



**2021-2022 MCC Governing Board
Regular Meeting**

July 28, 2021 6:30 p.m.

Remote participation: 1. quorum is present in-person at MCC;
2. “Public Comment” expressed by individuals in-person is permissible.

MINUTES

Board Members present: *in-person:* Barbara Zamora-Appel; Rasheq Rahman; Lisa Mariam; Bill Glikbarg; Suzanne Le Menestrel; Max Blacksten; Maria Foderaro-Guertin; Ivy Chen; Melanie Sletten; Shivani Saboo

Board members absent: Carla Post

MCC Staff present: Daniel Singh, Executive Director; Holly Novak; Ashok Karra; Steve Caruso; Scott Bowen

Guests: Christopher Henzel; Kathleen Mallard; Catherine Trauernicht; Deb Bissen (MPA); Richard Porter; Meera Dutt; William Denk; Camila Alfonzo Meza (Supervisor Foust’s office); Andrew Olmem; John David; Adrienne Henzel; Jeff Shapiro; Johanna Sachse; Nick Guertin *approx. 30 people attended; some did not sign-in

CONVENE MEETING

Chair Zamora-Appel stated aloud new thorough procedures for “Remote Participation” meetings. This procedural template was written for the McLean Community Center Governing Board by the Fairfax County Deputy Attorney. Procedures are consistent across all public boards in Fairfax County and must be followed exactly, in full detail. With quorum being physically present, a motion was made to adopt the prescribed procedure for “Remote Participation” meetings, going forward.

MOTION: To adopt “Remote Participation” guidelines given by Fairfax County as the normal procedure for conducting MCC Governing Board meetings and committee meetings. **Unanimously approved.**

A regular meeting of the Governing Board of McLean Community Center was thus convened on July 28, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. This meeting was open to the public attending in-person at the McLean Community Center.

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

REPORT FROM MCLEAN PROJECTS FOR THE ARTS

Deb Bissen: Stop upstairs in the atrium gallery to view works of faculty artists – exhibition continues through August 15. “Not Strictly Painting” exhibition will open September 15. Stop in at 6:00 p.m. before the Sept. 7 meeting and you will have a chance to see the fabulous exhibit! Mid-Atlantic artists (216 artists; juried by two guest jurors). Art camps have been going on this summer – we appreciate the cooperation of the staff in facilitating (continues through August 0. WE are excited about MPA ArtFest in MCP – on Sunday, October 3. We hope the COVID-19 virus will still permit the exhibit. Artist sales, food trucks. We appreciate the support that MCC provides.

MPA ArtReach – for first time since March 2020, we had visitors to the gallery (then outside for an art activity) – 2nd Story Safe Youth project. Kids had wonderful thoughts and ideas behind what they were seeing and participating in a creative activity. We love this chance to share with children and seniors and other groups who may not
Daniel: we look forward to working with you on Arts Fairfax as well.

APPROVE MINUTES OF RECENT MEETINGS



Minutes of June 9, 2021 First Meeting of 2021-2022 Governing Board were reviewed. No changes were requested; accepted as written.

MOTION: To approve Minutes of June 9, 2021, Governing Board meeting. **Unanimously approved.**

Minutes of July 6, 2021 Special Called Meeting were reviewed. No changes were requested; accepted as written.

MOTION: To approve Minutes of July 6, 2021, Special Called Meeting. **Unanimously approved.**

Minutes of July 15, 2021 Strategic Planning Session are not finished; therefore, not ready for approval this evening.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Zamora-Appel started by recognizing the MCC staff - they have been working very hard to create inclusive programming that we have been enjoying all year! Thank you to them on behalf of the MCC Governing Board. We will soon be using an online portal (SharePoint). Daniel and staff have been connecting with us about necessary preparatory information for secure usage. It will streamline efficiency, allow easy access to documents and working papers, and will reduce staff time in responding to multiple e-mails. I encourage all of you to embrace this platform and use it. If anyone would like a demo or instructions, please let Ms. Novak or me know. We're hoping by the September 7 Board meeting to be able to transition to this new platform.

Training: Staff is working on arranging training resources: media training; communications; how to conduct meetings using *Robert's Rules of Order*; FOIA training. Although some training resources are available online, there is a preference by the board to take training together. It has more meaning – with direct interaction and ability to ask questions.

ACTION ITEM: Ms. Novak will let us know when the training will be scheduled; it will not be during our Board meeting or committee meeting nights.

Technology: Thank you to MCC staff for improved technology! The first hybrid meeting was 'spotty;' but now there is appropriate technology in McLean Room. As we move forward with changes from COVID-19, more things will be changing in this facility. It is all related to providing the best customer service, and the best experience that we can.

**Fairfax County's "Remote participation" policy was distributed in advance.*

Attendance: Chair Zamora-Appel reiterated that attendance to all MCC Governing Board meetings is not 'mandatory;' but there are some restrictions. County policy dictates that you may attend virtually twice (or 25% of meetings - including monthly meetings and committee meetings). If you need more clarification, please address questions to Ms. Novak.

Pollinator Garden: Capital Facilities Committee will receive an update about the pollinator garden on August 4. This is something we have been talking about for two years; we are almost there! A few walk-throughs of the property have been accomplished with staff and horticultural experts.

Amphitheater: Executive Director Singh will talk about the amphitheater. All summer concerts in the park have been amazing – almost 400 attended two Sundays ago, which shows how important these events are to the community. Many told us that they like the environment and the type of bands that appear. People are looking forward to the changes being proposed by Fairfax County, particularly a lot of families in this area.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Update about current staff efforts: 1. strategic directions; 2. focusing on renewed activity and community involvement at MCC.

Registration for Summer classes: Renewed focus is on lowering cancellations. The previous policy was to try to get as many classes as possible – offering a lot of classes 'scattershot' without streamlining times. It often resulted in cancelling classes. It didn't matter in the overall 'scattershot' approach – however, to the few families who had registered for a class and then found out it was cancelled, it was a disappointment. Those families would not want to come back to MCC because that happened. Now the focus is on doing the research before [to assess public interest]; and for any class we want to offer, get it up-and-running and not cancel at the last minute (better coordination of the timing of classes).

Comparative data: In FY20 we didn't have classes because of COVID-19. FY19 summer programs – 77 classes, of which 33 were cancelled; \$46K net income; 24 camps -none were cancelled; net income was \$192. In FY21: 52 classes; only 9



were cancelled; approx. \$35K net income. This summer (FY21) we offered 44 camps (social distance; cutting registration in half): we offered more camps but had zero cancellations. We actually made more money in FY21 than in FY19.

Question: Were the class registration costs the same in both years? Or did they change the cost?

Clarification by Executive Director Singh: I will check on that and let you know.

Interest in summer camps and programs has grown strong and stable. This year (FY22), we had a waiting list of 193 students who never got in. Because of COVID-19 limitations, we couldn't open up more spaces. Especially because kids were not yet vaccinated, we had to maintain certain ratios of space, # of instructors; masks – so we couldn't accommodate the waiting list folks. In future years, we propose that, if it was needed to go to a second school to offer another camp location this year, then why not do that again to serve the additional 200 students who are signing-up on our waiting list? In a normal year, we could accommodate them in our regular camps without even having to open up a second facility.

Concerts in the park: **a chart of comparative attendance numbers was shown*

Thankfully this summer (starting in June 2021), we didn't have any artist contract cancellations. Lowest number of attendees was 94, followed by steady growth in attendance: Soul Cruisers: 393 attendees; this past Sunday: 224 attendees. People are requesting comparative data for the past 5 years – and of FCPA: What is the capacity of McLean Central Park? Two Sundays ago, I walked through all neighborhoods [assessing the traffic situation]. Most cars were parked in the library parking lot and on Oak Ridge. About 10 staff cars were parked at MCC; the rest of our lot was empty. As a context of how many people we can accommodate, most concert-goers parked at the library.

Question: And just to confirm - this is the largest activity that MCC sponsors: concerts in the park... correct?

Yes. We do "Winter Lights" but that is not all on one day: lights are installed and people come over a long period of time.

There is not one crowd of people; more total people might attend "Winter Lights" - but the event is six weeks long.

Opinion expressed: Regarding impact on the local neighborhood: six times over the summer on Sunday, MCC holds large events in the park. And there hasn't been any conflict with the use of park activities and filling of MCC's parking lot. That's excellent because this has an impact on the amphitheater issue as well.

Pollinator Garden: Someone has examined the potential plots and will give us a quote soon. Our goal is to get at least \$5K worth of planning starting this year; anything over that, we must put into the budget and go through the county process.

The plan will be longer-term: to build-out the pollinator garden and the education to support it over a period of time.

COVID-19 restrictions are changing in Fairfax County: As of today, federal govt. is exploring mandating vaccinations; and if not vaccinations, then mandatory testing. Usually when that happens, it will trickle down to us, as well. **Just as we we're getting ready for fall re-launch (Program Guide just came out!): we don't know what we're going to be able to offer. Things are evolving; we're trying to be flexible. We have notified the instructors that they need to be ready to make arrangements for hybrid or all-virtual instruction. We hope not to, but we may have to be ready for that.**

Strategic Plan: We put out a bid that was open for about one month (reaching out to 8 different consulting agencies; only one put in a bid). Reasons why others didn't submit a bid: 1. They felt the Fairfax County process was too cumbersome. OR... 2. the other impinging factor - all organizations that are re-opening don't want to hire just yet. They don't know how fall will turn out, so they are filling the staffing need for consultants. Consultants are booked-out through January 2022 and don't want to take on a project now that is not a longer-term effort for more \$\$money.

We are being responsive to what the Governing Board requested. If you feel uncomfortable with this initial response, we can reopen the bid (it will just take longer to get the next cycle of bids – delay of 4-6 months). And it doesn't guarantee any greater response because vendors might still be too busy at that point; and the county contracting hurdles remain. We have the list of consulting firms who received the RFP that was created with Suzanne, Carla and Barbara's help. Regarding only one consultant responding: We found out from county Purchasing - that we can proceed with one company if the Governing Board agrees.

ACTION ITEM: Send the proposal to Board for decision if you accept; or whether to re-open the bidding cycle.

McLean Central Park/amphitheater: We have a bit of time remaining before June 30 deadline; anything we can do to still respond to FCPA will be helpful. Over 1,000 individual comments have been received; they have not yet parsed through pro/anti- stance. Regarding the letters from the MCC Governing Board's campaign, we know that 175 letters were submitted. However, the remaining 800 letters might be against our position! **I just want the parks to have all our**

community input. If you can reach out to people to submit a letter in the next couple of days, we should do so. It might come down to just a few letters that swing it one way or the other.

Question: For those 1,000 comments, that is for the entire McLean Central Park redevelopment – not just the amphitheater, correct?

Yes. But some local organizations who are 'anti-amphitheater' have strong membership.

Clarification by Rasheq Rahman: The fact that, in just two weeks, 175 people have written on the MCC Governing board's behalf – that is a strong endorsement of our position. I hope in the next few days, more people will respond. **The idea is to just make sure that the community's voices are heard - because they weren't heard previously. Thankfully, MCC Governing Board also has some local organizational support: Downtown CBC, MPA and ArtsFairfax organizations have given us letters in support of the amphitheater. Other sister organizations are stepping up and helping. The more we can do, the better – both individuals and organizations.**

NEXT STEPS: Remarks close on July 30; it takes about 60 days to process everything. By the end of September or early October, FCPA will know how opinions fell and let us know what their next step is. It will take them another 90 days to then develop an actual plan based on the feedback. Probably by the end of 2021, we will know what MCP redevelopment plan looks like. Then FCPA will have another feedback process before they actually build it.

New "Remote Participation" procedure and "public comment" in meetings: Some board members have asked Daniel to advocate to the county [maintaining 'hybrid' arrangements, adjusting the rules specifically for MCC Governing Board]. He spoke with the County Executive - who said he would mention it to Board of Supervisors. **However, county attorneys have said they must have a standing policy that applies to the whole county. They can't make exceptions. They are calculating various 'ratios' to make it all work; and if you throw it off in one place, you don't have enough quorum and then you can't make decisions. It impacts all decision-making bodies.** It's unclear if we can alter what's been handed down: edict of allowing two meetings remote or 25% of total meetings (unless you have a medical condition). **A lot of changes have been caused by the public - which is much more attuned to getting on ZOOM and participating in meetings and commenting. But now that things are returning to in-person, there is a shift in public response. The county attorney is giving guidelines and templates on how public comment takes place and what is our policy to manage that, going forward. The point is that people have access to the meeting, but the board can also move our agenda points forward in discussion.**

Question: If someone from the public makes a statement, that causes me to want to ask a question to clarify. My impression is that I can't do that. I'm anxious to have public comments!

Clarification by Executive Director Singh: It's not that you can't; but the county attorneys are discouraging it. They've found that it becomes a cycle where: when you ask a question, it creates another response... and then there is another follow-up meeting. Other boards have recently been brought to a standstill because of this process: the meetings had to be cancelled, or they had to adjourn. **We are welcoming public comments. We want everyone to feel that they can come here and give us their input. Everything should be reflected in the minutes – the county attorneys are discouraging interaction. They want us to take the comments and then move forward from there.**

Opinion expressed: I've heard concerns that the comments made aren't really addressed by the board. You may receive them and may have some ideas of how to address them; but yet, you haven't been able to share them with the board.

Ms. Novak requested (and was granted) permission to respond: As the Minutes-taker, I just want to explain to everyone in the room: Public Comment is a 'passive' parliamentary process. The function of "public comment" is incoming to the board. No deliberation in-the-moment; no further clarification. It's simply incoming. I'm actually pleased to see so many people here tonight because we need the data. We need the information of your inputs coming to us. That is a very important process. We must preserve this parliamentary process as it is: a 'passive' situation so that we can hear [from the public]. I'm literally recording and typing everything you say. If you send me an e-mail, that will appear. We are taking very good care of your public comments. And we want to respect that. To the earlier point mentioned: the board DOES NOT respond in-the-moment to whatever is being addressed – because we can't. We can't deliberate properly. Public Comment is only incoming at this point. We must hear the remarks as the public states it. The board cannot ask for further clarification of what was said.

Question: Would there be any utility of meeting with neighbors outside of board meetings so as to have ‘give-and-take’ in conversation? It might be useful for people to receive some assurances from you that you have a plan – such as, how to address the traffic situation, or whatever the concerns are.

We have several community listening sessions planned in the fall. Just to remind everyone: right now, we are planning for FY23 – so anything we would receive from the public now would be starting in July 2022. There is nothing I can change for this this fiscal year; it was done by the former Exec. Director before he left; and the staff has programmed it already. **I, as Exec. Director now, have very little flexibility in changing what has been set forward for this year. I can only effect change for July 2022. In September when they propose the FY23 budget, we would take the public comments and fold it into the budget for FY23 as it is developed forward. I just don’t have control of anything that happens before June 30, 2022 – that’s how the county processes run.**

Question: Is something being planned where, if the public has a concern about something, there can be some sort of deeper level of engagement between the board and the public? Yes – Sept. 22: Public Hearing on FY23 Budget; other public listening sessions.

Question: I see that every meeting now has 15 minutes for Public Comment by up to five people. If there is an instance where so many people want to speak, is there any flexibility for us to vote to extend that period of public comment, if we wish to – for this meeting, or for the next meeting?

Clarification by Executive Director Singh: What the county has recommended is that we take the comments via e-mail or move it forward to the next meeting. Because otherwise, this is just putting a wrench in the works to move our agenda forward.

Opinion expressed & question: I propose: There are verbal comments in the meeting recorded in the Minutes and electronic comments coming to Holly Novak. Between this “remote participation” and the board processes (particularly if we’re going to be ratifying the Minutes) maybe is there some way where those public comments are distributed and we’re given at least 24-48 hours to review them before we do that?

Clarification by Ms. Novak: All electronic comments are not edited; they are shown as submitted in the Minutes.

There is no “editing” of the public comments [by Secretary Foderaro-Guertin]. Up until now, you haven’t seen any public comments! The challenge for me now is the line-up of when they are happening – do they go in this meeting’s Minutes? Or are they a future-cast for the next meeting? That’s what I’m balancing. But I have every date and every comment noted.

Question: To clarify: Let’s say only five people out of this big group get to speak, and then the rest choose to e-mail in whatever comment they have to make. Would those e-mails be added to the meeting Minutes that we would all be able to see as relevant material? Yes.

FY21 Year-end financials:

Preliminary numbers (Fund statement) were sent from Comptroller Karra in advance - for review and discussion in this meeting.

These actuals are as of end of June; what dropped a lot is interest - because of the federal interest rate being dropped down. In the year prior, MCC had \$70K in interest; in FY20 we received \$80K but in FY21 we ended up with only \$19K interest because of the federal rates being dropped down because of COVID-19.

Question: I couldn’t understand where the expenses for classes fell out in this chart?

Clarification by Comptroller Karra: In personnel expenses (under “Expenses”). We can separate that out.

ACTION ITEM: Comptroller Karra will provide a complete breakdown of class expenses.

Opinion expressed: It would be good to know what is the running cost rate-per-hour (salary or revenue per hour). Obviously, FY21 is very different from FY20 and what will go forward in FY22. What is our “running cost” on a per unit basis, as opposed to the aggregates that are shown here? By whatever metric is meaningful: per class time; or per number of students?

*Clarification by Executive Director Singh: **The way the board has set the policy is that 25% of our operating costs must be met from revenues. We’ve been tracking it to make sure we have enough registrations or theater revenue so that at least 25% of that event is met by incoming revenue. The rest is from all the taxpayer dollars. We track income just to make sure we hit the to 25% margin - or usually we exceed it.** We haven’t been calculating it the way you are asking.*

Question: I’m trying to understand: If a decision is that we should increase the number or quantity of classes by X% = How much is that really costing us? A deeper level of metric might be useful; but I understand the board has already set a policy as to what we focus on.

Clarification by Exec. Director Singh: We can definitely look at it and see if we can find a ratio.



I wondered if, in the future, we could revisit that 25%? Because among the people I represent, there is concern that it's 'double taxation' – we as district residents either pay tax directly or as renters (it is reflected in the rent we pay). And yet we still have to pay additional amounts (the 25%) to attend a class at MCC.

That's a point that Finance Committee would have to decide. Then, if the Finance Committee agrees, they would move it up to full board to make a decision. It's really up to all of you to decide how you want to do that.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEM: We can put that as an agenda item in the Finance Committee meeting. We will have to run projections to see what that does (lowering to 20%; or 25% to 17%) – How many classes would we lose? Would we do less? We can run those projections and talk through it.

Opinions expressed: I think it would also be great to see the policy and when it was drafted. Another option would be running more classes; or running the same number of classes but decreasing other expenses that MCC has.

Clarification by Executive Director Singh: That's where we're getting into Operations. **You [the Board] have to give us the strategy that you want us to meet; and we can meet the strategy. But getting down into how the Operation is managed is hard for us; that's where the boundaries are separate. You can say: we want to lower it from 25% to 20% - and then MCC staff will figure out how. But typically, the board doesn't get involved in saying that we will do it by staffing or operations.** That's typically how it's done on other boards.

Comment by Suzanne Le Menestrel: That's right. That is my experience on other boards.

Clarification by Executive Director Singh: **So, you can decide and say the strategy is for us to lower it from 25% to 20% - and understand the repercussions of it. And then we, as staff, would have to figure out how to make up that difference.**

ACTION ITEM: By the end of this week, we'll have the current policy (25%) sent out to you. We'll have to look at Minutes of when this was done. It was done a few years ago, so we will have to look at old Minutes.

ACTION ITEM: And then we can run some different scenarios of what the impact would be of lowering it from 25% to 20%; 25% to 17%. There have been years where it has been lowered and then we've ended up with a shortfall. Then they had to increase taxes the following year to close the gap. Those are the kind of projections we must run to make sure we are ready for a new percentage. We are happy to do that; just because the policy was established once doesn't mean we must stick with it.

Most numbers are lower because of COVID-19 (biggest factor reflected in this Fund statement). Capital projects of \$537K – (anything over \$5K, such as renovation of stage; HVAC unit replacement). Surplus of about \$1M; when you subtract \$537K capital expenses, we end up with \$471K rolling into our Reserve fund. This might shift by a few thousand dollars if the county hasn't yet processed something, or if credit cards haven't been reconciled.

Question: I was wondering (as a teacher): Have the rooms and areas inside MCC been outfitted for technology to offer virtual classes?

No - because that is a Capital expense. We must put it in the budget; we are trying to put it in for FY23. If under \$5K we can do it; but if over \$5K we must go through a process. Getting Alden Theatre or a classroom re-wired for virtual technology would be a considerable expense for us – and not prioritized right now

Question: Is there a line item shown for any items that were 'special' or unexpected costs because of COVID-19?

Yes – some cleaning supplies are shown as such; though because the building was closed, we weren't cleaning it as much. We spent \$18K-\$19K for masks and sanitizers. Nothing has yet been reimbursed from Fairfax Co. Cares Fund, as of today.

Public Hearing for FY23 Budget

Clarification by Executive Director Singh: Now that we have this base, this is used as the foundation to project for FY23.

Between now and end of September, we build FY23 budget. The comment is a part of that budget process; the public will get to say, 'We want more of this.' and we take that in as we build-out the budget for FY23 starting in July 2022.

Methodology of public feedback (survey research):

Opinion expressed: When we get into the listening sessions and public comment, I want to ensure that we hear from a representative sample of the community. Because that's really important. There are a lot of people who aren't aware of

MCC and the services or programs that we have for people who are busy with their lives. So, I want to make sure of that when we have the contractor who is going to be running those listening sessions.

Clarification by Executive Director Singh: Yes. We can do it with the strategic planning consultant (same firm would do the survey themselves and build that into the proposal) OR... we could work with a different firm to do a survey. If they are building a strategic plan, it would be ideal for the same company to do the survey. We did request a representative sample = 1%-2% of the 60K residents = about 1,000 sample size. But each survey [interview/questionnaire] would cost about \$25 to get that big of a sample size (which is not unreasonable): either phone calls or iPads in-person surveys at Giant. I think it's a good investment. In programming for the next three years, we're getting the input that we need from the right people.

Question: For surveying and public comments: Is it a requirement for it to be as formal as coming in-person? Or responding to e-mails by the survey people? Is it allowed to be something more casual – such as having an Instagram story where people can just type? For people who use that app (a lot of people!) it's an easier way to express their thoughts. It doesn't require so much time and isn't as formal or daunting.

Clarification by Executive Director Singh: I can check inquire about having multiple input methods. We will definitely have: 1. in-person meetings: PTA meetings at schools; 2. Individual interviews: meeting people at Giant to ask questions; and 3. Online (we can inquire about Instagram). 4. We're also trying to see if we can put a survey with a QR code in the winter Program Guide that will come out in November. We are trying to find many ways to get people to give their feedback. The other piece is cost: setting-up the questions and management of the survey will cost \$25/interview; and then we will have an incentive (for people to take ½ hour to complete the survey). This would be a \$10 Starbucks card [adding to that per individual cost]. **But it's an investment in the community – if you want to know what the community wants to do, then you all agree that it's an investment and we make it happen. If you think you want to survey 500 people or whatever...it's all up to how the board decides it wants to receive the feedback.**

Opinion expressed: I like the idea of making it more fun and engaging – such as designed like a game (almost like a video game). If it's the first time... or if people have not engaged with MCC in a while, then we want their survey experience to be representative of what the programming is – exciting and fun! *Not tedious...*

Clarification by Executive Director Singh: It just gets more expensive. We can make it as fun as you want (artist mural; color plot or heat map) we can do that – but that is more time consuming and more \$\$ because it must be interpreted/quantified.

Opinion expressed: I agree with the 'social media'-based approach. We have done that successfully for the recent amphitheater outreach successfully. Perhaps we could partner with Sabrina Anwah... either before these meetings or on a regular cadence (there has been a strong cadence on this amphitheater issue). **Several of us reached out through our social networks in McLean and it was very nice to have a link to ask people to take five minutes to give their feedback. So, if we can design a survey in a way that is consumable easily, then we would get a broader view. Not everyone has the luxury of coming to meetings like this to give their input. Using multiple social media platforms: Twitter, Instagram; it's pretty easy to pull up a survey onto the different platforms.**

Comment by Chair Zamora-Appel: And to that point, there are over 6,000 families with children under the age of 18 living in McLean. You must reach where they are: PTA's; youth; young professionals; high school students. **I think MCC has a representative board; and our networks will allow us to actually reach out to more people than ever before.**

Opinion expressed by youth member: I think the point about Instagram is important – we need to focus on OFC to engage teens. Teens won't necessarily be shopping at Giant (as adults are)! So, we need to figure out ways to get the teen input; and especially also from parents of teens so we can figure out what more we can do to get them to come to OFC and MCC. **The goal is that we are really getting representative [feedback] of the whole population in all of McLean.**

Clarification by Executive Director Singh: That's an excellent point. We have been trying to get into TikTok – but the county won't allow it. We are looking at whether we can do it through an outside consulting firm. The county is worried about the county network being infiltrated with TikTok because people are using that platform as a way to break into the county network. So, we are trying to see if we can use a consultant and farm-out that portion of our marketing – so that county networks are not at risk, but we can still get our message out successfully to teens.

Question: Do we consider our audience only the tax district [Small District 1A-Dranesville]? Or do we consider it broader Fairfax County? What is the audience for the survey?

Clarification by Executive Director Singh: Again, it is up to you all to decide that. Do you see the audience being the primary taxpayers? Or do you want us to go broader? Then we would focus primarily on what Small District 1A-Dranesville wants.



Question: Among Vinson Hall residents, responses from retirees will bias it with their views – that they don't want to see their taxes raised... as opposed to people with young families with kids who want their kids to have the opportunity to go to these kinds of things. I want to be careful that I get a good sampling of what we consider our "audience." Vinson Hall represents a significant number of people within our district who are all retirees.

*Clarification by Chair Zamora-Appel: **Our board and our networks represent our community: young families; young children; young professionals; students; senior adults. We need to hear from everyone. That is the whole point.***

*Clarification by Executive Director Singh: That's why the larger the sample size, the better the representation; but the more expensive it becomes. MCC did a survey with GMU in 2010. The survey 'fatigue' is that we must have a follow-up and make an action plan: it's not just getting some feedback and not doing anything with the information given. **It's going to be an expensive process for the survey alone; and if people ask for more expensive things, you must deliver as the MCC Governing Board. It might mean raising taxes to meet those needs that people are asking for. People get really frustrated that they have asked for things multiple times and they don't get it.** They've asked for things in 2010 and it wasn't given to them; here we are 10 years later doing another expensive survey. People might ask for more things; as a board you will have to decide – How do we provide that?*

Opinion expressed: Right. Which is why it's important for the board to be involved in the design of the questionnaire and messaging strategy. Knowing what happened before our time and then what we're hoping for (to determine what we choose to commit to).

*Summary by Chair Zamora-Appel: **By doing this, we will receive documented requests from the community. The community changes; you can see our neighborhoods changing all the time with new families coming in. It would ensure that, as we move forward, as individuals roll-off the board, whomever is coming after has the documented requests from the community.***

Opinion expressed: If more casual surveying is allowed –even if you're not allowed to use TikTok, perhaps use Instagram Reels in addition to Instagram Stories. There's a lot of flexibility where you can very cheaply and easily reach a big group of people, especially under-represented age groups.

Clarification by Executive Director Singh: That's great; definitely, we want to do that. Everything we want to do is doable; but it's not cheap.

*Summary by Suzanne Le Menestrel: **A survey could be built around our new strategic plan and have that integrated – instead of just projecting 'the sky's the limit' thinking and 'you can have whatever you want'. We have certain goals that we are going to be working toward; within that framework, what sorts of things would you want to see represent those outcomes?***

New Fairfax County guidelines for public meetings:

A DRAFT policy for MCC Governing Board meeting protocols under new "Remote Participation" guidance was reviewed in advance.

Discussion tonight will approve a policy going forward, which specifies the nature of board member participation and public participation.

As an agency of Fairfax County, MCC Governing Board must abide by the new rules, which apply to all public bodies.

Discussion focused on the reasoning behind the new rules. MCC Governing Board is focused on maintaining effective contact with taxpayers by listening and responding to incoming "public comments" in an appropriate manner.

MOTION: To approve the proposed policy for meeting protocols of the 2021-2022 MCC Governing Board which is consistent with Fairfax County's "Remote Participation" legal requirements for duly-constituted meetings of public bodies.

This policy will remain in effect for all future meetings of the MCC Governing Board until such time as the county prescribes differently.

Upcoming Committee meetings: All future MCC Governing Board committee meetings will be convened in-person in the McLean Room (unless there is a rental; in which case, another MCC room would be used.) Agendas for Wednesday, August 4 meetings of CFC and Programs & Outreach Committees will be sent by the end of this week/early next week.

UPDATES ABOUT FALL PROGRAMMING



On p. 35 of the Fall Program Guide, all the events are listed: any events the board can attend would be great! We are happy to consider comp. tickets. Programs & Outreach Committee will discuss a proposed idea of an ‘ambassador’ group to encourage more people to come back into Alden Theatre. Especially this year, after COVID-19, people might be hesitant to come inside. We could really use your advocacy in getting the word out. It is also available on our website.

ACTION ITEM: Calendar pages will be sent to the board as a .pdf.

Highlights: “Buckets and Boards” is a band that usually sells-out. Harvest Happenings is very popular! MPA ArtFest on October 3 is significant. On Oct. 2 we are partnering with ArtsFairfax and MPA to do panels. Lisa Mariam explained that this is a symposium on the art of “creative resilience.” We are working with other festivals (there are over 100 festivals in Fairfax Co.; it’s an important part of our cultural life here) - to build a network for emergency preparedness and help them do virtualization and hybridization of their festivals (so that when something happens, they don’t have to cancel the festival). Sustainability has been prioritized as an important topic; many different kinds of approaches of getting ready for the next ‘big thing’ (We live on an earthquake fault; hurricanes). We are happy to partner with ArtFest for this two-day program: first day is at MCC with nationally-noted speakers in the field; second day is a smaller group of 50 for experiential learning at MPA ArtFest. “Community Emergency Response Team” members will be present as well.

Pilobolus – dance company in Alden Theatre (Nov. 7). Okey Dokey Brothers concert usually sells-out (a band focused for the youth). “Winter Lights” starts on Nov. 15. In December, Damien Sneed will do a holiday show; then McLean Holiday Arts & Crafts Festival and other holiday events (Gingerbread House; Breakfast with Santa).

We are working on establishing a residency for Alphabet Rockers (dance team) – two teen members and two adult musicians. They will be working with local schools, hoping to generate a series of songs and music out of that workshop and residency. Then they will return in June 2022 to do an event for Juneteenth and for PRIDE month.

Question: Are there any plans for being more inclusive of our winter holiday plans?

Yes, I have asked that of the staff. We are looking at planning around other winter holidays (Kwanza; Hannukah; Eid).

OLD / NEW BUSINESS

Chair Zamora-Appel opened the floor - nothing was mentioned as a further topic for discussion this evening.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Zamora-Appel recognized members of the public in attendance. She called on each individual who had requested in advance to speak. Three-minutes was allotted each - for up to five persons wishing to speak. Additional speakers beyond this 15-minute segment were advised to contribute their comments via e-mail to: Holly.Novak@Fairfaxcounty.gov. Their comments submitted by e-mail will be included in the official Minutes of this meeting.

Christopher Henzel: email: HenzelCP@hotmail.com (571) 216-8030

Good evening. I’m Christopher Henzel, a resident of the special tax district that funds the McLean Community Center. I’m here again to raise the problem of the MCC’s use of taxpayers’ funds to pay for drag performances for children. According to the MCC’s own website, MCC paid \$300 to each of three drag performers to put on two performances on June 26 for small children. Judging from videos of the performances, the children’s ages appear to range from 4-8 years old. Drag acts are meant for adults. And it is clearly inappropriate to expose small children to them. I am confident that a great many Fairfax County taxpayers agree with me - that it is doubly inappropriate to do this with taxpayer funding. I raised this problem during the “Public Comment” of the MCC’s meeting on July 15 and asked that the board make itself clear on two simple points:

1. First, whether the board would permit further use of taxpayer funds to pay Drag Queens for more performances for small children?
2. Second, How much? The Chair – Ms. Zamora-Appel - responded to me that the board would discuss the matter at some later time. Ms. Zamora-Appel also responded that the board would then discuss the matter during a public meeting. I hope this will be reflected in the Minutes of that meeting. So, Ms. Zamora-Appel, can you tell us when the board will discuss publicly this matter?

Response from Chair Zamora-Appel: We don’t have that in any of the agendas in the coming months. But as soon as we have it, everyone will know. It is public.

Further comment by Christopher Henzel:

And to conclude - I ask again: Will the board spend more taxpayer money on drag performances for children? And if so, how much?



Executive Director Singh: No comment. Chair Zamora-Appel: Thank you for contributing your comments.

Kathleen Gillette Mallard: e-mail: KDG4G@virginia.edu (703) 309-3880

Good evening Chair Zamora-Appel, MCC Board members, Executive Director Singh. And thank you so much, Ms. Novak, for your work in accommodating us. [Ms. Novak said: "Thank you."]
My family has resided in McLean for over 40 years in this tax district. We have benefited from an impressive array of MCC programs, classes, artistic events, including world-class performers on The Alden Theatre stage. So, we were heartsick to learn that MCC was behind the Drag Story Hour held at the Dolley Madison Library on Saturday, June 26. It was advertised "for all ages," including babies and toddlers... preschoolers... school-age children. It was promoted as a joint offering with Fairfax County Public Library system – thus creating an illusion of a wholesome family event. It was not. Nothing could have been further from the truth. I therefore maintain that MCC is culpable of false advertising and should be held culpable. I attended the event with other concerned parents, grandparents and community members. It was upsetting to see so many of the attendees with children leaving the room because they were visibly shaken, and their children were upset. The Drag Queen/King Story Hour was totally inappropriate – in spite of the head librarian's and Daniel Singh's insistence that '...this was all part of the OneFairfax initiative.' You have heard and received information with more detail about the inappropriateness of this event from others here this evening following me. Under Director Singh's auspices and with taxpayer money, the Fairfax County government intentionally enticed families with young children to an event featuring sex performers explicitly presenting as such with obscene and/or sexualized names in burlesque clothes – discussing their own perceived sexual identity. O.K. – in fact, one drag queen has stated in another area: "This is to purposefully groom little children to be the next generation of Drag Queens." Director Singh showed no empathy or compassion for anyone who was concerned with this controversial event. He failed to respect those who opposed it; and displayed a lack of "tolerance." Does that word ring a bell, people? In addition, Mr. Singh maintained that event could help teens who were suicidal. What?! There were no teens attending. If anything, this is going to traumatize young children who, when they do become teens, may resort to suicide.

In closing, I therefore request that MCC and Fairfax County Board of Supervisors immediately order all agencies of the county to cease and desist from hosting and funding any more of these events. Thank you very much for your time. (*Applause*).

Chair Zamora-Appel thanked Ms. Mallard for her comments.

Catharine Trauernicht: (301) 717-0197 **The following remarks which she spoke aloud were also submitted in writing.*

I am here to speak about Drag Storybook Hour that was held last week on June 26 at the Dolley Madison Library, and sponsored by the Library and the McLean Community Center. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you this evening. I did not coordinate my comments with other people here. You can see that there is a lot of concern. First, I'd like to ask if members of the Programs & Outreach Committee or the Board were asked to approve funds specifically for this event. Would you please raise your hand if you were? If you are not familiar with the event, it featured one female and two male presenters in drag, each of whom was paid \$300 by the McLean Community Center. **The event was marketed for: babies and toddlers, preschoolers and school age children.** Let's **focus on babies, toddlers and preschoolers**, who represent young children less than one year old to roughly 4 or 5 years old. According to Daniel Singh, Executive Director of the McLean Community Center, "the family-friendly Drag Story Hour ... reinforces our commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. [It] was *created to encourage children to be comfortable with themselves, to be compassionate with each other, and to prevent bullying.*" **Babies, toddlers and preschoolers?** During the story hour presentation, one of the drag performers introduced a stuffed toy dog as a cat. Without missing a beat, a young boy (probably 4 or 5 years old) exclaimed, "That's not a cat, that's a DOG!" Children this age are realists. They see things as they are, not as adults want them to be. After the boy made that remark, a woman in the audience gently cautioned, "Don't confuse the children." That woman was part of a group of women who attended the story hour and later were accused by Daniel Singh of "aggressive, negative and traumatic language" when they stood outside the library after the event simply to hand out an article quoting a Drag Queen who believes **children should not be exposed to drag performers**. There was no aggressive, negative or traumatic language. Only an attempt to engage Story Hour attendees in honest, thoughtful discussion, and to offer them a sincere point of view by a Drag Queen who believes Drag is for adult entertainment **only**. I call on you Members of the Board to take **your adult responsibility seriously** and to **establish policy against using babies, toddlers and preschoolers as pawns to advance a political agenda**. I am giving each of you copies of the article I mentioned quoting the Drag Queen. [INSERTED HERE]

6/23/2021

Gay Drag Queen Slams Drag Queen Story Hour Events, Says Parents Are Being "Extremely Irresponsible" - Elizabeth Johnson

Gay Drag Queen Slams Drag Queen Story Hour Events, Says Parents Are Being "Extremely Irresponsible"

January 21, 2020



Over the last several years, "woke" parents all across America have become smitten with Drag Queen Story Hours (DQSH) and other such LGBT-focused events at local libraries and other venues. These parents believe they are teaching their children things like "acceptance," "tolerance," and "inclusiveness" but sadly they do so in exchange for their children's innocence for the sake of progressivism. All that children are learning to tolerate and accept is gender confusion and sexual immorality.

At the very least, you'd think parents would realize the "art" of drag is highly inappropriate for school children; now, however, a striking warning is coming right from the horse's mouth.

One drag queen in California, known as Kitty Demure, has had enough of the glorification of drag queens and he's speaking out in the hopes that some parents will gain a different perspective on the perverse DQSH events and reevaluate their children's exposure to the nefarious characters hosting them.

In a video posted to Twitter, the San Bernardino-based drag performer lays out some serious truth bombs about drag queens. Drag Queen Story Hour proponents are *not* going to like this.

4/28/2021 Gay Drag Queen Shows Drag Queen Story Hour Events, Says Parents Are Being "Extremely Irresponsible" - Elizabeth Johnson
— Kitty Demure (@demure_kitty) January 19, 2020

"What in the h*ll has a drag queen ever done to make you have so much respect for them, and admire them so much?" Demure implored. "Other than put on make-up and jump on the floor and writhe around and do sexual things on stage?"

"I have absolutely no idea why you would want that to influence your child. Would you want a stripper or a porn-star to influence your child? It makes no sense at all."

"A drag queen performs in a night club for adults," he goes on. "There is a lot of filth that goes on, a lot of sexual stuff that goes on, and backstage, there's a lot of nudity, sex, and drugs. Ok? So, I don't think that this is an avenue you would want your child to explore."

Demure continued, "To actually get them involved in drag is extremely, extremely irresponsible on your part. And I understand you might want to look like you're with-it, that you're cool, that you're woke, that you're not a Nazi, that you're not a homophobe — whatever it may be, but you can raise your child to be just a normal regular child without including them in gay, sexual things."

"Honestly, you're not doing the gay community any favors. In fact, you're hurting us. We have already had a reputation for being pedophiles, and being perverts, and being deviants. We don't need you to bring your children around," he said.

Um...this is exactly what we've been saying all along! We've got to make sure this video goes viral, folks! Perhaps this is the dose of reality some parents need to hear in order realize the damage they're inflicting on their children before it's too late!

***If you appreciate the work we are doing to fight the leftist assault on our values,
please consider a small donation to help us continue. Thank you so much!***

Thank you.
Catharine Trauernicht
McLean

** Quotations by Daniel Singh were taken from email correspondence and from an interview he gave to the *Fairfax County Times*.
Chair Zamora-Appel thanked Ms. Trauernicht for her comments.

Richard Porter:

Good evening, all. And thank you for the job you are doing on behalf of the community. My name is Richard Porter; I've lived in McLean community for 35+ years now. For 20 years, I've been the president of two HOA's: McLean Hunt and more recently, Spring Meadows. I think I have a pretty good feel for what the McLean community desires in terms of programming. I know lots of people; my wife and I, ourselves, attend events at the McLean Community Center. We enjoy them. I think the recent decision of the MCC staff to sponsor (along with the library) this Drag Queen Story Hour was a very bad decision. I don't believe that that decision and the use of taxpayer funds to bring out-of-state drag queens to perform for young children was a good one. And I don't believe it's one that would be generally supported by the broader McLean community.

I'm glad to hear that you're going to do some sort of a survey. But the question you need to ask is really a pretty simple one: Do you support the use of public funds to extend invitations to drag queens to come in to do readings and performances for young children? That's a pretty simple question. And it obviously can be refined; but you need to get that out there. And you need to get it to the people at Vinson Hall; you need to get it to young people; you need to get it out broadly. And if it costs some money to do it, you need to do it. Because I think, unfortunately, this was a very bad decision.

Now, there is no animosity on my part or on the part of other people, to the LGBTQ+ community. But I think we need to be very clear. This was not about increasing children's interest in reading. It was not about increasing literacy. It was not about protecting children to who might have suicidal tendencies. What this was, was giving a public platform to fringe adult performers who are more interested in exhibitionism and promoting their own agendas than participating in a program that is of wide interest to the McLean community. I know the Board doesn't get involved directly in programming decisions. But you are responsible to the community for exercising oversight. And you really need to dig into this and figure out how this happened. I notice that Daniel was showing you what the programs would be in the fall. Did he do that? Was it done for that [Drag Queen Story Hour] program in June? Or was it sprung on the community? Was it sprung on you? You need to get to sort of the bottom of this. Why do I care about this? I've got



three kids and seven grandkids, O.K.? I care about how they are raised. I know it's very difficult in today's society to raise kids. There's a lot of things... a lot of issues that they have to deal with. But given those problems, there is no need to intentionally sow the seeds of gender dysphoria, which I think this was doing... or otherwise causing confusion when men in heavy make-up parade around in traditional women's clothing. *(applause by the public attendees)*

Chair Zamora-Appel said his time was up and thanked him for his comments.

Following his remarks in July 28 meeting, Richard Porter submitted the text of his e-mail exchange with Daniel Singh. It is shown in the e-mail documentation below

Meera Dutt: meeradutt@yahoo.com

My name is Meera Dutt. I am 79 years old and have been living in McLean for the last 20 years. I would like to request a dance class for senior citizens. One of my friends is in Loudoun County and their communities have a dancing class for senior people like me. They say it's a lot of fun and they enjoy it. And I would like learn dancing with all the same age. I would like to thank you for that consideration. Thank you.

Chair Zamora-Appel thanked Ms. Dutt for her comments.

E-mails received from the public (Public Comment):

1. **From:** Nadja Golding <nzgolding@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 24, 2021 10:41 AM
To: Novak, Holly R <Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Kudos to Daniel Singh for Creative and Inclusive Programming

To the McLean Community Center Board,

I want to express my appreciation for Daniel Singh's efforts to provide inclusive programming for children during Pride month. The Drag Story Hour was a creative and sensitive way to make all children feel welcome in McLean. How sad that some in the community misunderstood it and did their best to ruin the experience. Please keep on supporting programming like this!

Nadja Golding 1942 Rhode Island Avenue McLean, VA 22101

2. **From:** Jeffrey K Shapiro <jeffrey.k.shapiro@hey.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 25, 2021 9:33 PM
To: Chairman <Chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Foust, John W. <John.Foust@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Walkinshaw, James <James.Walkinshaw@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Alcorn, Walter L <Walter.Alcorn@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Lusk, Rodney <Rodney.Lusk@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Herrity, Pat <Patrick.Herrity@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Smith, Kathy L. <Kathy.Smith@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Gross, Penny <Penny.Gross@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Storck, Daniel <Daniel.Storck@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Palchik, Dalia <Dalia.Palchik@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Cc: zamoraappelmcc@gmail.com; carlapost913@gmail.com; mariamccboard@yahoo.com; Singh, Daniel <Daniel.Singh@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Drag Story Hour at MCC

I write concerning the Drag Story Hour held in the McLean Community Center (MCC) on a Saturday in late June 2021. That day, there were two Drag Story Hour presentations performed by Majic Dyke, Persephone Rose and Kamani Sutra. These self-proclaimed Drag King and two Drag Queens were dressed in their drag regalia. For the reasons to be discussed, I request that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors immediately order all agencies of the county to discontinue hosting and funding these events. I also have a suggestion for an alternative approach to children's story hour that may be helpful.

What Happened

The Drag Story Hour was advertised for "All Ages," including "Babies and Toddlers," "Preschoolers," and "School Age Children." It was advertised as a joint production of the Fairfax County Public Library and the McLean Community Center, which would tend to create an expectation of wholesome family entertainment. (Reference 1, below.)

According to online news reporting (Reference 2, below), Majic Dyke introduced herself as a Drag King. She had a beard and moustache made from glitter, a long ponytail, colorful tunic and glitter boots. (The "Dyke" in Majic Dyke, of course, is slang for an [assertive or tough lesbian](#).)

Persephone Rose introduced himself as a “non-binary transgender woman, which is a lot of words to say that I’m a normal woman that gets to define what that means for myself.” He proclaimed his pronouns as “he” and “they.” At one point, he introduced a stuffed toy dog and said it was not a dog but a cat. When one of the children became upset hearing the stuffed dog called a cat, a woman in the audience asked, “Please don’t confuse the children!”

Kamani Sutra wore a blue sari, had long black hair and black beard and moustache. He told the children that when he’s in drag his pronouns are she / her, and when he’s not in drag his pronouns are he / they. The book he read to the children was about a South Asian “mom” and “his” son. During the first story hour, after Kamani Sutra finished his storybook, he performed a twirling dance routine. (“Kamani Sutra,” of course, is a thinly disguised play on the Kama Sutra, which is [popularly known](#) as a manual of sex positions.)

According to MCC Director Singh, this show was part of the “vision set forth by Fairfax County’s One Fairfax initiative to provide an equitable, welcoming, and supportive environment for all county residents.” Email from MCC Director Daniel Singh to a McLean Resident (Jul. 7, 2021) (Reference 3).

An attendee was interviewed by a report and said: “Afterwards I [an attendee who disapproved] saw Daniel Singh outside and asked him what he thought of the event. I did not know he was the MCC director. He said they really enjoyed it and when he saw the look on my face he angrily told me that if I was concerned about the well-being of children I should write to the Pope.” (Reference 2.)

Why This Is Wrong for Fairfax County

With all due respect, Director Singh’s deflection to the Pope is not satisfactory. Under his auspices, and with taxpayer money, the Fairfax County government has intentionally enticed families with young children to an event featuring sex performers, explicitly presenting as such, with obscene and/or sexualized names, in burlesque clothes, and discussing their own perceived sexual identity and how it is not coterminous with their sex and may change depending upon the situation. The announcement for the event did not fairly disclose this content to the public.

There was nothing wholesome about the Drag Story Hour. It was calculated to expose young children to adult issues of sexual identity, including blurring the boundary between male and female. The books chosen and the presentations by the drag performers reflected this ideological agenda. The Fairfax County government is supposed to represent all its citizens. It is not supposed to deliberately transgress the morality and views of a significant portion of them. It is not supposed to harm children.

One of the most disturbing aspects of the event was Persephone Rose deliberately gaslighting the children by referring to a stuffed dog as a cat. We all know what that was about. The statement intentionally inculcated confusion as to whether words represent reality. The technique was to groom the children to accept that, just as a dog can become a cat if we just use a different word, likewise a man can be a woman if we say so.

Director Singh refers to this event as part of Gay Pride. But that gloss does not help his case. First, the criticism would generally apply to a heterosexual version of the same event. Should the MCC host a story book reading featuring heterosexual female or male strippers, in their nightly outfits, perhaps with some pole dancing? If not, how would that be any different than what was done? It is not appropriate for Fairfax County to deliberately engage in exposing young children to the denizens of erotic adult entertainment. Period.

Second, the residents of Fairfax County, regardless of sexual orientation, do not have a “heritage” (Director Singh’s word) of exposing young children to drag kings and drag queens. To the contrary, it was Director Singh who initiated this unprecedented event. He now pretends it was merely a celebration of community heritage. But he revealed his didactic intent with this reported statement: “We created our version of an all-inclusive Drag Storybook Hour. One of the goals of Drag is to point out how people exist on a spectrum and are not in binaries, so we felt the open-ended framing was more useful.” (Reference 2.) This statement is an admission that Director Singh was not celebrating the community’s heritage but attempting to shape it according to his views.

Director Singh repeatedly tries to justify this event as intended to reduce suicide among gay teens. This justification is another deflection. This story book reading event was for young children and any connection to preventing teen suicide is non-existent or speculative. If anything, this event would tend to be harmful to young children. They are just learning to understand and name reality, which is why at least one child was vocally upset when Persephone Rose called a stuffed dog a cat. Part of reality that young children are still learning is that humanity is composed of male and female sexes. Director Singh hired these performers to blur this reality before the children are really even old enough to understand it. He did not lift these young children up; he brought them down. In no way was this event a nurturing one.

Director Singh's wraps the event in the mantle of the [OneFairfax policy](#). Maybe so, but the OneFairfax policy, supposedly seeks to foster "equity" and "social equity" expressly defined to embrace *all* religions within the county. This taxpayer-funded OneFairfax event transgressed the religious mores of a substantial portion of the McLean community. It also was likely disturbing or offensive to many more who, even if not particularly religious, would perceive this event as wholly unsuitable for children.

Further, Director Singh showed no care or concern for anyone who disagreed. He did not consult the community in deciding to hold this novel event, which he knew or should have known would be provocative. He has failed to respect those who opposed it, and he even bullied them. (His contemptuous advice to "write to the Pope" was on its face an anti-Catholic slur against several women attendees, including the one he spoke to, who had prayed the Rosary during the event.) By word and by deed, Director Singh has displayed the OneFairfax policy as intolerant of religion and not inclusive. This event was community-destroying, not community-building.

Surely, Fairfax County can do better. Instead of hiring three sex performers to blur the boundaries between male and female in the minds of young children (at \$300/hour each of taxpayer money), perhaps the MCC would consider a children's story hour led by senior citizen volunteers from the community? Perhaps one Saturday a month a couple of senior citizen volunteers could read classic and beloved children's stories. Surely the community has plenty of senior citizens who would love to volunteer. Call it "Story-Reading Hour with McLean Seniors." The goal would be to entertain the children in a wholesome way in a safe and nurturing setting, i.e., the opposite of Drag Story Hour. All citizens could unite around this child-friendly initiative, which is what Fairfax County *should* encourage. At the very least the County would not be guilty of running roughshod over anyone's religion or creating an unsafe environment for young children, as unfortunately happened with Drag Story Hour.

I am concerned that Director Singh has other ideas. In the email posted below (Reference 3), he seems to be suggesting that the "backlash" to the Drag Story Hour has motivated him to double-down on this sort of thing. Therefore, my specific request is this: I ask that the Board of Supervisors explicitly forbid the use of taxpayer dollars and facilities to produce and/or host Drag Story Hour or any variant of it.

As discussed, a Fairfax County government event should not be used to push a divisive agenda that tramples on a good portion of the citizenry, harms children and uses them as ideological props. That is not what representative government is supposed to do. In terms of timing, I would respectfully request that the prohibition be announced publicly as soon as possible, so that Fairfax County citizens can rest assured that this depraved event will never be repeated.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Shapiro
McLean, VA

References:

1. Announcement (<https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/7849873>).
2. [Drag Storybook Hour gets mixed reviews | Articles | fairfaxtimes.com](#).
3. Email from MCC Director Daniel Singh to a McLean Resident:

From: "Singh, Daniel" <Daniel.Singh@fairfaxcounty.gov>

Date: July 7, 2021 at 9:23:07 AM EDT

Subject: Answers to your questions

Thanks for your inquiries. Apologies for the delay. I have included answers to your specific questions at the end of the email as well.

As you know, **MCC follows the vision set forth by Fairfax County's One Fairfax initiative to provide an equitable, welcoming, and supportive environment for all county residents.** To this end, we are a welcoming space for all McLean citizens. We treasure and celebrate the LGBTQ community in McLean like the many other rich aspects of the McLean community. We have already celebrated Asian American Pacific Islander month and will be holding celebrations in the future for other heritage months. MCC received a proclamation from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors commending us for the groundbreaking work we are doing to support the LGBTQ community.

The current unfortunate backlash to the family-friendly Drag Story Hour held on Saturday, June 26, and other Pride programming, only reinforces our commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at MCC. The Story Hour was created to encourage children to be comfortable with themselves, to be compassionate with each other, and to prevent bullying. We are deeply saddened by the reaction of some members of the community and **the threat to the safety of the LGBTQ**



performers, audience members, and County Staff. We will use this opportunity as a learning and teaching moment to engage with our community in deeper, more meaningful, and compassionate ways.

LGBTQ teens are five times more likely to attempt suicide when compared to their straight peers. MCC is very aware it only takes one positive interaction or one safe place to prevent an LGBTQ community member from committing suicide. We know the work we do matters, and if we have influenced one person positively and provided them a safe space, then we know we are doing the right work. We encourage you to participate in the rich diversity of our programming at MCC and welcome you to our respectful and nurturing center.

1) Who initiated this performance, the Center, the Library or the group that performed?
It was jointly initiated by the Dolly Madison Library and MCC.

2) Did the Board approve in advance the invitation extended to the group?
The Board is not involved in staff operations or programming.

3) Was any money paid by the Community Center to the group and, if so, was that expenditure approved by the Board?
Yes, the artists were paid as are all performers with whom we contract to provide services. The board does not determine or direct operational costs.

4) Does the Community Center intend to permit this type of program in the future?
The community center is committed to a diverse array of programming, as always, and is in close alignment with the County's One Fairfax plan for equity.

We wish you the best and I hope to welcome you to the Community Center very soon,

Sincerely,
Daniel Singh
Executive Director
McLean Community Center

3. **From:** Jeffrey K. Shapiro <JShapiro@hpm.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 2:30 PM
To: Novak, Holly R <Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: RE: MCC Board meeting tomorrow (7/28)

Holly, thanks. My comment is that, MCC and the Library, as government entities supported by involuntary tax dollars, should not have put on the Drag Story Hour. It was very inappropriate and ultra vires of their mandate. I ask that the MCC Board publicly agree that the MCC will not in the future host or be involved with this type of event.

Jeffrey K. Shapiro
McLean Resident

From: Novak, Holly R <Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 3:50 PM
To: Jeffrey K. Shapiro <JShapiro@hpm.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: MCC Board meeting tomorrow (7/28)

Dear Mr. Shapiro,

Thank you for your interest. We have received requests from several individuals to give public comment tomorrow evening at the McLean Community Center Governing Board meeting. Those previous requests have now filled the entire allotted time on the Agenda for public comment. Therefore, we are not able to apportion any time for you to present comments in that forum tomorrow evening. Thank you for your understanding.

Another option would be to send me an e-mail with your comments, and you are welcome to do so.

Sincerely,
Holly Novak
Executive Assistant to the Governing Board
McLean Community Center



From: Jeffrey K. Shapiro <JShapiro@hpm.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 10:57 AM
To: Novak, Holly R <Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: MCC Board meeting tomorrow (7/28)
Holly, can you please sign me up to speak during the public period tomorrow? Thanks.
Jeff 1133 Towlston Road McLean, VA 22102 *Mobile* 703-568-5820

4. **From:** William Denk <thinkdenk3@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, July 30, 2021 8:41 AM
To: Novak, Holly R <Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Cc: Singh, Daniel <Daniel.Singh@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Foust, John W. <John.Foust@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Edmondson, Jane P. <Jane.Edmondson@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Chairman <Chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Alfonzo Meza, Camila <Camila.AlfonzoMeza@fairfaxcounty.gov>; OFPA Auditor of the Board <AuditorOftheBoard@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Additional Input for record of 7/28/21 MCCGB Regarding 3 Drag Queens One Fairfax Policy In Action / Financial Impropriety

Holly, thank you for organizing the MCCGB meeting on Wednesday evening.
Per our discussion, you agreed to make the poster I brought to the meeting and displayed for the board, part of the record of the meeting. Please find attached.

I think the duplicity of these storytellers is further highlighted by Persephone Rose's shirt below with a "Cute" panda bear and the message "People Suck".

Further, at the end of the meeting I had discussion with MCC staff indicating that these storytellers were already known to some staff members? Therefore, it seems that there was also a financial breach of procurement rules here. Where does the MCCGB give authority to distribute taxpayer money to performers just because they are friends of staff members? Is that in the bylaws? As far as I know there was no statement of work or public notice of procurement for the \$900 spent for these storytellers. I have added Jim Shelton to this email, Auditor to the BOS. He might want to add an examination of this financial impropriety to his work plan and seek approval from John Foust and the BOS to investigate further.

Also, it appeared that our meeting Wednesday was being video recorded. Are those meetings available on the MCC web site and if so when will this meeting be uploaded?

Thank you. William Denk 703-734-1825 thinkdenk3@msn.com



5. From: April Georgelas
 (July 27, July 28, July 29)
 Dear Ms. Georgelas,

This is our third reply. We appreciate your taking the time to share comments regarding McLean Central Park redevelopment. Your comments will be shared with the McLean Community Center’s Governing Board.

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: April <askapril@cox.net>
 Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2021 2:35 PM
 To: Anwah, Sabrina <Sabrina.Anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Novak, Holly R <Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Foust, John W. <John.Foust@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Edmondson, Jane P. <Jane.Edmondson@fairfaxcounty.gov>; FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Clerk to the BOS <ClerktotheBOS@fairfaxcounty.gov>
 Cc: Chairman <Chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Rob Jackson <rhjackson10@verizon.net>; FCPA Parkmail <Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Barbara Ryan <barbara.ryan@verizon.net>; John Ulfelder <jculfsr@aol.com>; Kathleen



Murphy <katmurphy3@gmail.com>; Kathleen Murphy <DelKMurphy@house.virginia.gov>; Barbara Favola <bfavola1@gmail.com>; Barbara Favola <district31@senate.virginia.gov>; April <askapril@cox.net>
Subject: Re: MCC Email... Park PR Campaign Concerns...../ Reminder: Join the MCC Board and Say "Yes" to Arts in the Park

On Jul 28, 2021, at 4:37 PM, April <askapril@cox.net <<mailto:askapril@cox.net>>> wrote:

MCC Board Members and Officials,

I have not had a response to my email. I would appreciate one.
I would also like to know what Supervisor Foust will be doing about the MCC PR Park Campaign.
Is MCC Board Funding this Untimely and Biased Campaign with Taxpayer Money ?

Transparency and Proper Public Process Matters.

Thank You.....April Georgelas

On Jul 27, 2021, at 1:05 PM, April <askapril@cox.net <<mailto:askapril@cox.net>>> wrote:

MCC Board Members...

This MCC email PR Campaign is very concerning .

As a forty year Resident of McLean, I have actively supported the "Arts" for decades throughout our Area. I have supported MCC.

However, I am afraid to respond to your email and "click" because it appears to be biased towards only "support" for the MCC Board's "position" on the Park.

What actual "message" would I be sending by following MCC Instructions ?

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Who is the MCC Board really "representing" in this obviously Biased & Prejudiced Park PR Campaign ?

Has the Board extensively Alerted and Informed the approximately 60,000 McLean Residents.... whose Tax Money supports MCC.... about the proposed project redesign.....Details, Options, Expressed Concerns & Impacts about different "proposals" ?

Has the Board Extensively & Fairly Surveyed the Taxpaying McLean Residents to obtain their Informed Preferences ?

Please share your Data.

Has the Board considered the Realistic Impacts of the Board's "preferences" on the Community ?

Example:

MCC Board is favoring an Amphitheater. It was last presented on July 6, 2021 as a 250 seated area.

It is now expanded, without Public Notice & Discussion, to 450 Seats!

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facilities for civic, cultural, educational, recreational, and social activities apportioned fairly to all residents of Small District 1A, Dranesville."

Are McLean Residents and our Community really being "represented" "fairly" by the actions of the MCC Board and this Selective, Biased & Prejudiced email PR Campaign?
I think not.

Please Reassess your Actions in this Park Matter and Withdraw this Undemocratic Campaign.
More Information and Clarification are Required for Fair Decision-making by MCC Board Members and the Taxpaying McLean Residents.

Bypassing the Community.....Bypasses Democracy.

Thank You.....April Georgelas

720 Live Oak Drive
McLean, VA 22101
(703) 821-3273

On Jul 27, 2021, at 11:30 AM, McLean Community Center

Say "Yes" to Arts in McLean Central Park!

Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) is hoping to construct an Amphitheater in McLean Central Park. MCC's Governing Board requests your support of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity will help create a unique gathering place in McLean where sustainable/green design is in harmony with community spaces. The McLean Community Center Governing Board supports FCPA's revitalization plan as it will create a sustainable space for arts, culture and education.

Please scan the QR code below or click the link below to send a letter to FCPA stating your support of this effort. Already sent your letter of support? Then, please share these social media links to spread the word.

Twitter:<https://twitter.com/mcleanvcenter/status/1417235621186359302?s=20> <

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Mcleanvcenter/photos/a.10150333888541246/10157873246136246/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CRhiAwiLQIc/>

Need more information? Read the MCC Governing Board's Letter in Support of the Fairfax County Park Authority's Revitalization Plan on our website here

McLean Community Center | 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, VA 22101
Sent by sabrina.anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov <<mailto:sabrina.anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov>>

- 6. From: Novak, Holly R <Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov <<mailto:Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov>>>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 4:18 PM
To: k_m_cox@yahoo.com <mailto:k_m_cox@yahoo.com> <k_m_cox@yahoo.com <mailto:k_m_cox@yahoo.com>>
Cc: Schallern Treff, Sarah <Sarah.SchallernTreff@fairfaxcounty.gov <<mailto:Sarah.SchallernTreff@fairfaxcounty.gov>>>
Subject: RE: Join the MCC Board and Say "Yes" to Arts in the Park

Dear Ms. Cox,
We appreciate your taking the time to share comments regarding McLean Central Park redevelopment. Your comments will be shared with the McLean Community Center's Governing Board.

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: Kathleen Cox <k_m_cox@yahoo.com <mailto:k_m_cox@yahoo.com>>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 12:36 PM
To: Schallern Treff, Sarah <Sarah.SchallernTreff@fairfaxcounty.gov <mailto:Sarah.SchallernTreff@fairfaxcounty.gov>>
Subject: Re: Join the MCC Board and Say "Yes" to Arts in the Park
How much will the raise taxes?

On Tuesday, July 27, 2021, 12:32:39 PM EDT, The Alden <sarah.schallerntreff@fairfaxcounty.gov <mailto:sarah.schallerntreff@fairfaxcounty.gov>> wrote:
Fairfax County Park Authority is hoping to construct an Amphitheater in McLean Central Park and the McLean Community Center requests your support.

Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) is hoping to construct an Amphitheater in McLean Central Park. McLean Community Center's (MCC) Governing Board requests your support of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity will help create a unique gathering place in McLean where sustainable/green design is in harmony with community spaces. The MCC Governing Board supports FCPA's revitalization plan as it will create a sustainable space for arts, culture and education. Please scan the QR Code below or click the link below to send a letter to FCPA stating your support of this effort. Already sent your letter of support? Then, please share these social media links to spread the word.

Need more information? Read the MCC Governing Board's Letter in Support of the Fairfax County Park Authority's Revitalization Plan on our website here Copyright (C) 2021 The Alden | McLean Community Center. All rights reserved.

7. McLean Neighbors Facebook post:



General

McLean Community Center already receives a Special District Tax which each of us pay via our real estate taxes. For FY2020 that amounted to nearly \$5Million or 78% of the revenue of the Community Center. This includes significant costs for compensation of employees and benefits. In addition, MCC recently completed an over \$7million renovation .funded with our tax dollars.

Residents of McLean have proven they support MCC on a yearly basis. The arts and a community center for enrichment classes are important to our community.

But McLean Central Park and its natural environment are also important to our community.

The McLean Community Center board does not own McLean Central Park and should be limited in its expansion at the expense of the natural environment.

The current park is woefully lacking in maintenance. Playgrounds, trails, courts, bridges, lighting and benches can be upgraded. Invasive species should be controlled and native species planted to encourage a long-term healthier green space for all of us and the wildlife which inhabits it..

The intersection of Ingleside and Dolley Madison also needs a synchronized traffic signal to support the entrance of McLean Central Park. It is currently a dangerous intersection during rush hour, especially when Dolley Madison traffic blocks the box. Traffic signals are not inexpensive.

Please send your comments by July 30 to Fairfax County Park Authority.

Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov

Posted in **General** to 26 neighborhoods



Comment



Home



Groups



Finds



Notifications



More

8. From: **dick porter , fickporter17@gmaii.com**
Subject: **Drag Queen Stormy Hour**
Date: **Jul 9, 2021 at 11:39:10 AM**
To: **daniel.singh@fairfaxcounty.gov**
Bcc: **dickporter17@gmail.com**

Hi Daniel: Thank you for your response to my recent inquiries regarding the above which was sponsored by the Community Center and Dolley Madison Library. There are many points *in* your response with which, respectively, I disagree.

Personally, I have no animosity towards any portion of the LGBTQ community but I strongly disagree with the programming decision to invite drag queen performers to utilize public facilities and funds for what I see as a rather obvious effort at self promotion, both of the individuals and their agenda. I do not put much stock in wrapping the programming decision in amorphous language concepts such as "inclusion", "equity", and even "One Fairfax". In and of themselves these words have little, if any, content until individuals or governmental entities act on them through legislation, policy pronouncements, or programming decisions.

I really think that the performance that MCC and the Library sponsored was out of step with the type of programming desired by the greater McLean community and I think it is the responsibility of MCC and the Library to present programming that the community would like to see rather than programming that many would consider to be aberrant behavior. Let's be honest. The DQSH performance was not about increasing literacy, preventing suicide, or honoring heritage such as that of Asian Pacific Islanders. Far from developing "positive interaction" in a "safe space"—again, nice words with little content—, I fear that presenting biological males parading in traditional female clothing and makeup is far more likely to introduce unnecessary confusion in the minds of young children.



I do question whether DOSH presentations are" in close alignment with the County's One Fairfax policy". I also wonder whether the MCC, in the interest of inclusiveness, would be willing to sponsor around the Christmas season the reading of traditional bible stories to children. I suspect any number of volunteers would come forward to do that and there would be no need to pay participants the \$300 each, which I understand was paid to the drag queens.

Let me make a positive suggestion, at the end of the year do a broad, community based survey to see what types of programming the community would like to see. I think that your programming should align with broad community views rather than the views of one person or a small group of people whose views are undoubtedly quite high on the "woke" meter. Have a good weekend.

From: **Singh, Daniel** Daniel.Singh@fairfaxcounty.gov

Subject: **Answers to your questions**

Date: **Jul 7, 2021 at 9:23:08 AM**

To: **dickporter17@gmail.com**

Dear Mr. Porter,

Thanks for your inquiries. Apologies for the delay. I have included answers to your specific questions at the end of the email as well.

As you know, MCC follows the vision set forth by Fairfax County's One Fairfax initiative to provide an equitable, welcoming, and supportive environment for all county residents. To this end, we are a welcoming space for all McLean citizens. We treasure and celebrate the LGBTQ community in McLean like the many other rich aspects of the McLean community. We have already celebrated Asian American Pacific Islander month and will be holding celebrations in the future for other heritage months. MCC received a proclamation from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors commending us for the groundbreaking work we are doing to support the LGBTQ community.

The current unfortunate backlash to the family-friendly Drag Story Hour held on Saturday, June 26, and other Pride programming, only reinforces our commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at MCC. The Story Hour was created to encourage children to be comfortable with themselves, to be compassionate with each other, and to prevent bullying. We are deeply saddened by the reaction of some members of the community and the threat to the safety of the LGBTQ performers, audience members, and County Staff. We will use this opportunity as a learning and teaching moment to engage with our community in deeper, more meaningful, and compassionate ways.

LGBTQ teens are five times more likely to attempt suicide when compared to their straight peers. MCC is very aware it only takes one positive interaction or one safe place to prevent an LGBTQ community member from committing suicide. We know the work we do matters, and if we have influenced one person positively and provided them a safe space, then we know we are doing the right work. We encourage you to participate in the rich diversity of our programming at MCC and welcome you to our respectful and nurturing center.

1) Who initiated this performance, the Center, the Library or the group that performed?

It was jointly initiated by the Dolly Madison Library and MCC.

2) Did the Board approve in advance the invitation extended to the group?

The Board is not involved in staff operations or programming.

3) Was any money paid by the Community Center to the group and, if so, was that expenditure approved by the Board?

Yes, the artists were paid as are all performers with whom we contract to provide services. The board does not determine or direct operational costs.

4) Does the Community Center intend to permit this type of program in the future?

The community center is committed to a diverse array of programming, as always, and is in close alignment with the County's One Fairfax plan for equity.

We wish you the best and I hope to welcome you to the Community Center very soon,

Sincerely,

Daniel Singh

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED VIA E-MAIL BEFORE THIS MEETING CONVENED:



1. Dear Ms. Georgelas,

We appreciate your taking the time to share comments regarding McLean Central Park redevelopment. Your comments will be shared with the McLean Community Center's Governing Board.

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

www.mcleancenter.org

phone | 703.744.9348

e-mail | Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov

From: April <askapril@cox.net>

Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 1:05 PM

To: Anwah, Sabrina <Sabrina.Anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Novak, Holly R <Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov>

Cc: Foust, John W. <John.Foust@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Edmondson, Jane P. <Jane.Edmondson@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Chairman <Chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Rob Jackson <rhjackson10@verizon.net>; Barbara Ryan <barbara.ryan@verizon.net>; April <askapril@cox.net>

Subject: MCC Email... Park PR Campaign Concerns...../ Reminder: Join the MCC Board and Say "Yes" to Arts in the Park

MCC Board Members...

This MCC email PR Campaign is very concerning .

As a forty year Resident of McLean, I have actively supported the "Arts" for decades throughout our Area. I have supported MCC.

However, I am afraid to respond to your email and "click" because it appears to be biased towards only "support" for the MCC Board's "position" on the Park.

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What would I be "agreeing with" and "supporting" ?

How did MCC Board formulate and arrive at this "message" ?

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Has the Board Extensively & Fairly Surveyed the Taxpaying McLean Residents to obtain their Informed Preferences ?
Please share your Data.

Has the Board considered the Realistic Impacts of the Board’s “preferences” on the Community ?
Example:
MCC Board is favoring an Amphitheater. It was last presented on July 6, 2021 as a 250 seated area. It is now expanded, without Public Notice & Discussion, to 450 Seats !
This will cause Traffic and Parking Concerns that apparently MCC Board has not fully examined and analyzed. What are the Real Impacts? Where are the Studies ? Where will all these cars park ? What are Noise Impacts ?
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"And most importantly, as a Governing Board Member, you play a lead role in helping to carry out MCC’s mission: To provide a sense of community by undertaking programs; assisting community organizations; and furnishing facilities for civic, cultural, educational, recreational, and social activities apportioned fairly to all residents of Small District 1A, Dranesville."

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More Information and Clarification are Required for Fair Decision-making by MCC Board Members and the Taxpaying McLean Residents.

Bypassing the Community.....Bypasses Democracy.

Thank You.....April Georgelas

720 Live Oak Drive
McLean, VA 22101
(703) 821-3273

On Jul 27, 2021, at 11:30 AM, McLean Community Center <sabrina.anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov> wrote:



MCC Board says...

“Yes to Arts in McLean Central Park!”

[Click here to voice your support!](#)
READ MORE



Say “Yes” to Arts in McLean Central Park!

Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) is hoping to construct an Amphitheater in McLean Central Park. MCC’s Governing Board requests your support of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity will help create a unique gathering place in McLean where sustainable/green design is in harmony with community spaces. The McLean Community Center Governing Board supports FCPA’s revitalization plan as it will create a sustainable space for arts, culture and education.

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<https://bit.ly/3hLh8ZI>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/mcleanvacenter/status/1417235621186359302?s=20>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Mcleanvacenter/photos/a.10150333888541246/10157873246136246/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CRhiAwiLQlc/>



Need more information?

Read the MCC Governing Board's Letter in Support of the Fairfax County Park Authority's Revitalization Plan on our website [here](#).

McLean Community Center | 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, VA 22101

2. Dear Ms. Georgelas,
I sent this response to you yesterday.

Holly Novak

Executive Assistant to the Governing Board

McLean Community Center

www.mcleancenter.org

phone | 703.744.9348

e-mail | Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov

From: Novak, Holly R

Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 3:57 PM

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Cc: Foust, John W. <John.Foust@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Edmondson, Jane P.

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Cc: Chairman <Chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Rob Jackson <rhjackson10@verizon.net>; Barbara Ryan <barbara.ryan@verizon.net>; Clerk to the BOS <ClerktotheBOS@fairfaxcounty.gov>; John Ulfelder <jculfsr@aol.com>

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McLean Community Center
www.mcleancenter.org <<http://www.mcleancenter.org/>>

phone | 703.744.9348

e-mail | Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov <<mailto:Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov>>

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Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2021 2:35 PM

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<Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Barbara Ryan <barbara.ryan@verizon.net>; John Ulfelder <jculfsr@aol.com>; Kathleen
Murphy <katmurphy3@gmail.com>; Kathleen Murphy <DelKMurphy@house.virginia.gov>; Barbara Favola
<bfavola1@gmail.com>; Barbara Favola <district31@senate.virginia.gov>; April <askapril@cox.net>

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Is MCC Board Funding this Untimely and Biased Campaign with Taxpayer Money ?

Transparency and Proper Public Process Matters.

Thank You.....April Georgelas

On Jul 27, 2021, at 1:05 PM, April <askapril@cox.net <<mailto:askapril@cox.net>> > wrote:

MCC Board Members...

This MCC email PR Campaign is very concerning .

As a forty year Resident of McLean, I have actively supported the "Arts" for decades throughout our Area. I have supported MCC.

However, I am afraid to respond to your email and "click" because it appears to be biased towards only "support" for the MCC Board's "position" on the Park.

What actual "message" would I be sending by following MCC Instructions ?

What would I be "agreeing with" and "supporting" ?

How did MCC Board formulate and arrive at this "message" ?

Is this Democratic ? Is this Fair ? I think not.

TAXPAYERS MATTER .

Who is the MCC Board really "representing" in this obviously Biased & Prejudiced Park PR Campaign ?

Has the Board extensively Alerted and Informed the approximately 60,000 McLean Residents.... whose Tax Money supports MCC.... about the proposed project redesign.....Details, Options, Expressed Concerns & Impacts about different "proposals" ?

Has the Board Extensively & Fairly Surveyed the Taxpaying McLean Residents to obtain their Informed Preferences ?

Please share your Data.

Has the Board considered the Realistic Impacts of the Board's "preferences" on the Community ?
Example:

MCC Board is favoring an Amphitheater. It was last presented on July 6, 2021 as a 250 seated area. It is now expanded, without Public Notice & Discussion, to 450 Seats !

This will cause Traffic and Parking Concerns that apparently MCC Board has not fully examined and analyzed.

What are the Real Impacts? Where are the Studies ? Where will all these cars park ? What are Noise Impacts ?

Please show your Data.

McLean Taxpaying Residents are supposed to be "represented" by the MCC Board in MCC operations, budget ...



"And most importantly, as a Governing Board Member, you play a lead role in helping to carry out MCC's mission: To provide a sense of community by undertaking programs; assisting community organizations; and furnishing facilities for civic, cultural, educational, recreational, and social activities apportioned fairly to all residents of Small District 1A, Dranesville."

Are McLean Residents and our Community really being "represented" "fairly" by the actions of the MCC Board and this Selective, Biased & Prejudiced email PR Campaign ?
I think not.

Please Reassess your Actions in this Park Matter and Withdraw this Undemocratic Campaign.
More Information and Clarification are Required for Fair Decision-making by MCC Board Members and the Taxpaying McLean Residents.

Bypassing the Community.....Bypasses Democracy.

Thank You.....April Georgelas

720 Live Oak Drive
McLean, VA 22101
(703) 821-3273

4. From: Novak, Holly R <Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov <mailto:Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov> >
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 4:18 PM
To: [k m cox@yahoo.com](mailto:k_m_cox@yahoo.com) <mailto:k m cox@yahoo.com> <[k m cox@yahoo.com](mailto:k_m_cox@yahoo.com) <mailto:k m cox@yahoo.com>
Cc: Schallern Treff, Sarah <Sarah.SchallernTreff@fairfaxcounty.gov <mailto:Sarah.SchallernTreff@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: RE: Join the MCC Board and Say "Yes" to Arts in the Park

Dear Ms. Cox,

We appreciate your taking the time to share comments regarding McLean Central Park redevelopment. Your comments will be shared with the McLean Community Center's Governing Board.

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

www.mcleancenter.org

phone | 703.744.9348

e-mail | Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov <mailto:Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov>

From: Kathleen Cox <[k m cox@yahoo.com](mailto:k_m_cox@yahoo.com) <mailto:k m cox@yahoo.com> >

Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 12:36 PM

To: Schallern Treff, Sarah <Sarah.SchallernTreff@fairfaxcounty.gov <mailto:Sarah.SchallernTreff@fairfaxcounty.gov> >

Subject: Re: Join the MCC Board and Say "Yes" to Arts in the Park



How much will the raise taxes?

On Tuesday, July 27, 2021, 12:32:39 PM EDT, The Alden <sarah.schallerntreff@fairfaxcounty.gov> wrote:

Fairfax County Park Authority is hoping to construct an Amphitheater in McLean Central Park and the McLean Community Center requests your support.

View this email in your browser

<<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmailchi.mp%2Ffairfaxcounty%2Fjoin-the-mcc-board-and-say-yes-to-arts-in-the-park%3F%3Dfa5545e4ae&data=04%7C01%7CHolly.Novak%40fairfaxcounty.gov%7Cdee6ac68ed594f5e57f008d9513c1d28%7Ca26156cb5d6f41729d7d934eb0a7b275%7C0%7C0%7C637630140892478327%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoimC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikl1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=DD7fHI6O3G64MyZl6vTAoQleuzQqSaJrNNd%2Bm5tOKQM%3D&reserved=0>>

Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) is hoping to construct an Amphitheater in McLean Central Park. McLean Community Center's (MCC) Governing Board requests your support of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity will help create a unique gathering place in McLean where sustainable/green design is in harmony with community spaces. The MCC Governing Board supports FCPA's revitalization plan as it will create a sustainable space for arts, culture and education.

Please scan the QR Code below or click the link below to send a letter to FCPA stating your support of this effort. Already sent your letter of support? Then, please share these social media links to spread the word.

<https://bit.ly/3hLh8Zl>

Need more information? Read the MCC Governing Board's Letter in Support of the Fairfax County Park Authority's Revitalization Plan on our website here

<<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Faldentheatre.us6.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3D8a87bad6c05793a4913d0e832%26id%3D7777d102d7%26e%3Dfa5545e4ae&data=04%7C01%7CHolly.Novak%40fairfaxcounty.gov%7Cdee6ac68ed594f5e57f008d9513c1d28%7Ca26156cb5d6f41729d7d934eb0a7b275%7C0%7C0%7C637630140892498239%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoimC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikl1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=UkwGHRMHhVNLKfNr5m8rG6kn3kcafXi36MxIO8kUbQO%3D&reserved=0>> .

<<https://dim.mcusercontent.com/cs/8a87bad6c05793a4913d0e832/images/b8eed474-5895-4341-baad-6e7abb22ca96.jpg?w=150&dpr=2>>

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You are receiving this email because you opted to receive our monthly e-newsletter.

Our mailing address is:

The Alden | McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Avenue McLean, VA 22101

5. Public comment by K. Keller (forwarded by MCC PIO Sabrina Anwah):

From: Anwah, Sabrina <Sabrina.Anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 4:02 PM

To: Novak, Holly R <Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov>

Cc: Singh, Daniel <Daniel.Singh@fairfaxcounty.gov>

Subject: Re: More from McLean Neighbors

OK. This was posted on a Facebook page, not sent to us.



From: Anwah, Sabrina <Sabrina.Anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov <mailto:Sabrina.Anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov> >
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 3:06 PM
To: Singh, Daniel <Daniel.Singh@fairfaxcounty.gov <mailto:Daniel.Singh@fairfaxcounty.gov> >
Cc: Novak, Holly R <Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov <mailto:Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov> >
Subject: Fw: More from McLean Neighbors

FYI. Our former employee Peggy Moore forwarded this message that was posted on the McLean Neighbors group.

Here is the second part of that post on McLean Neighbors.



General

McLean Community Center already receives a Special District Tax which each of us pay via our real estate taxes. For FY2020 that amounted to nearly \$5Million or 78% of the revenue of the Community Center. This includes significant costs for compensation of employees and benefits. In addition, MCC recently completed an over \$7million renovation .funded with our tax dollars.

Residents of McLean have proven they support MCC on a yearly basis. The arts and a community center for enrichment classes are important to our community.

But McLean Central Park and its natural environment are also important to our community.

The McLean Community Center board does not own McLean Central Park and should be limited in its expansion at the expense of the natural environment.

The current park is woefully lacking in maintenance. Playgrounds, trails, courts, bridges, lighting and benches can be upgraded. Invasive species should be controlled and native species planted to encourage a long-term healthier green space for all of us and the wildlife which inhabits it..

The intersection of Ingleside and Dolley Madison also needs a synchronized traffic signal to support the entrance of McLean Central Park. It is currently a dangerous intersection during rush hour, especially when Dolley Madison traffic blocks the box. Traffic signals are not inexpensive.

Please send your comments by July 30 to Fairfax County Park Authority.

Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov

Posted in **General** to **26** neighborhoods



Comment



6. (from PIO Sabrina Anwah) Just received the message below and I am not sure how to respond to it.

As far as I know, so far we have spent:

2 Email blasts (part of yearly subscription to Contact Contact

1 Alden email blast (Survey Monkey)

Park Signs (\$600)

Flyers (\$300)

Are there any other expenses at this point?

Thank you,
Sabrina

From: David Fiske <david.fiske@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 2:55 PM
To: Anwah, Sabrina <Sabrina.Anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: MCC Campaign Regarding McLean Central Park

Dear Ms. Anwah:

I've received a couple of comments from concerned neighbors about a "campaign" by the MCC to support specific changes to McLean Central Park. In particular, some concerns were raised about whether tax dollars have been spent on this effort and, if so, whether such expenditures are legal. The MCC is recognized as a Special District Agency of the County and has limits on its authority to spend tax dollars. The broader concern seems to be more about the process and expenditure of taxes than about the substance of the changes proposed, although there are, of course, some differences of opinion about the substance too.

I've personally only seen one message directly from a County source on this, and it was associated with your email address. I'm not sure how broad the "campaign" is nor what, if any, costs would have been incurred by it.

Could you comment on the issues above?

Sincerely,
David Fiske

ADJOURNMENT

Question: So, there is no way to interact with the public comment during the meeting, right?

Clarification by Chair Zamora-Appel: No – it is a Fairfax County policy.

Chair Zamora-Appel thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

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