count the ballots to design an electronic.
- * Early Voting: March 16 through May 18; Residents can request a ballot by phone, e-mail & in- person. We recommend that people not mail back during the week of deadline; at that point, bring it in-person. DEADLINE: 5:00 pm on Wednesday, May 18. League of Women Voters will be here on May 19 counting the early ballots.
- * McLean Day: We are urging Early Voting because weather conditions on McLean Day does affect turnout; hardly anyone came on a rainy year in the past. Regarding set-up of candidate booths: usually the ENC committee pulls names for random positioning of McLean Day candidate booths.
- * Definition of who is a 'tax district resident' – according to Virginia code 20.40.30: a person's address is considered where they reside overnight.

STRATEGIC PLAN – UPDATE *Michele Walter (AMS Planning & Research) presented an update via ZOOM.

AMS has been working in the past year to develop a long-term 5-year strategic plan for MCC:

1. Clarify the **purpose of MCC: To provide a sense of community for Small District 1A-Dranesville.**
2. AMS proposed a **vision statement: "MCC generates inspiration, creativity and unity in McLean and its communities."**
3. Mission statement that was reviewed and been accepted: **The mission of MCC is to provide access to inspirational arts and cultural experiences, learning and social activities in an inviting and equitable manner to Small District 1A-Dranesville residents.**
4. Discussed "values;" Consider **that it's about what we believe and how we behave.** In our work we value: equity, innovation, responsiveness, sustainability, transparency, and joy.

**It will be in the board packet for the April meeting well in advance. Any feedback you want to provide, send it through Holly Novak or directly to Michele Walter.*

5. Five strategic plan Goals: AMS has had several exercises with staff to process all the input; public input received from the public hearings, a board survey, interviews with board members, staff input. They created inter-disciplinary matrix teams, groups have met twice and have homework assignments.
Goal: BE VISIBLE: make our building, programming and activities visible; areas of strategic focus: social media; online and out-of-building programming (moving into the high schools – being 'more than' the building).
Goal: WELCOME ALL OF MCLEAN AND ITS GLOBAL COMMUNITY: cultivate a warm, inclusive environment for all; becoming the flagship location for McLean's residents; embrace of contemporary participation techniques; reduction of barriers to participate: online registration; multiple languages.
Goal: INVITE DISCOVERY: provide opportunities to learn for people of all ages, interests, abilities and backgrounds. areas of strategic focus: partnerships emerge in terms of amplifying MCC's ability to have robust educational and discovery programs:
Goal: SHOWCASE EXCELLENCE: deliver excellent programming in an operational innovative fashion; innovation and program offerings, reimagining programming evaluation which ties to listening; re-vamped staff organization, matrix program team, diversity of programs and instructors; inter-disciplinary teamwork of the staff.
Goal: MODEL SUSTAINABILITY: financial, physical, human leadership and other resources. Areas of strategic focus: best practice governance; diversified revenue sources; standardized staff job descriptions; standardized evaluation and reports; "green" operations and activities.

Coordination with One Fairfax: Consistency—AMS is working carefully to overlay the direction of the MCC strategic plan against One Fairfax, CEPAP, Fairfax Co.

Next steps: April 12 – prioritization workshop & program committee meeting (open to staff and board).

**This has since been re-scheduled to Wednesday, April 20 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.*

April 16: Board candidate presentation about strategic plan immediately after Meet-and-Greet

April 27: Board meeting (DRAFT plan - metrics; but not financial modeling)

May 21 – McLean Day (Public Input #3). – AMS will have a booth and mechanism so people can give feedback on the intentions and we can receive get their thoughts prior to the plan being ratified or presented.

May 25 – strategic plan presented to the current board. Vote to adopt and recommend to next board.

*The board needs to determine whether it's adopting the plan for recommendation to the county... or whether it's adopting the plan for recommendation to the next board. June 8 – plan presented to incoming 2022-2023

board.

Q&A from board members:

Question: I have comments on specific slides – 1. Vision: (slide 2) – I think this came up in last discussion = is “unity” the critical word? Or is it ‘connection’ or ‘community.’ At the last meeting the word that took a lot of heat was “joy.” I don’t recall much conversation about “unity.” The word “unity” is fine – it’s a good statement.

Question: Slide 4 – Arts & cultural experiences, learning and social activities – have we dropped “recreation” or are we redefining recreation in a different form?

Response from AMS: This is your plan. I would prefer that people in the room discuss these questions.

Question: As to values, Is equity the primary value – or is it all of DEIA?

Response from AMS: Equity is a primary value for MCC because you are taxpayer-based organization. The point is that taxpayers have equity, equitable access and opportunity. If you want to add “diversity,” and “inclusion,” it's almost a different ideal in your particular instance. This is in line with One Fairfax policy.

Question: What about restoring the standardized position descriptions?

Response by AMS: What we find in the position analysis is a long history of a tenured leader who didn't have a lot of basic reporting in place. **We want to codify in the plan to have a more business-like standard set: the board can expect to hear this every month (to get a director's report every month), the information people can expect. Staff can expect to have evaluations on a regular time period with evaluation metrics. Many things need to get in place from an operational standardization process.** Those that intersect with Fairfax County policies will require extra care to maintain consistency.

Question: Is it O.K. to submit comments pertaining to sustainability issues?

Response by AMS: It might be too much shorthand for the good work that's already being done. Especially when it comes to our candid and quick synthesis of the work that the working groups are doing, I would much prefer for you to see the totality of the work and the specificity of the work. But, I appreciate the feedback.

*Summary comment from AMS about synthesis process thus far: **I wanted to signal the direction everything is going to make sure we don't get derailed. Staff is impressive!***

Question: You mentioned that the staff has gotten into matrix groups to do work on the five key areas. Is there going to be a similar exercise involving the board? And that is a strategic plan and it's our responsibility?

*Response from AMS: **The board has had ample opportunities through all the different meetings and public meetings to give input.** We encourage you, if available, to attend the workshop on **on April 20 (5:00 to 7:00 p.m.) Ms. Walter confirmed before moving on: While you might have questions about particular words or inclusion of a particular statement – everyone is supportive, and the direction of the plan is correct? YES!** (verbal agreement was expressed clearly by the board members)*

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Zamora-Appel brought up topics that will help us be more effective as board members and staff because of recent rocky few months with communications. She emphasized that when the board and public media sends a request or asks questions of the staff, they must be timely and responsive to those requests.

The board has an opportunity to be communicators; but also a challenge if we don't communicate effectively. It's important for all of us to be on the same page when information that is relevant to our roles is needed. If e-mails are sent with specific



requests, please let us know that you will get back to us.

Chair Zamora-Appel encourages Executive Director Singh to give a report in writing. Going forward, it would also be important to have MCC staff be a part of these meetings.

The board will be welcoming of what's going on and priorities articulated by staff: sometimes staff needs a lot of help with volunteers. If we don't know that you have needs, we can't assist.

We keep hearing from a lot of people saying: "I asked for this program to be added to the programming." People will ask for it three or four years in a row. Maybe it's not sustainable; it may be because there is no subject matter expert or trainer available. Whatever those things are, it would be good for the public to know.

We have had several requests for sustainability at McLean Day and Earth Day. How can we be more sustainable? What can we do with art after the events? We also need to have an update on sustainability initiatives. Carla Post is in her last year as a board member; sustainability is her initial data that she brought three years ago and we don't have those implemented.

. I think having the staff coming to these board meetings and hearing from the public, not just the board, will make it better. Moving forward, it will be good to have staff reports in advance. If you cannot come to the meetings, I highly encourage you to send us a report with priorities and the great things you have done (numbers).

REPORT FROM MCLEAN PROJECT FOR THE ARTS

It was interesting to hear about collaborating with area schools: our second youth art show in the gallery continues through Saturday. We are working with the McLean and Langley pyramids: all schools within those two groups collaborate and the teachers select best works from their students. This has been a nice way to make connection with the schools.

Spring Solos – 130 area artists applied to have a solo exhibition. There will be an opening reception on April 15; people are being asked to R.S.V.P. – limited to 60 people. There will be a virtual artist talk on Wednesday, May 11.

Summer camps: MPA is using the studio space for summer camps. Registration is going great. Also a CIT program for high school kids to be assistant counselors.

ArtReach program – outreach to the community. The bulk of this program is with FCPS: bringing big groups of kids into the galleries, focusing on Title 1 schools. MPA is trying to figure out ways to connect with those students without coming into gallery; continue doing weekly classes with Lewinsville Senior Center. MPA also works with groups that serve individuals with disabilities: Service Source; SPARC group at OFC – programming at OFC once per month. MPA is participating in Sensory Day at OFC on April 27, in recognition of Autism Awareness Month. This is MPA's 60th anniversary year and there is a long history of working with the community.

Question: You can work with DC schools as well? You don't have any restrictions on the schools that you work with?

Because a lot of our funding comes from Fairfax County and from the Virginia Commission for the Arts, MPA tends to focus primarily on Fairfax County. MPA has occasionally worked with a group in DC that serves under-resourced areas with community programming groups to help kids stay out of trouble. MPA has also worked some in Arlington.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT **a written report was submitted*

*We are still working with FCPA on the McLean Central Park amphitheater design; they continue taking comments until April 2. Please submit your comments.

*Aaron Berger has been hired as the Instructional Event Manager.

*We are working with AMS to develop templates and metrics to start pulling from our Fairfax County report templates –

*PIO Sabrina Anwah is leading the website redesign and will bring the website consultants to present to the board on April 27

*We are working on a communications plan

*Sustainability: Catherine Nesbitt has engaged Zero Waste company for McLean Day; water station was installed on lower level of MCC building; working with FCPA for partnership on educational programs & classes on sustainability. We have



removed invasive vines and connecting our Seniors in Action program and Girls on the Run for ongoing arrangement.

Working on composting

*Chris Leonard is still exploring the EV charging stations. MCC's two vans are at the end of their life and our two vans will become electric vans We will need two OFC vans; high school students and seniors at Lewinsville & Chesterbrook & Vinson Hall – they all require transportation to MCC.

*Spring Session – registration is getting back up to pre-renovation levels;

Question: You were going to get an increase in salary for camp counselors. Did you get that? 1. How much labor is needed? 2. I know so many other camp counselors are young. It seems like that is an age group that could help you with your labor issues, and with opportunities for them.

Comment from Mike Fisher: For OFC camp, we have an internal policy that we won't accept an individual under age 21. Partly that's because at one point, they are expected to drive. And with respect to Camp McLean, we prefer to have individuals over age 18 because any younger – they are considered "in training." CIT program was not sustainable because in the eyes of licensing, that individual needs to still be monitored: they cannot be in a room by themselves. CIT's are almost a liability. We are paying \$20/hour; we've asked for \$23/hour and we hope the county will accept that.

*February activities and events are trending higher. The dance had 175 + waiting list; people showed up without signing up.

*Executive Director Singh is working with Langley H.S. DEIA committee – he is facilitating a conversation tomorrow night about social justice and building community

*McLean Revitalization Corp. – in Spring 2023, they are looking at a placemaking project at Elm Street pedestrian – murals, places for band shells--preliminary conversations.

*Highlights of upcoming events: Judy Carmichael concert this Sunday; Alphabet Rockers are coming back in April.

*Financial stewardship projects are the highlights from the Fund statement

Comment by Sarah Schallern Treff: I would like to jump in about a marketing opportunity. I hear much interest lately about local artists and we have a wonderful opportunity for local artists coming up = McLean Day. Only one application so far; go on MCC website and sign-up! The deadline is April 1. It is volunteer – focused on community groups.

ACTION ITEM: Can we get a social media post about that?

Comment by Sarah Schallern Treff: I'm writing something right now! I know the local community organizations could perhaps share that information. We've partnered with Bach to Rock over the years and even with their support, we've struggled to fill the stage. And Bach to Rock has even cancelled on us several times and we were having to find a DJ at the last minute.

Comment by youth board member: We can get that in the PTSA and afternoon news shows. There are plenty of students starting bands – also McLean dance teams.

Opinion expressed: There are some classical Indian dance schools in the area. Lisa Mariam has a list of all performing groups in McLean.

Type of metrics reports to the board: *Question from Board Chair Zamora-Appel: Working with AMS to set up metrics? Does Fairfax Co. have metrics? Question from Vice-Chair Post: Are you asking to take the utilization reports into another form?*

1. Accounting perspective –the number of people registered; how much the registration was; and are there any refunds?
2. Wait lists & cancellations: Part of what our role is, is to see if MCC is providing what people are interested in.
3. Survey questions being asked of participants: Instead of asking "Would you take this class again?" it asks: "Would you take other classes
4. Trends: What are the highest attended events? Did several hundred people attend an event on an ongoing basis?. Part of programming is not just new trends, but also partnerships from the past.
5. We finally got these utilization reports but it should be done in a way for a board member to read quickly.
6. The other metric I have requested is utilization of the space itself. Have that information available in the website redesign and get a printed brochure
7. Categorize MCC program offerings online: someone from the public brought up the comment that they don't know how much senior programming is available. Those things would be beneficial for the public to see the scope.



8. Update from Chris Leonard— Deputy County Exec. for Health and Human Services, as our county representative overseeing juvenile relations district court; Fairfax and Falls Church Community Services. Moving forward, I think it would be a good idea to have that report in one of our committee meetings so at least the committee and staff can understand what is happening.

9. In terms of the budget. The Treasurer, needs to be the one who should be providing this information in case people have questions about the numbers.

10. Process of the committees and status of MOTIONS: I Make sure all the committee chairs have an opportunity to provide their outcomes of the meeting even if they don't meet on a monthly basis. Create a document to have that as part of our updates - to read up what those MOTIONS were and the status of where they are. We may forget that there was something that we asked for six months ago.

11. OFC usage: *OFC Attendance – 105*. This year hasn't changed a whole lot. Membership is only 35-50 people; the daily number is single digit.

Mike Fisher was at every Back-to-School night and at the turn of the semester. We try to be creative about other targeted ways to reach out to this audience.

OFC facility rentals numbers—on weekends (birthday parties); weekday predominantly SPARC and open games on Thursday nights. Our system is antiquated –The way we've been presenting numbers has been as the county has called for numbers

PROPOSED CHANGES TO MOU

Chair Zamora-Appel asked in the February meeting for board members to take a look at the MOU which is from 1984. Treasurer Shivani Saboo and board member Suzanne Le Menestrel reached out to all board members and Executive Director Singh. Very preliminary comments were arranged as a DRAFT for this March meeting.

The MOU is the guiding document that defines the governing structure of the McLean Community Center as a special agency of Fairfax County. Adopted on February 8, 1984; revised on January 22, 2007. . Concerns: MOU document is outdated, doesn't reflect operations nor wishes of today's residents. MCC Board began a discussion of possible revisions and updates.

A lengthy, detailed process involving five (5) phases in making any changes to the MOU.

Phase One: Work with Supervisor Foust and the board and have public hearings to gather public feedback.

Phase Two: After Supervisor Foust's approval, submit it to the county attorney's office for their review.

Phase Three: Supervisor Foust and the board make changes and finalize with public hearings.

Phase Four: Submit the revised MOU to the Clerk's office.

Phase Five: An MCC board designee presents the updated MOU to the Board of Supervisors and they vote.

This is a very involved process. May consider adding to Bylaws or a policy manual.

In preparation for this meeting, two documents were developed:

1. detailed spreadsheet that has items from the original MOU with the rationale and suggestions for defense;
2. Word document with markup comments to flag the sections that people had some comments about.

Comments by Treasurer Shivani Saboo: The board could consider having an *ad hoc* committee. There are things we didn't know and areas which need further research.

Phase One: If there are significant changes that need to be made and where those areas of contention are.

1. Role of the board vs. role of the staff (MOU vs. reality) –make language clear for committees and the roles and responsibilities of the board.
2. Election procedure – not necessarily an area of contention, Keep things the same – or a preference poll; ranked poll; should terms stay the same for youth and board?
3. Public comment –change to be more in line with what Fairfax Co. policy is? Or something different that suits us better?



4. Can we have hybrid meetings? Can we have online meetings? Or are we going to continue to have in-person meetings?

The main area that I think there was an agreement on was public comment.

Summary reframing by Chair Zamora-Appel: I want to reiterate that we are very early in any discussion of potential changes and will not be moving forward with any proposed changes unless and until we have sufficient input discussion on board decisions... pros and cons... and discussions with county officials. I want to provide peace of mind that we're not going out and changing the MOU.

NEXT STEPS:

1. Create an ad hoc committee: A dedicated group of two or three board members and maybe even having it open so members of the public join the committee.

Question: What would be the requirements for someone from the public to join the ad hoc committee? How would you evaluate them?

Comment by Treasurer Saboo: From the MOU, it didn't say... I don't think there's any written restrictions.

2. Gather other sample 'best practices' governing documents: *Comment by Suzanne Le Menestrel:* AMS is supposed to be getting us sample Bylaws and other MOUs and things that we can look at. We didn't have any of that information yet. Our MOU is simply an agreement that MCC has with the county to have a functioning governing board. We don't know the legal processes behind this, and what would necessitate going through all those five phases if we're just going to change "Small Tax District 1" to "Small Tax District 1A" or that kind of thing?

Comment from Camila Alfonzo Meza – Supervisor Foust's office staff member:

I just want to make clear for the public and for the record that the recommendations and the things that are being presented as options are the opinion of the board. They haven't been endorsed or reviewed by Supervisor Foust, any of the staff, or anything like that. And it does not reflect any changes that the County Supervisor would want to include. Nor have we endorsed really looking at the MOU at all. This is something that the board is doing on their own as a preliminary process. I'm just trying to make sure that's clear.

Comment by Chair Zamora-Appel: Thank you Camila. And again, thank you for the work that you have done, Shivani and Suzanne. I reiterate once more: we're not changing the MOU. We are in a fact-finding mission.

Question: Well, isn't that a board decision, though?

Comment by Rasheq Rahman: Yes, that's a board decision. And we haven't made a decision to change or not change the MOU at this moment.

Comment by Chair Zamora-Appel: It's a fact-finding mission. It is going to take a very long time for any decisions to be made.

POINT OF ORDER: *Comment by Vice-Chair Post:* Because Ms. Novak takes meticulous notes and because you are being recorded, I want to do a Point of Order. You said, "It's not clear in the MOU that the Executive Director reports to the Governing Board," but that's extremely clear in the MOU. So, I just want to have a clarification on that for the notes and for the recording, because I think what you meant is: that the whole process of the review is not clear in the MOU. But the actual governance is very clear.

Comment by Chair Zamora-Appel: Thank you for that, Carla. And we do have 'transcripts.' These are not really Minutes – they are transcripts. So, you can go back and see who said what. That's one thing we have tried to make sure it's better and concise – who has time to read 27 pages of Minutes. I mean, that is not standard. But O.K.

And with that, I think we have... there's no MOTIONS on the table, right?



MOTION: That we form an *ad hoc* committee to review the feedback from the board and from Daniel and to gather public input and review the documents from AMS.

Discussion:

Comment by Chair Zamora-Appel: But we have not had public comment. I think we're fact-finding right now.

Comment by Treasurer Saboo: I was just going to say: maybe a committee to help with that. You mentioned that there's a lot of other documentation besides the MOU that may need to be added; and that may take a long time.

Question from Vice-Chair Post: So, the *ad hoc* committee would make the recommendation? Yes.

Can you re-state the MOTION please?

MOTION: To make an *ad hoc* committee focused on reviewing and potentially revising the documentation related to the McLean Community Center.

Seconded by Carla Post and Rasheq Rahman.

Unanimously approved by a vote of 10: Barbara Zamora-Appel; Lisa Mariam; Rasheq Rahman; Suzanne Le Menestrel; Carla Post; Melanie Sletten; Max Blacksten; Maria Foderaro-Guertin; Shivani Saboo; Ivy Chen – all voting "AYE."
Bill Glikbarg was absent.

OLD / NEW BUSINESS

*Sustainability initiatives: At the last board meeting, the question was asked how MCC is responding to the county's CEPAP plan. Where are we on the initiatives that we have talked about for the past two years?

Comment by Executive Director Singh: The county still hasn't given us any guidelines of what that will look like.

*Pop-up events: photo shoot for high school students on April 27. We are still trying to figure out how the mechanism will be for sharing out the photo that the person chooses.

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

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. Each person will be allotted three minutes to speak.

1. **Lauren S. Kahn** **allotted 3 minutes expired. She objected: "I will submit my written comments. I object to being cut off."*

March 23rd MCC Board Speech

As most of you know, I am running for the MCC Governing Board in the current election.

I rise to oppose the \$250,000 project to install EV chargers in the MCC parking lot and/or the underground wiring and conduits for them so owners of EVs can charge their cars at public expense.

I do favor adjustments for climate change, but this is ridiculous. One member of the board told me that 100% of the cars sold by 2030 will be EVs. Of course, there is no proof for that assertion, and, as much as we would like to promote a climate change agenda, just cannot afford. We are bound to have a mix of vehicles until the price of EVs becomes competitive and supercharging stations become as ubiquitous as gas stations are today. Moreover, senior citizens are unlikely to buy EVs since they will look at actuarial tables. If I need to replace my 2008 Prius, at age 75 I will look for a used car, as I don't want one that will outlast me.

Presently, less than 2% of the cars registered in Virginia are EVs. While that may change in the future, there is no reason to jump the gun with charging stations on every street corner—putting aside the need for security at night to prevent those living in the immediate neighborhood to charge in lieu of their garages at public expense and increased insurance premiums. I put to one side the inflation due to supply chain issues from the pandemic and the war in Europe which may delay components for EVs for years. Even now, due to lack of computer chips, production has slowed down.

Public EV chargers are a subsidy to owners of EVs. Those purchasing those cars are purchasing new technology at a very high price. They should have a charging system in place before they purchase. Locally, they charge them at home, at work or at the super chargers on Rte 7 located near Whole Foods (opposite Trader Joe's).

Most people coming to the MCC come from relatively short distances and on a level 1/level 2 charger would have to charge for long periods of time to gain any significant increase in driving radius. There appears to have been no survey of the special tax district as to the wishes of those who must pay or as to whether the availability of such chargers would affect the desire of the owners of EVs to



attend events at the MCC. Not all of our attendees come within the MCC special tax district. Those paying the tax supplement would be paying for those from outside the district to charge their cars for free. They have other alternatives. They do not need parking lot MCC free charging for the small distance they customarily drive back and forth to the MCC. We do not need unsightly chargers—which take up more than one conventional parking space—further limiting our very limited parking. I have been to many MCC events where there are cars parked in the street and in the Dolley Madison Library lot. With the dearth of parking we do not need spaces reserved for the most wealthy to top off their vehicles.

The MCC is having enough difficulty maintaining its regular programming during the pandemic without ridiculous projects like this—especially in light of supply chain issues which will now be made worse by the war in Europe.

I put aside the problem of increased stress on the electrical grid which is not prepared for chargers on every street corner.

Finally, I believe that the MCC budget should be concentrated on programming and perhaps giving raises for those long-suffering individuals who have endured during the pandemic as employees at the MCC. I do not believe that the Board should involve itself in expensive construction projects that benefit only a small slice of car owners in McLean. Let us get back to the programming for our diverse community that should be the guts of what the MCC does.

The remainder of my remarks are available in a written copy of my remarks being given to the MCC Board. It can also be obtained directly from me at LaurensKahn@gmail.com.

I thank you for your attention.

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

1. **Nicholas Kalis** (sent to an MCC staff member)

From: Nick Kalis <nkalis@verizon.net>

Sent: Sunday, February 6, 2022 6:01 PM

To: Nick Kalis <nkalis@verizon.net>

Subject: Is your MCC position safe from revenue shortfalls?

Reports are that the MCC may curtail its annual Antique Show as elitist. Will your job be safe should MCC revenues fall as a result?

Other news about our **McLean Community Center** ...

[McLean Community Center board meetings assail freedom of speech and assembly | Opinions | fairfaxtimes.com](#)

2. Nicholas Kalis

From: Nick Kalis <nkalis@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, February 21, 2022 6:48 PM
To: Nick Kalis <nkalis@verizon.net>
Subject: Which one said this?



Which one said this? “realize that we are all in this together, and that we will get to the other side”

3. Nicholas Kalis

From: Nick Kalis <nkalis@verizon.net> (sent to several MCC staff members)
Sent: Sunday, February 27, 2022 7:40 PM
Cc: jjeannot@mpaart.org
Subject: Report All Dog Whistles of McLean's Supposed White Supremacy to Daniel Phoenix Singh

Re: Dog Whistles Heard by Daniel Phoenix Singh

Dear MCC Staff:

Please report all dog whistle you hear about supposed white supremacy in McLean to **Executive Director Daniel Phoenix Singh**.

Apparently, Singh hears these dog whistles (see *McLean Connection* link below), do you?

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

Remember, sniffing out white supremacists is more important than your regular duties (sarcasm here).

Nicholas Kalis, JD
McLean, Virginia

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

4. Helen Cussatt

Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 10:08 AM
To: hcussatt@gmail.com
Cc: Conley, Caroline <Caroline.Conley@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: FW: Fw-SIA appreciation

Dear Ms. Cussatt,

Carrie Conley kindly forwarded your message to me. We appreciate your taking the time to share your comments regarding the Seniors in Action programs at MCC.

All community feedback is valuable and will be taken into consideration.

All MCC Governing Board meetings are open to the public. You can view the board schedule on our website at: <https://mcleancenter.org/about/governing-meetings/meetings-agendas>

Thank you.
Sincerely,



Holly Novak
Executive Assistant to the Governing Board
McLean Community Center

From: Helen Cussatt <hcussatt@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 26, 2022 11:31 AM
To: Conley, Caroline <Caroline.Conley@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Re: Fw: MCC Seniors in Action - Windows Photos Workshop !

Hi Carrie,

I enjoyed the potluck on Friday - it was fun meeting the new folks and enjoying all the tasty food.

I did receive the links from Harry's presentation. Even though I did not have a PC, I enjoyed his presentation and look forward to a similar presentation for the Apple computer. Thanks to you and Cyndie for letting me share your PC which helped me make a photo movie of Harry's photos and audio. It was lots of fun. My son transferred many photos to my computer of a family trip we took out West visiting many State parks and places of interest several years ago. I would like to learn how to organize the photos into some kind of file that I could add dates and comments on my Apple.

Thank you so much for all you do for SIA. I am grateful for the Mah Jongg classes and looking forward to playing MJ weekly with the group. I have enjoyed all the speakers and their presentations and have learned so much.

I am excited about all the upcoming activities - stretching and walking, weather permitting (as soon as I purchase shoes recommended by Alisa Harvey); Aromatherapy, needlework, and Ikebana and Mindfulness Workshop. I am also interested in Strength & Balance Classes and the food and cooking presentations.

I just finished reading "All That She Carried" - I never realized how horridly inhuman the enslaved people were treated by the slave owners in the Carolinas and other Southern states. I'm looking forward to the next Book Club meet and to find out what the next book will be.

As you know, I just fully retired last month and was not sure what I would do to fill my days. You and the SIA have provided so many interesting activities and I am so grateful.

Wishing you a restful and happy weekend.

Helen

On Fri, Feb 25, 2022 at 7:47 AM Conley, Caroline <Caroline.Conley@fairfaxcounty.gov> wrote:
Hello everybody! Just double-checking that you've received the links below from Harry's Presentation. If you have any thoughts or comments about the class I'd love to hear your feedback. And I'd love to know what kind of tech or photo topics you'd enjoy for future speakers.

Sincerely,
Carrie

5. Nicholas Kalis (forwarding an e-mail from Dordy Fontinel)

From: Nicholas Kalis <nkalis@kaliscompanies.com>
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2022 5:18:06 PM
Subject: Trouble Brewing at the MCC?
From: Dordy Fontinel <dordy@dfshows.com>
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2022 4:54 PM
Subject: Re: Published report on recent demonstration at Dolley Madison Library

Nick,

Singh has offered me the option to do the Antiques Show this year and then never again or skip this year and do every other year. I am planning to do the show this year and hoping that he will be replaced shortly. The Antiques Show was very



well attended this year and the positive feedback by the attendees was tremendous. Many of them, the most affluent of McLean, only attend the Antiques Show program and none of the others at the Center. The event coordinator at the Center tells me that there has been a lot of pushback against his agenda so I am hopeful that a mostly new board of directors will replace him.

Dordy

6. Scott Spitzer (McLean Citizens Association)

Scott Spitzer (McLean Citizens Association)

From: Scott Spitzer <scottlspitzer@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2022 2:27 PM

To: Zamora-Appel, Barbara <Barbara.Zamora-Appel@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Foderaro-Guertin, Maria <Maria.Foderaro-Guertin@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Post, Carla <Carla.Post@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Saboo, Shivani <Shivani.Saboo@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Blacksten, Max <Max.Blacksten@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Chen, Ivy <ivy.chen@fcps.edu>; Glikbarg, William <William.Glikbarg@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Le Menestrel, Suzanne <Suzanne.LeMenestrel@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Lisa.Miriam@fairfaxcounty.gov; Rahman, Rasheq <Rasheq.Rahman@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Sletten, Melanie <Melanie.Sletten@fairfaxcounty.gov>

Cc: Singh, Daniel <Daniel.Singh@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Novak, Holly R <Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Anwah, Sabrina <Sabrina.Anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov>

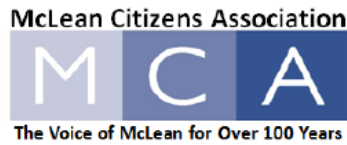
Subject: Proposed Changes to MOU (Memorandum of Understanding)

Attached please find my letter to the Governing Board dated today, March, 23, 2022.

This letter is directed to the item on the Agenda for your meeting this evening entitled "Proposed Changes to MOU".

Thank you.

Scott Spitzer, President - McLean Citizens Association



P.O. Box 270
McLean, Virginia 22101

March 23, 2022

McLean Community Center Governing Board
1234 Ingleside Avenue
McLean, Virginia 22101

Dear Governing Board Members,

I write on behalf of the McLean Citizens Association regarding the Governing Board contemplating revisions to its Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. The McLean Citizens Association, the Center's principal founding benefactor, urges the Governing Board not to proceed with this effort and believes several of the specific proposed changes inappropriate. In any event, given the fundamental and long-term nature of the MOU it should have substantial addition review and comment by the public and other interested persons.

The McLean Community Center (MCC) was founded by the Greater McLean community, which donated land and agreed to a real estate surcharge for the MCC's construction and operation. The MCC's original 1971 MOU was revised in 1984, following an attempt¹ by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to seize operational control of the MCC from the Governing Board and the resulting significant public outcry. The current 1984 MOU enshrines the principle of pairing taxation with public accountability, through an elected Governing Board and strong protections for each resident's right both to vote and to comment on the MCC's policies and operations.

There are two strong reasons that no Governing Board since 1984 has even considered comprehensively reopening the MOU. Firstly, the MOU is fit to purpose, providing clarity without the level of specificity that might unduly constrict the Governing Board's role or the Center's operations. Secondly, and perhaps more importantly, in any renegotiation the MCC Governing Board would, as a practical matter, be dramatically overmatched by the authority of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors would not be required to restrict its revisions to those discrete items suggested by the Governing Board. Instead, in reopening the MOU, the Governing Board could see its prerogatives reduced, or, worse, the entire governance of the Center could be irreparably transferred from McLean to Fairfax.

¹ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/1981/07/08/mclean-fights-to-keep-control-of-center/a4d81072-fd19-4341-ac9a-1d9c15ce4f7a/>

This latter fact should likely outweigh even strong rationale for revision, but the Governing Board has simply not even presented such. Instead, its proposed revisions range from the trivially editorial, to the superfluous, to the outright problematic. We shall provide a few examples. As to the first category, we note the suggestion that “Small District #1” be changed to “Small District #1A”². As to the second category, there is the suggestion that the MOU should be changed to allow for virtual meetings³. The Governing Board already has statutory authority to enact a Remote Participation Policy *without* revising the MOU.

As to the final category, the Governing Board is being asked to consider several problematic changes. The proposal suggests the MCC study and replicate the Reston Community Center model, wherein its Board is not chosen in an ‘election’ but a ‘preference poll.’⁴ It is unclear if the Governing Board is aware that, in Reston, not every adult even has a vote; voting is by household⁵. Such a change would represent a dramatic and unreasonable limitation on the voting rights of McLean residents⁶. Perhaps most problematic, the Governing Board is being asked to consider a proposal to curtail the rights of the public to comment on the policies and operations of the MCC, whose existence and operations it underwrites. Under the MOU, the public has a right to comment at each and every meeting of the Governing Board and of its committees. This proposal to potentially adopt the Board of Supervisors’ policy⁷, wherein each citizen is limited to commenting once every *six months* is very problematic. At present, residents of the Greater McLean community have *many* opportunities annually; under this proposal, residents would be reduced to as few as *two*. While a policy to place time limits for speakers at public meetings is reasonable, the proposal to impose a drastic limitation of the number of times someone can speak would be unduly restrictive in the context of our Community Center, and doesn’t address the legitimate concern the Governing Board may have to deal with disrespectful speakers.

Please understand that while these particularly problematic provisions should not be supported, the more fundamental point we wish to raise for your consideration at this moment is this: The McLean Citizens Association does not doubt that there are provisions of the MOU that *could* be changed, but there has been no demonstration of any provisions that have been demonstrated to be so significantly problematic or burdensome on the overall direction and operations of the Community Center that they *need* to be changed. This is a particularly urgent distinction as we noted in light of the comparative state of

² MCC MOU Revision Decomposition, p. 16. https://mcleancenter.org/images/GBP/Secured_Minutes_and_Agendas/3-23-22-Pre-Reads/pre-read_Mar_23_MCC_MOU_Revision_Decomposition.pdf

³ MCC MOU Revision Decomposition, p. 29.

⁴ MCC MOU Revision Decomposition, p. 19.

⁵ “All residential property households and each commercial property address in Small District No. 5 shall be eligible to cast one vote per property address” (*emphasis added*). Memorandum of Understanding Between the Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County, Virginia, and the Governing Board of the Reston Community Center. Section 4.A. (p. 5). https://www.restoncommunitycenter.com/docs/default-source/default-document-library/usermanual2019-final.pdf?sfvrsn=154e7aa3_4, p. 17.

⁶ In this connection, we are particularly alarmed that at an earlier meeting, one member enunciated the following without any objection from colleagues: “The board could be changed to an *appointed* board – by our county supervisor. *It doesn’t have to be elected*; it can be changed. That is on the table: it is written into the MOU that we are an elected board. But it changing [*sic*] the governing structure could be on the table.” (*emphasis added*). Minutes. McLean Community Center Governing Board. October 13, 2021, p. 8.

https://mcleancenter.org/images/GBP/Secured_Minutes_and_Agendas/Board_meeting_MINUTES_101321_Strategic_consultants_AMS.pdf

⁷ MCC MOU Revision Decomposition, p. 30.



powerlessness in which the Governing Board would find itself if pitted against Fairfax County in a negotiation. Is the Governing Board willing to risk the potential of its own demise or the radical reduction of its responsibilities and authority simply because the MOU is “old” and there are some “nice to have” changes? We don’t believe that it is prudent for the Governing Board to take that risk. The legacy of generations of McLean residents to build, operate, govern and enjoy the McLean Community Center is too important. Accordingly, the McLean Citizens Association requests you table further consideration of revising the MOU.

Thank you.

Scott Spitzer
President

7. **Nicholas Kalis**

From: Nicholas Kalis <nkalis@kaliscompanies.com>
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2022 11:32 AM
To: Nesbitt, Catherine R. <Catherine.Nesbitt@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Cc: Heather Zwicker <heather@fairfaxtimes.com>
Subject: What does this choice resemble?

Question: *Did Don Corleone or David Phoenix Singh gave Dordy Fontinel “an offer she cannot refuse”?*

Answer: See Attached **Email of February 7 2022** second paragraph obtained under the FOIA , According to **Catherine R. Nesbitt** allegedly “MCC Executive Director, Daniel Singh, has given the option of deciding to alternate the show every other year, or have the 2022 show the final show at MCC.”

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Zamora-Appel thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

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