



**2021-2022 MCC Governing Board
Regular Meeting
October 27, 2021 6:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

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

MCC Staff present: Daniel Singh, Executive Director; Holly Novak

Guests: Camila Alfonzo Mesa (Supervisor Foust's office); Merrily Pierce; Raj Mehra; Christopher Henzel; Adrienne Henzel; Jane Edmondson (Supervisor Foust's office); Steven Aoki; Paul Kohlenberger; Alice Middleton; Deb Bissen (MPA); Rev. Dr. Scott Ramsey (Lewinsville Presbyterian Church)

CONVENE MEETING

Chair Zamora-Appel convened a Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of the McLean Community Center on October 27, 2021, at 6:34 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.

APPROVE MINUTES

Minutes of July 15, 2021 Strategic Planning Session were reviewed. No changes were requested; accepted as written.

MOTION: To approve Minutes of July 15, 2021, Strategic Planning Session. **Unanimously approved.**

Minutes of September 2, 2021 Special Called Meeting were reviewed. No changes were requested; accepted as written.

MOTION: To approve Minutes of September 2, 2021, Special Called Meeting. **Unanimously approved.**

Minutes of September 22, 2021 Regular Meeting and Public Hearing on FY2023 Budget were reviewed. No changes were requested; accepted as written.

MOTION: To approve Minutes of September 22, 2021, Regular Meeting and Public hearing on FY23 Budget. **Unanimously approved.**

Minutes of September 29 Special Called Meeting were reviewed. No changes were requested; accepted as written.

MOTION: To approve Minutes of September 29, 2021, Special Called Meeting. **Unanimously approved.**

Secretary Foderaro-Guertin stated that Minutes of October 13 Special Called Meeting have not yet been finalized. The October 13 Minutes will be prepared in time for approval at the next Regular Board meeting on December 8, 2021.

CHAIR'S REPORT

SharePoint: This project to move from using personal e-mail addresses to county-issued e-mail addresses has been a delayed process because of IT testing. Rasheq Rahman, MCC staff and county IT staff have committed many hours to provide training and customized help to migrate to that system.

What it means to use SharePoint: All documents currently shared through e-mails will be housed in a central location. It will help in tracking and communication among the board members. It will also facilitate transparency to the public because the county will be able to automatically pull all relevant e-mails for any FOIA requests. SharePoint is restricted to just the MCC Governing Board and MCC staff. The board can use it as an editing place, but we must follow FOIA requirements. No decisions can be made inside a document because that constitutes a "meeting." Once Minutes are approved and finalized



it will be housed on SharePoint as .pdf. It cannot be altered, edited, changed nor excerpted. Those documents will be stable as .pdf's archivally, once approved. Timeline: In a few weeks we should have everything finalized.

Engaging with the public: *Clarification by Executive Director Singh:* As of now, there is a general e-mail inbox for MCC for the public to provide input. Once individual county e-mails are established, they will then be published on MCC website. Members of the public who have any official concerns should write to the board or come to MCC Board meetings. There have been instances where people were speaking to one individual board member – putting them in an awkward spot or making them feel unsafe. SharePoint is a way to protect MCC board members. If the public has comments, they can give comment during our “public comment” period. They should not be doing so in one-on-one meetings – that can be seen by Fairfax County as favoritism or nepotism.

Strategic Planning Session (October 13): Community Listening Session 1 – Nov. 18 6:00–8:00 p.m. at MCC is in-person. If anyone wants to participate, there is a link on MCC website. Goal: We hope to receive much feedback from various representative segments of the community.

Process: AMS envisions having tables with board members as facilitators (taking notes; gathering information). Staff will be there and consultants to fill-in – but they want the board members to be present. AMS will give training – they will have prompts and questions set-up for the facilitators. The goal is to gather the table participants' opinions.

Virtual option? People have been asking if we can offer this online. That is still being considered; Nov. 18 is strictly in-person. We will offer a later virtual Community Listening Session – awaiting confirmation of the costs for that as a second forum of public input and selecting a future date.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

*Outdoor events are going well!

*Indoor events with children are not moving as quickly (Okie Dokie Brothers – didn't sell out this year: a combined 250 tickets were sold out of 600 seats. **We think parents are not comfortable bringing kids indoors to the Alden Theatre. We are learning from that information and trying to figure out how to program slightly differently. MCC staff are creatively trying to figure out how to make events outdoor until such time as kids are able to be vaccinated. MCC is responding with more outdoor events: outdoor skating rinks. We are postponing events to later dates, if possible (warmer weather and in hopes that kids will be vaccinated)**

*OFC After-school program is slow –only 15 registrants (usually 60 people by now). Since it's an indoor activity for 4-hours, parents are not yet comfortable with that. We hope it picks up as vaccinations increase.

*Alden shows for adults are picking up. Pilobolus is sold-out (seating chart is being adjusted to release more seats for sale).

*Difficulty finding over-hires for theater technical staff/special events. We are severely understaffed in technicians (this is a general trend in labor right now).

*Native American History – dance troop; five events. We are working with the library to make sure not to over-program. The Pocahontas discussion series will move to January 2022.

*Alphabet Rockers (residency of 2 adult and 2 teen band members) – 3rd week of November: workshops with SHARE, SCC and FCPS teachers as part of their residency at MCC.

*Virtual Reality exhibit: We are working through contracting needs for “Traveling While Black.” Canadian Embassy (Quebec office) is a sponsor; Dolley Madison Library wants to co-sponsor (split the time; lower our costs). We hope the exhibit designers will agree to Fairfax Co. contractual terms which are very restrictive. That's the hold-up; we are doing our best to make it happen.

* Trunk-or-Treat at OFC: Selling tickets well (it is tracking with last year's registration level). They need more volunteers (if any of you are available). OFC will provide decorations if board members can bring a car. 60-person waiting list.

*Santa in a Snow Globe event has sold out; we are trying to open another date.

*Damian Sneed will probably sell-out very soon – get your tickets now! The Hannukah musicians will sell-out.

REPORT FROM MCLEAN PROJECTS FOR THE ARTS

Thanks to those who visited the gallery tonight to see the exhibit. Emerson Gallery is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from



1 – 4 p.m.; on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The current exhibit closes Saturday, Nov. 13. Next exhibition will open Dec. 2 - sculpture show: “Give and Take: Building Form” featuring works by Foon Sham, Emilie Brzezinski (local McLean sculptor who did massive tree works); Rachel Rotenberg; Norma Schwartz; “Intersectional Painting” by Sheila Crider.

Fall art classes are going great. **MPA is finding that more of their students do want to be in-person for art classes (they are socially-distant in DuVal Studio). They like the personal interaction with the instructors.**

Thanks to MCC for your support of ArtFest! It was a fabulous use of McLean Central Park and brought out a great crowd! ArtsFairfax – “Art of Mass Gatherings:” they observed and gave tips on how to make future events safer and better. They advised how to improve ADA access; thinking about the environment and engaging people who are disabled – with appropriate signage and access. There is interest in incorporating more sustainability and environmentally-friendly aspects, such as recycling; a water tree component that can be used for future MCP events (less plastic bottles). Many helpful ideas came out of that informative session. ArtsFairfax was very impressed with MCC facilities and the ArtFest event. It was also a fun experience for Scout Troop 128 camping-out in the park- serving as overnight security (Saturday night into Sunday A.M.). In the morning, they helped to unload all the artists’ tents and assisted with set- up. It is great public service experience for the kids. Girls and boys participated; Scouts has broadened their outreach in the community.

ArtReach – at Title 1 schools in Fairfax County, field trips aren’t happening because of the bus situation and safety concerns. MPA is offering some virtual programming for Title 1 schools and bringing in smaller groups: two groups from Second Story program (a “safe youth” program in the Culmore area of Fairfax Co.). They had a tour of the gallery and went outside for an art activity; they really enjoyed it. We will do the same thing with a local private school: St. John’s - will bring a small group in to see the exhibit. MPA also hosted a senior’s group from Lewinsville Senior Center. It is wonderful to be “inching our way back” into meaningful programming. MPA also works with the Best Buddies groups at McLean H.S. and Langley H.S. as well as an alumni group of Best Buddies in the community. They have really enjoyed MPA programming.

CAPITAL FACILITIES PROJECTS – UPDATE *Estimate for roof replacement has come in = \$1.1M

Background: The roof was not replaced as part of the recent-years renovation due to budget constraints at that time. There was agreement by the board that they wanted to stay within a certain budget; the roof didn’t fit into that budget.

Timing: Not an immediate issue; the roof is many years old and eventually we will have to do it. Some immediate needs must be addressed: some cracks to be fixed; tuck pointing; those will be taken care of immediately.

Coordination with future project to install solar roof panels: Fairfax Co. is moving toward solar roofs or green roofs on county buildings. Not knowing what the insertion points will be, we don’t want to invest in a brand-new roof and then have to rip it up to install solar panels. We are trying to align all such decision pieces. It will take some time because the county lost their vendor for solar panels – they’ve re-started the process with a new vendor.

Concern about possible safety impact of unrepaired roof on MCC structure: There are NO safety concerns, though ongoing leaks in the roof. We are fixing whatever we can (cracks; tuck pointing; seams; connection points). There is no threat of a roof collapse. Inspecting vendors are required by law to give us a warning if there were to be any such imminent danger.

Stormwater is the other issue:

Question: Was it clear during the renovation construction that the advice was to replace this roof? Was the guidance to do such work?

No – they weren’t considering the roof at that time. Stormwater runoff was the primary concern back then (a \$2M fix at that point; but it’s still not fixed). We are working with county Facilities Management to get an estimate from an architect to see if we need to get a second stormwater drain installed from the front to the back (current one is at capacity because of climate change and the speed at which water is coming down).

Stormwater also comes in from the floor: *Question: Will replacement of the roof this address that?*

We are getting water from both sides: from the roof and from the floor. The roof repair will cover the floor portion; and we hope will also prevent some of the spill-over into the sides where then the drains get over-filled. We are looking at getting a possible second stormwater runoff to prevent the water that’s coming in from the floor into the building.

Coordination with county vendors: We are awaiting consultation with a stormwater management specialist. We must go through county vendors. About 30-40 county buildings are all dealing with similar issues right now because of the age they were built and surrounding construction built after the county buildings that were all higher. This is a bid from one county-approved vendor. Before we finalize anything, we would get other bids. The county has a rigorous process by which to vet vendors. If we use a vendor the county already has on their approved list, then we don't have to get three bids. But we will do it anyway, just to be safe.

ACTION ITEM: Each evaluation comes with a cost (Joe McGovern knows). I can get that information for you. We will get other opinions on this before we finalize anything.

Strategic implications – we need a vendor who understands environmental resiliency:

Opinion expressed: As we do the strategic planning, it's key to consider resiliency because of extreme weather. We really need to look at what's going to happen 30-years from now with an eye toward resiliency and not the 'here-and-now' - which has been the way people looked at things for so long. You must consider the future. I'd appreciate you finding a vendor that has an eye toward the science of climate.

Question: Does Fairfax County have any sorts of 'package' deals where we could get the solar panels + roof repair, as part of the movement toward green buildings? That would be important because it could shave-off half the price...

It's possible the county might subsidize the roof repairs. As long as safety is not an issue, putting it off might open up grant funding for the roof panels. We are looking at all such options.

Burst Sewer Pipe in basement under Rehearsal Hall: (bathrooms in lower level are closed-off now). \$\$Expensive repair.

Background: Drain flies appeared throughout MCC building for the past 6 months – four different plumber consultants could not figure it out. They finally put cameras through every pipe and found the problem to be a section that's broken. It requires opening up Rehearsal Hall dance floor and boring through an 8-foot solid concrete subfloor to get to all the pipes. When they ran the camera through the basement level, that's the only broken pipe they found (because we wanted to make sure there weren't other holes for the drain flies getting in). Nothing else is broken on the basement level, but we can ask them to do it on the other levels too. They have a new technology of trying to force a PVC pipe through, which didn't work because of the number of harsh 90-degree bends in the pipe. Newer plumbing does not have such harsh bends.

Timing: We are awaiting estimates; four or five different subcontractors will be involved. It's not going to be cheap. Also awaiting the necessary parts (a supply chain problem). Projecting a 5-6 week shutdown of the Rehearsal Hall. There may be a couple of days when the entire building is affected if water must be shut off during repairs. We hope this will coincide with winter break between classes. We will get an estimate for board approval before proceeding. It all seems like a string of bad news; but MCC is a 50-year-old building - such things happen.

RECOMMENDATION by Executive Director Singh: *Implications for future budget – proactively fund for large capital expenses.*

Right now, the only way our Reserve builds is if we under-perform on our Operations: if we say we are going to do \$3M worth of programming and we only do \$2.8M, that moves \$200K into Reserve. **I recommend that we proactively fund our Reserve outside of the identified Capital Facilities projects – for unknowns.** Because in a good year, if all programmers program everything, that means that our Reserve doesn't grow that year. The board may want to consider every year setting aside \$250K towards Reserve because this year, we're going to go through more than that. It would put us in a better place rather than hoping that programmers don't spend down everything and that we can use any 'extra' for our Reserve. We try to anticipate what we do need to change (and put that in Capital budget). But that doesn't protect us from what is unknown... and contingencies. **The strategic planning consultants may recommend: based on your Operating budget and the size of MCC facility, maybe you should put this much \$\$ aside as a Reserve, going forward. That might be a new structure for how we develop the FY2024 budget.** A way of such thinking is to ask: In which year should we do a comprehensive re-install of all the pipes? MCC is a 50-year old building – and at what year do the plumbing engineers say that you need to re-do all pipes?

Summary by Chair Zamora-Appel: For planning, we would ask: What are the risks that we will see in the next 5-10 years? And based on that, then the board will work on that budget incrementally. So that when things break again, we will be prepared.



Question: Can Friends of MCC help us with any of these expenses? They are looking for 'big' projects.

Typically, Friends of MCC likes to do something new or an addition. We can ask them to financially support repairs, but it's not easy to convince them to pay for repairs that we should have been conducting.

ACTION ITEM: We can definitely ask Friends of MCC at the next meeting with their chair.

Garden: We will be discussing various options for the garden – whether it's going to be a rain garden or a pollinator garden and how we will phase it. We will have more updates on that soon.

FY2023 PROPOSED BUDGET

MOTION: Following the board's unanimous vote at a Special Called Meeting on October 13, that the Governing Board direct staff to submit this board-approved FY23 Budget Proposal to Fairfax County on or before October 31, 2021.

Unanimously approved

STRATEGIC PLANNING – UPDATE

Community Listening Sessions (public feedback):

November 18 – first public Community Listening Session at 6:00 p.m. (in-person)

2nd proposed Community Listening Session online (with breakout groups in ZOOM) – date t.b.d.

If anyone wants to participate there is a link on MCC website. People have been asking if it will be offered online.

Survey (public feedback):

We've set a strict budget to finish the plan by end of February; to stay on that track, they would have to do a survey soon (next week). It pushes into our budget planning season for FY24; one reason for doing it this soon is to have the board have it in the budget for next year and not be unprepared. That's pros-and-cons about doing it sooner rather than later.

Question for the board: Are you comfortable doing it from November 10 – 24? If we can get 200 survey results, that would be a good base.

- **SURVEY TIMELINE:** November 1 – 30, 2021
Draft Protocol – week of November 1 sent to you for approval. FEEDBACK due by Friday; finalized by weekend.
Coding week of November 8 (immediate advertising & promotion)
In the field (live) for data gathering: November 10- December 3; Week before Thanksgiving might be problematic; Suggest extending it through Dec. 3
Analysis
Workshop sometime week of December 13 with pre-read materials due Friday before.
- **SURVEY METHOD:** online
- **MARKETING:** dedicated e-mail blasts to – OFC; MCC; The Alden;
- **PARTNERSHIPS:** partnerships with faith-based organizations; outreach to local PTA's, Safe Community Coalition, Rotary Club; MCA
- **PAID ADS:** social media; local newspapers
- **IN-PERSON:** iPads at Giant to grab people to do the survey; also a lot of community events at holiday time; go to community meetings – bring paper copies; put link in chat windows. We can give you QR codes to share.
- **GOAL:** 200 participants (Small District 1A-Dranesville residents) – ideally. It's not statistically sound – just a scattershot approach. To do a formal, statistically accurate survey, it would cost \$150K. What is our floor for this? We have to set the number that is O.K. The consultants usually suggest 500 people (1%).

Decisions to consider NOW:

1. Is this immediate timing accurate and do-able? Nov. 10 through 24?

2. If not now, then can we live with a delay of starting the survey in January 2022 (to avoid holiday season)? One reason why doing this now is to have the board have answers by next year's budget process.
Opinion expressed: The only downside is it's the week before Thanksgiving; we could open it through December 3
Question: Are we delaying the start? No – we are extending the window to December 10?
Clarification by Executive Director Singh: If we stayed on track and did the survey in November, they will finish the strategic plan in February. If we move the survey to January 2022, they will finish the strategic plan in April 2022.
3. Promotion: *Question: Would you all be willing to go to clubs after school with iPads? Or at sports events?*
Question: Can we send a single notice to everyone who gets our e-mails? I don't want it to be part of the usual newsletter which has 100 things on it.
Opinion expressed: There are many big holiday events in December where people will be gathering. And go to any meetings to put a link in the chat window (or QR codes)
Opinion expressed: The survey might be skewed because adults usually participate more than youth. Reach out to different high schools and high school counselors. **Because kids do not spontaneously come to MCC events; they must be told about it and encouraged to go.** Do a QR code or a link and people will click on it. A lot of people at schools do look at them (and parents forward it to their kids). That usually gets a lot of attention.
Opinion expressed: McLean High School has an Afternoon News Show (Max will organize). People will fill it out.
4. Can we accept as definitive such results from 200 target respondents... or potentially fewer?
 This is not a statistically valid survey – it's just a scattershot approach to get the best feedback we can get. What is our floor for this? We have to set a minimum number. The consultant usually recommends 1% = 500 people.
Opinion expressed: My concern is that other than single issues, we don't have representation from the public. So we need a serious change in how we get people. We need to see the plan for how they are going to engage the people. **In this quick turnaround, we can't get all the voices – just that narrow window. This has been an issue for a long time. Are there unique ways for how to get input from all sides of the community – and can we do it that quickly? We'd like to see the strategy for getting this all out into the community.**
Question: I reached out to try to get people for MCP to do this – one issue became not knowing who is in tax district and who isn't. How will we know that we are getting people from the tax district?
 The people who will get the mailer would be only the zip codes that are in the tax district. We have a mailing list that has specific sub-zip codes. People can forward electronic stuff (there is no way to prevent that). The consultant usually takes into account a certain amount of 'noise.' The simple one is to ask: Are you part of the tax district? But people might not know.
Question: Is it possible to embed a link to check their address? Yes – we can do that.
Question: Do we know from census data how many in our tax district households are under a certain age? Usually a 30% response rate is pretty good.
 If we get 500 people that would be great. The more robust you want it, the more expensive and longer time frame. Reston CC survey was \$150K and they had 4,000 respondents. We don't have budget for that right now. We can build that in for future years.

ELECTIONS & NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE *preparation for 2022 MCC Governing Board election

Revert back - reconsideration of how the Executive Committee is elected: In the past, it was the opportunity of the new incoming board to elect their officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary). Last year we tried another method where the 'legacy' board members voted for the future officers of the new incoming board. We will discuss again in November, bringing a MOTION to the board to vote on reverting back to the way it used to be. **Goal of reverting back is to make sure that both the Executive Committee and incoming Board reflect the community in the time and place.**

Election process for officers was not traditional because we were in virtual mode that created a hardship: there was a storm and power outage - one board member was unable to vote. What type of procedures do we have in place to handle something like that? It was very strange. In a normal year, at the first meeting in June, all board members are sworn-in and



thus are present. If someone is sick or can't attend, how do we handle that? We will find out the procedure to have all board members present in case there is an incident where someone can't make it due to a personal emergency.

Key dates of 2022 election Starts with January date when packets will be available for prospective candidates. Trial-and-error as candidates told us about their experiences: the impression is that campaigning begins immediately when you pick up the packet. We are trying to clarify this in the packet (exactly when it starts). We will have procedural improvements to be clear. In 2022, all election procedures will go back to pre-pandemic: 1. early voting and 2. in-person at McLean Day.

We also talked about doing FOIA training immediately after the board members are sworn in (in June) because these individuals are volunteers and likely don't have that kind of knowledge or background. It would serve a good purpose to do it immediately after the swearing-in ceremony.

Accountability and Transparency: Ms. Novak and previous ENC Chairs worked on documenting procedures for how the election takes place. A contract is signed with League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area – they are the only ones who actually handle the ballots and count votes. They confirm via two processes that the address of the ballot-holder is actually a Small District 1A-Dranesville resident.

Electronic voting? We will ask LWV if there is a way that voting can take place electronically, including confirming all the affidavits. As far as we know, we don't think it can happen. RCC has a one vote/one household system and they do that electronically. We don't offer the electronic voting method because MCC has youth board members, which means that each household may have various adult/youth votes. The database we receive from Fairfax County does not indicate household composition. It would likely be difficult to keep track of that electronically.

We will send out postcards alerting 18K tax district residents that the MCC Governing Board election is taking place and if there are people who are interested in running. While not environmentally-friendly, it's a very good way to touch every residence to increase awareness. QR codes and more details can be put on the postcard. PIO office will be able to design a postcard talking about the election and encouraging people to run. We will make it as cost-effective and environmentally friendly as possible.

Best practices: We asked for input from experiences of board members as to election successes and failures. MCC just won an award at VRPS for the best social media campaign about the 2020 election (since we didn't have in-person voting). Kyle Corwin did all the social media for our online method since we didn't have in-person voting.

Comment by Ms. Novak: That was the sudden shift made during COVID-19 when everything shut down and we pivoted in 2020 to an online method totally. It was difficult, but innovative. And that was what MCC actually got recognized for!

PROGRAMS & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Following the meeting last week, the Minutes were approved and the final version of the DEAI statement is ready to be released. We voted on the following motion that is now put forward to the whole board:

MOTION: Resolved, that all programs, classes, products, services, and special events of the McLean Community Center (MCC) are developed and aligned with the four core values of the McLean Community Center Governing Board's statement of commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and access (DEIA) and Fairfax County's OneFairfax policy.

Whereas, we, the MCC Governing Board uphold the following core values:

1. Envisions MCC as an inclusive gathering place where residents of all socio-economic levels, races, religions, genders, backgrounds and orientations find a safe and nurturing community.
2. Is invested in the physical, emotional and mental wellbeing of our staff and the McLean community.

3. Commits to doing its part as caretakers and leaders in our community and the global movement towards diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility.
4. Resolves that MCC's programming and civil dialogues will engage all participants with ongoing efforts toward inclusion and equity.

We stand with the MCC staff members and fully support their work on DEIA.

Unanimously approved.

50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

The major action is trying to get more people to participate on this committee to help with planning and activities. Looking for more people to volunteer and join the committee is the big emphasis. Then ideas, leadership and direction will come.

MPA's 60th anniversary is coming up next year: 2022. Vice-Chair Post mentioned that she brought up the idea of helping MPA and integrating in each other's anniversary activities such as potential installation of artwork. MPA is just now forming their anniversary committee.

ACTION ITEM: Bill Glikbarg will contact Deb Bissen (MPA). Coordination between the two organizations is a good idea.

OLD / NEW BUSINESS

1. Advice from county lawyers about dealing with the public:

The board is interested is seeking a way to somehow have a meaningful 'dialogue' with members of the community rather than appearing to not heed or directly respond to feedback from the public. We are waiting for the lawyers and our PIO officer to find a date for such guidance (hoping at the December meeting it will happen.) What the lawyers are giving is a recommendation. The board is free to go outside those recommendations and do what you want.

Executive Director Singh refers back to how the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors run their meetings: taking comments but NOT engaging with the public in-the-moment. Anytime an elected official makes a comment, it can then be said that "... You said this on this date.." The MCC Governing Board is elected officials. We can have a response to the public. We had such today by the Chair of Programs & Outreach Committee reading the DEIA resolution. That is a very thoughtful, detailed response that the MCC Governing Board has expressed completely of its own volition. You are free to do such written responses as a board later down-the-road. I don't think responding in-the-moment is a good tactic.

Goals of interacting with the public:

1. We need to promote public civility. I feel very inhibited that I'm not able to say, "OK. So this is your point of view, but can you understand from this perspective how what is being said is demeaning, derogatory, and just not nice.
2. As board members we represent the public – it should be part of our job to be able to engage with the public. If people come in for public comments... even if it's about something really, really small or something really, really big... we should be able to talk about it. Maybe it's as simple as having time dedicated at the end of every meeting where we as a board discuss what has been brought up in Public comment in meetings before. I think that's really important. And I understand that everyone has different takes on it and is coming from a good place. That's why I think a meeting with the lawyers would be helpful so that we can understand that is guidance to us... vs. actually what is black and white/not allowed.
3. To correct misinformation. I'm a social scientist and when I hear things that go against the scientific evidence, I would also like respond to that. As a scientist, I'm hearing a lot of public comments that are not supported accurately by the scientific evidence. So there is not really a formal way for me to respond to that. We may want to consider putting out a public statement sometimes to counter a lot of scientifically inaccurate information.
4. Engaging with the public may not change minds. Is your expectation that, by engaging you are going to change minds? Or are you just looking for dialogue? Because skeptically, you're not going to change certain peoples' minds. They are

stuck in a mentality and are weaponizing that against this board. What is the outcome? Because this is a weaponization. We need to think about: we want to engage and stand up for our beliefs, but how do we do it productively

5. To stand up for principles and for other people: In some situations, maybe some people's minds can be changed. But I agree that some people are too far down the rabbit hole that you can't. But especially when it's hate speech or things that are not true or mean, it's important for us to have that dialog and stand-up for people, because of some other people who will be reading the meeting Minutes... or are in the room. Some of the public comments I have heard are ridiculous to me, and we sit there silently. If my other peers who are part LGTB community were in the room, they would be really sad to hear those comments and also to hear us be silent about it.

6. To follow broad, consistent policies that apply to everyone from the public: When we make policies, it's important to make them on a theoretical level, not situational case-by-case. It's important for us to address the public comment no matter what it has been. For example, two weeks ago, my grandmother came in and asked for dancing for senior citizens. It's so small and even for little things like that, if it takes ten minutes out of our meetings, it's the principle of acknowledging and discussing the feasibility of what people bring in public comment - that's important on the principle of it.

7. To correct misunderstandings about MCC Board processes: Sometimes members of the public are adding their perceptions of what they've experienced or their "first read" of information that's on MCC's website... or things they hear in meetings. I do think there should be 10 minutes of going through Minutes of the previous session. We have a lot of meetings and are processing a lot of information quickly. And anything we can do to help Ms. Novak and Maria do that... because some things are said that are just plain not facts. And incorrect assertions about activities of the board and staff that should be addressed. Let's talk to the lawyers who are there to protect board, staff and MCC as an institution. It doesn't need to be in real-time but there does need to be a mechanism where the board can take into consideration... review what has been said... and can address inaccuracies.

8. To coincide and follow what Fairfax County is requiring of its agencies at the local level. As in the DEIA statement, come together as a board, hearing from the public view, re-affirming DEIA and OneFairfax policy – which is what the public boards in the county are behind. Let's find a better mechanism than what we have now, so that it's not felt that there is not a dialogue between the board and public.

9. To value people by acknowledging their expression of opinions. I want to find a way to have a dialogue (civility has to be maintained). Some way that they feel we have heard and listened understand what you are saying, at a minimum. I can't fathom a person saying "It's not worth me coming to the meetings because nobody listens to me. Nobody understands what I'm saying." I'm here to understand what the public needs and wants. We need to have some ability to listen to the public and them have the feeling that we've heard them. We have to have some way of making them feel that they've been heard.

10. To demonstrate that MCC is a welcoming organization to all who live in McLean (changing demographics). There are 17,948 households in McLean– 50,773 people; only 20% are over age 65 -but yet, that's what we hear the most of. So, what is happening with the rest (73% of people over the age of 18)? Some things we heard in this room I have been shocked– that's not the kind of thing that I expected in my life in this room here, that we are in. It is not civil. Calling names and saying all these awful things... I guess in peoples' minds that believe them – that is their truth. But what about everyone else? I'm a believer of civility and human interaction. It's a basic human right to respect people no matter what their background, their age, or where they are coming from. McLean Community Center should be welcoming of anyone regardless of who they are, because there are 50K people in McLean. And we only see a tiny, tiny percentage of the McLean community. Many people don't know that residents pay taxes to fund MCC. We do need to find out who those new community members are... who their families are...and welcome them to MCC which was built for the idea of community. We want to be a welcoming organization, having the basic idea of a 'human right' -to welcome people regardless of where they are coming from. Since 1978 was when the bond measure was passed, MCC has had decades to grow. Virginia is not the state that it was in 1920's, 1930's, 1940's, 1950's; but some people want to still live in that environment. I will say: Come to have a dialogue – but be civil about it.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Zamora-Appel invited the public to introduce themselves and give verbal remarks if they wished. Some had requested in advance to speak; all were verified as being Small District 1A-Dranesville residents. Each person was allotted three minutes to speak.

1. Christopher Henzel

The MC continues to operate in a non-responsive and non-transparent manner. The MCC board spent much of the last five months attempting to minimize public involvement. For example, on August 4, they discussed a new rule to minimize public comment in MCC meetings. The board has restructured its entire e-mail system in order to hide from FOIA inquiries. The MCC Board has had two meetings closed to the public: on September 8 and September 29. What did the board discuss in those meetings? The MCC Board and its committees have called several meetings with very little public notice in an apparent attempt to minimize public witness to their discussions. The MCC Board has finally (only today) publicized the Minutes of its meetings of July 15 and September 2.

Why the delay? We all know what is driving this. The MCC paid for Drag Queen performances June 26 for small children. At all of the MCC's public meetings since, the community has been asking the MCC to have an open public discussion on this controversy – a discussion the MCC Board Chair promised on July 15. The public discussion still has not happened and the MCC Board seems committed to continuing this type of malpractice while avoiding public discussion about it.

This evening the board adopted a very strange resolution about inclusion. It's strange because the resolution is a response to a question that no one asked. The word "Drag" does not appear anywhere in the text. It does not in any way address the June 26 misuse of taxpayer funds. When will you – the MCC Board - have the public discussion about the June 26 Drag performance? And if you believe that what you did on June 26 was right, why won't you stand up and say so.

Written remarks submitted by Mr. Henzel (via e-mail on 10-27-21)

The MCC continues to operate in a non-responsive and non-transparent manner.

The MCC board spent much of the last five months attempting to minimize public involvement. For example, it discussed on August 4 a new rule to minimize public comment at MCC meetings.

As we heard tonight, the board has restructured its entire email system in order to hide communications from Freedom of Information Act inquiries.

The MCC board had two meetings closed to the public, on September 8 and September 29. What did the board discuss in those meetings?

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The MCC board has finally, only today, publicized the minutes of its meetings of July 15 and September 2. Why the delay?

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When will you, the MCC board, have the public discussion about the June 26 drag performances? And if you believe that what you did on June 26 was right, why won't you stand up and say so?

2. Steven Aoki

Thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to address the Board. My name is Steve Aoki and my family and I have lived in McLean, in the tax district for 35 years. Over the years, we have participated in many activities at the McLean Community Center. We started in a baby play group with our babies; and since then, there have been many theater performances, community orchestra performances, we have rented facilities in this building for family and other group events, and we've been to art exhibits and taken classes ourselves and our children - that are given upstairs. So, I am very happy to see MCC resuming in-person activities, resuming hopefully, something of a normal schedule. But knowing there has been quite a bit of contention and controversy about various things that I have no personal knowledge of and am not interested in discussing, I just wanted to make sure that public commentary does reflect the fact that there are many members of the public, including myself and my family, who are actually very pleased with the programming at the Center, and very pleased with the way the Center has offered. While nobody likes to pay taxes, I'm perfectly happy also to pay the



assessment that goes to support the activities of the Center, because I think it does, in fact, contribute to the wellbeing of this community.

I wanted to come down and make sure to speak specifically to the point that the public who is perhaps not commenting is out there. And there are many of those who think that the Center as a whole is doing a good job and is being responsive to the interests, needs, and diversity of the community that it represents.

I'd like to point out one example: we were at the MPA ArtFest earlier this month and it was really very gratifying to see all the people who showed up – all the people from around town and out of town who came to see the exhibitors. I was particularly struck by some of the musical performances – because there was quite a variety of people from different backgrounds and not necessarily just one for every ethnicity or every 'box' that you might check. It was very gratifying indeed, to see there were interesting combinations... people from differing backgrounds... and drawing from different traditions... who managed to put together a very sophisticated and entertaining performance program.

I'm very happy to see that the MCC getting back to business. I look forward to continuing to attend activities here and really appreciate all the staff and volunteers and board members who are carrying this work forward. I sent in a written comment that was a little bit different, not knowing whether or not I would be here tonight. But I did want to show up and say this. Thank you.

(written comments submitted by Steven Aoki on 10/25/21)

From: Steven Aoki <saoki1972@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, October 25, 2021 4:47 PM

To: feedback@mcleancenter.org

Subject: Public comment submission

My name is Steve Aoki. My family and I have lived in the McLean Special Tax District for 35 years. Over the years, we have participated in many activities at the McLean Community Center, ranging from baby playgroup through theater and community orchestra performances to art exhibits and classes aimed at seniors. As the Center resumes a full range of activities post-COVID, I wanted to express my appreciation for the quality and variety of choices being offered. As an example, the MPAartfest earlier this month featured both visual artists and performances by locally-based musicians, attracting a large, happy, and diverse audience. As befits a community like ours with roots in many cultures and nations, we were exposed to a sophisticated mix of influences and inputs from around the U.S. and the world. I'm looking forward to seeing more of this imaginative and eye-opening programming at MCC.

3. Rev. Dr. Scott Ramsey – Pastor, Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, McLean, VA

Good evening, everybody. I'm Scott Ramsey and I'm the Senior Pastor at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, down Dolley Madison Blvd. and up Great Falls Street. We are very grateful for the work of the McLean Community Center and the Dolley Madison Library. The Alden Theatre here on the campus is named in honor of Bob Alden who was a member of our congregation for a long time and died during the pandemic. We feel a close connection with the community center and we're grateful for the work here. One of the reasons that I'm grateful for the library and the community center... and I just want to say: "Thank you all for...". I go to a decent number of church meetings where we sit around tables like this and you have MOTIONS and all of that. Thank you all for doing this! Just process... you all are doing great! So thank you for your time and commitment to this.

One of the reasons that I'm grateful for what you all are doing here at the community center is because of your commitment to DEIA, my sense is that one of the great opportunities and challenges of the time we are living through is: figuring out how to expand the circle of participants, and stakeholders and the wellbeing of our communities. The Presbyterian Church (USA), of which Lewinsville is a part, has had its own long and winding journey with issues of inclusion and diversity. First, in terms of women's leadership – it took us a long time to get around that. In terms of racial diversity - we are still in the midst of that. We are a heavily white denomination; and trying to work at that. Involvement with LGBTQ members in leadership... and a lot of things. We are still very much on that journey in trying to figure out what the right thing for us as a church is – trying to figure out and discern together how we are called to live in light of our understanding of God's grace



and God's love. These aren't easy issues in the church. They are not easy issues in the wider community. We disagree about them a lot in the church. We disagree about them a lot in the community. And that's part of why the life in a congregation and life in the community is such an interesting time to be alive!

My own read of the Bible and my own life of prayer have convinced me that the path of God's grace is one of widening circles of inclusion. So, that informs my thinking at the congregational level and is why I feel strongly about efforts in the wider community where churches can be supportive of that.

It's routinely been my experience over the years... there are times where, for one reason or another, we're called to say: This is the line: goodness is over here... and wrong is over here. I think there are times when we are called to do that, but it is regularly my experience that, when I draw a line like that, something happens... or somebody comes along... and it becomes clear that God is also on the other side of the line from where I am. And so, it feels to me that doing all of this stuff with humility and with as much grace as we're able to conjure, is just really important.

So again, I just want to thank you all for what you're doing and how you're trying to figure out how to lead a diverse community through this time. Thank you for what you are doing and we look forward to continuing to partner with you all.

4. Alice Middleton

I attended the Borsonovich duo on Sunday at The Alden theatre and I have to say: I've been to many violin performances (including hearing Izak Perlman) but I have never heard a violinist as beautiful as that violinist was on Sunday. I also attended ArtFest in early October. In the interest of diversity and equity, I would like to ask the board if they have yet funded a heterosexual couple to read at the story hour at the Dolley Madison Library? If we're going to fund a Drag Queen, I think we should also fund a heterosexual couple. So, I'd like the board to propose that I would like to apply for the job. I'd be happy to earn \$900 in three hours.

Also in the interest of equity, I drive a gas powered car (not an electric car). So, in the interest of equity, I would like to ask the McLean Community Center to rip out all its landscaping and all those trees and plough the land and plant corn that can be converted into ethanol for my car. Because I feel: if you're going to be funding EV cars, then you must equally fund people who don't drive electric cars. So that's my point.

And I also note that when I came in tonight, there is a lighting display on this building that is in rainbow colors – and that's beautiful. But I assume it's for LGBTQ+ week. But I would like to ask that in December, that the lighting be changed to purple - which is the penitential color for Advent; and that the 8 days of Hannakuh – it be made silver and blue; and that the 14 days of Christmas starting December 25 and going until January 6, that the lighting be red and green. Thank you very much.

5. Merrily Pierce

I'm Merrily Pierce – long-time resident and former member of this board. My comment is very simple: you have already approved your Minutes of July 15 – I have as a courtesy a correction of an item noting that MCA had a campaign in opposition to the amphitheater. We did not have a campaign in opposition on the amphitheater. We simply... the MCA board passed a resolution which was passed to the Park Authority. That was the only that action we took. If we had had any kind of a campaign (which is unusual), we would have identified if anything had been printed and distributed. The information that had come out about signage in MCP – (I was away in the summer but the word got passed around). To make certain that we didn't have campaign, I checked with chair of Environment and Parks Recreation Committee – and she said that the first she learned of any signs was when somebody had called her.

So, there was an assumption that we had a campaign – which we did not. And since we are the primary benefactor and a sister organization, communication is always a key. And frequently, an assumption that somebody has done something can lead to a misunderstanding and hard feelings, when a simple question to the organization's president can solve a lot of issues.



So if you would make that sentence correction in July 15 Minutes: that MCA did not have a campaign against the amphitheater – we would appreciate it, as a courtesy. Thank you.

Response by Chair Zamora-Appel to each person after they spoke:

We appreciate your taking the time to share your comments regarding (TOPIC).
All community feedback is valuable and will be taken into consideration.

Remarks by Chair Zamora-Appel at the conclusion of all verbal public comments:

We thank members of the public for contributing their feedback this evening.
The MCC Governing Board takes your suggestions very seriously.

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

We have very strict county regulations and stringent oversight of our work in all areas, and we work hard to meet these needs in being responsible to our taxpayers.

We are committed to transparency and make the process open to the public.

We welcome you back to future events at the McLean Community Center to see the value of your tax dollars at work.

The following public comments by Small District 1A-Dranesville residents were submitted in writing in advance of this meeting. Each person received the following standard reply at the time they wrote to MCC:

Dear _____

We appreciate your taking the time to share your thoughts regarding _____.

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

1. Janet Tysse *referencing e-newsletter distributed by MCC on 9/30

From: Janet Tysse <janetyss@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 2:52 PM

To: mail@mcleancenter.org <mail@mcleancenter.org>

Subject: Re: We Welcome All

THIS is NOT McLean. Of course we welcome all, why is this director so intent on dividing us by class, color, sexuality. STOP!! I have lived in McLean for 40 years and the MCC has always been a welcoming place for our MCC district tax paying residents. STOP the social justice pandering.

I have 4 kids who participated in the plays at the MCC for 10 years. I am past President of the McLean Community Foundation and I never thought I would see this 'woke' language coming out of my community center. I will not participate in any more programs there until this stops. This is NOT



welcoming, as was the trans story hour for toddlers. THIS IS NOT MCLEAN. GO somewhere else and spread your woke rhetoric.

Sincerely,
Janet Tysse
An angry taxpayer.

2. Nicholas Kalis

From: Nicholas Kalis <nkalis@kaliscompanies.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 3:38 PM

To: feedback@mcleancenter.org

Subject: McLean Community Center's Woke Warrior Has Organized an LGBTQ+ Event for 6 year olds and above at the MCC

Dear MCC Board:

Share with daniel.singh@fairfaxcounty.gov your thoughts about his LGBT+ program [McLean Community Center - LGBTQ+ Ally Week Party on the Plaza \(with free t-shirts!\) \(mcleancenter.org\)](https://mcleancenter.org) for six year olds scheduled for the McLean Community Center on Friday **October 8** 2021.
Oh, Music and free T-shirts included.

This event is a bad idea to say the least. At the very least, the optics are abysmal ... and to use a popular term – it is divisive.

A very poor use of taxpayer monies.
Nicholas Kalis
McLean, Virginia
Former MCC Board Member
Home Owner, MCC Taxing District

3. Richard Porter **forwarding Jeffrey Shapiro's Letter to Editor in Fairfax Times on 10/8*

In reply to Drag Story Hour article

Jul 30, 2021

Dear Editor,

I write concerning the Drag Story Hour held in the McLean Library on a Saturday in late June 2021.

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.

According to reporting in the Fairfax County Times, Maja Dyka introduced herself as a Drag King. She had a beard and mustache made from glitter. Persephone Rose introduced himself as a non-binary transgender woman, which is a lot of words to say that isn't a normal woman that gets to define what that means for myself. He proclaimed his pronouns as he/him 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 upon hearing the stuffed dog called a cat, a woman in the audience asked, "Please don't confuse the children." Kamari Sutra 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 woman and her son. (The name, Kamari Sutra, of course, is a thinly disguised play on the Kama Sutra.)

In an email from MCC Director Singh to a McLean resident (dated July 7, 2021), he described this show as part of the television set forth by Fairfax County's One Fairfax initiative. He also said it was part of this community's heritage.

As one attendee reported, when she displayed disapproval of this event, Director Singh angrily told me that if I was concerned about the well-being of children I should write to the Pope.

Why This is Wrong for Fairfax County: Using taxpayer money (each performer received \$300/hour), the Fairfax County government enticed families with young children to an event featuring sex performers, with obscene and/or sexualized names, in burlesque clothes, and discussing their own perceived sexual identity, which in some cases shifts 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 exposed young children to adult issues of sexual identity, blurring the boundary between male and female. 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 justifies this event as part of Gay Pride. But that gloss does not help. First, the criticism would apply to a heterosexual version of the same event. It is not appropriate for Fairfax County to deliberately expose young children to the denizens of erotic adult entertainment. Period.

Second, there is no Fairfax County heritage of exposing young children to drag queens. It was Director Singh who initiated this unprecedented event. Furthermore, he revealed there was a didactic intent according to 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. Director Singh was not celebrating the community's heritage but attempting to shape its future according to his own views.

Director Singh justifies this event as intended to reduce suicide among gay teens. But this story book reading event was for young children and any connection to preventing teen suicide is nonexistent 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 even old enough to understand it.

Director Singh also wraps the event in the mantle of the OneFairfax policy. Maybe so, but the OneFairfax policy, claims to foster equality and social equity defined to include all religions within the county. This OneFairfax event intolerantly trampled deeply held religious beliefs in the McLean community. So much for inclusivity. It was likely problematic to many more citizens who, even if not particularly religious, would naturally perceive this event as wholly unsuitable for children.

Fairfax County can do better. Perhaps the MCC and the McLean Library would consider a children's story hour led by senior citizen volunteers. The volunteers could read beloved children's stories. Call it StoryReading 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.

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.

A Fairfax County government event should not push a divisive agenda that tramples deeply held beliefs among the citizenry, creates an unsafe environment for children, and uses them as ideological props. That is not what representative government is supposed to do.

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.

Jeffrey Shapiro

McLean, VA

4. Social media posts – October 9, 2021

9:10



m.facebook...




You and 16 others

2 Shares



Teddy Kirmizi

You need to add Zumba Gold!  1

1 wk Like Reply More



Margo Lane

Juli Vermillion check this out!

on Mon Like Reply More



Deborah Moses

These are very sedentary programs. Not so great for the active 65 year olds!



on Wed Like Reply More



Joan Smutko

Deborah Moses, Agree. Seniors in Action, with emphasis on the "Action" is a misnomer. Not much intellectual challenge, either.

7 hrs Like Reply More



Write a reply...

Reply





5. Catharine Trauernicht

Still – that e-mail address (feedback@mcleancenter.org) is the central destination we use for responding to the public (no matter the topic). That is the most effective way to receive a response back to your question.

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: cwtrau@verizon.net <cwtrau@verizon.net>

Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 3:40 PM

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

Subject: Re: Email question

Oh, Holly, it's not opinion-sharing that I have. I have a financial question.

On Monday, October 11, 2021, 3:12 PM, Novak, Holly R <Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov> wrote:

Hello. Thank you for your interest in reaching out to the McLean Community Center Governing Board. Public comments may be sent to the following e-mail address: feedback@mcleancenter.org This is the central destination for sharing your opinions pertaining to business matters of the MCC Governing Board.

Sincerely,

Holly Novak

Executive Assistant to the Governing Board

McLean Community Center

-----Original Message-----

From: Catharine Trauernicht <cwtrau@verizon.net>

Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 2:44 PM

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

Subject: Email question

Hi, Holly. Do you have email addresses for Board members? I'd like to ask the Finance and Program & Outreach Chairs a question, copying the Board Chair.

Thanks for letting me know,

Cathy

Next message from Catharine Trauernicht:

Hello. Please direct this email to:

Shivani Saboo, Chair of the Finance Committee

Suzanne Le Menestrel, Chair of the Program & Outreach Committee

Barbara Zamora-Appel, Board Chair and ex-officio member of the committees

Dear Ms. Saboo, Ms. Le Menestrel and Ms. Zamora-Appel,



I write to you as a resident of McLean with a few questions regarding the finances of the McLean Community Center.

- 1) As you prepare your budgets, how do you calculate projected **revenues and expenses** for: **Special Events, Performing Arts and Youth Programs**?

How do you calculate ticket prices for those events/programs? Do those prices bear any relationship to expenses for the events? For events/programs that do not require a ticket, do you calculate "lost revenue" for that event/program?

- 2) If I read the FY22 preliminary projections correctly, revenues from Special Events, Performing Arts and Youth Programs come nowhere close to covering expenses in those three areas. **FY22 projections show Special Events running a deficit of \$515,171; Performing Arts a deficit of \$1,163,885; and Youth Programs a deficit of \$219,050.**

What sources of revenue do you rely upon to cover those deficits?

- 3) Are event/program **attendees** required to be residents of McLean? If so, how do you verify that they live in McLean?

Thank you for helping me to better understand the finances of the MCC.

Sincerely,
Catharine Trauernicht

6. Paul Kohlenberger

From: Paul Kohlenberger <paulkohl@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 4:57 PM
To: Karra, Ashok <Ashok.Karra@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Cc: Novak, Holly R <Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Re: Revised FY2023 Proposed Budget

Hi Ashok-

Not having received it from you after about 24 hours, I dropped by the Center this afternoon to see about a hardcopy. The hardcopy available (as well as the soft copy on the website) was indistinguishable from the 9/22 version except for the title. (Such a change, alone, would not require Board approval.)

Holly kindly came out to explain that, to her knowledge, those were the versions that were still valid ahead of the 10/27 meeting.

However, at the 9/29 meeting, Mr. Singh had commented that the budget was being revised by ~\$100,000 in additional personnel costs for new/expanded positions. The Board held an emergency meeting on 10/13, one of the agenda items of which was to address the budget. Were there no substantive changes, such an agenda item naturally would not have been necessary. I understand that at the meeting itself, the board addressed the revised budget, apparently changed since the public hearing, and directed it to be available for review ahead of the 10/27 approval. Had it not been changed, I have to believe you would have said so in reply to my earlier request for the updated budget, instead of suggesting that you'd send it.



Please provide a copy of the updated budget referenced at the 10/13 meeting as soon as possible, or please confirm that the budget proposed for approval by the Board on 10/27 is identical to that which has been offered to the public (ie, dated 9/22 at bottom).

I want to make sure any comments are addressed to the proposed, and not a moot, budget. Thank you for your help.

Best,
Paul

On Oct 14, 2021, at 2:58 PM, Karra, Ashok <Ashok.Karra@fairfaxcounty.gov> wrote:
Will do Paul.

On Oct 14, 2021, at 2:19 PM, Paul Kohlenberger <paulkohl@msn.com> wrote:
Good afternoon—

Could I please have sent to me a copy of the revised FY2023 proposed budget which was discussed at the Governing Board meeting last night? A printed copy of it should have been made available for review by the public last night, but, for some reason, was not. Thank you.

Best,
Paul

7. Christopher Henzel

Yes – this is the FY2023 budget as approved by the board for public review. The motion was voted on at the beginning of the meeting on October 13. This is our annual standard process.

Holly Novak

Executive Assistant to the Governing Board
McLean Community Center

From: Christopher Henzel <henzelcp@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 2:50 PM
To: Novak, Holly R <Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Cc: Anwah, Sabrina <Sabrina.Anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: RE: Budget?

Thanks, but I recall Mr. Singh saying at last week's meeting that there was a version that was going to be made available to the public. Is this it? And has the board approved this for presentation to the public?

From: [Novak, Holly R](#)
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 11:47 AM
To: [Christopher Henzel](#)
Cc: [Anwah, Sabrina](#)
Subject: RE: Budget?

The FY2023 Budget is published on MCC's website:

https://mcleancenter.org/images/FFX_FY23_Budget_Financial_Presentation_-_10.01.21_Final-converted-compressed.pdf

Also, paper copies are available for the public at the Welcome Desk at MCC.

Holly Novak

Executive Assistant to the Governing Board - McLean Community Center



From: Christopher Henzel <henzelcp@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 11:39 AM
To: Novak, Holly R <Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Budget?

Thank you. Can you advise me how I can obtain a copy of the budget, in the form that will be considered by the next board meeting?
Thank you again,
CH

From: [Novak, Holly R](#)
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 11:23 AM
To: [Christopher Henzel](#)
Subject: RE: Text of public comment from Oct 13 MCC board meeting

Dear Mr. Henzel,

We appreciate your taking the time to share your comments regarding transparency of MCC Governing Board meetings.

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

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Holly Novak
McLean Community Center

From: Christopher Henzel <HenzelCP@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 11:04 AM
To: Novak, Holly R <Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Text of public comment from Oct 13 MCC board meeting

Hello – In case it might help with compiling the minutes, here is the comment I made.

Sincerely,
Christopher Henzel
McLean *[comments submitted in writing that he spoke at October 13 Special Called Meeting]*

8. Richard Porter

Dear Mr. Porter,
I apologize for the delay in responding to your question. I had to look back into my notes in the preparation for last week's Programs & Outreach Committee meeting. The Agenda was posted on the MCC website on October 18.

We appreciate your taking the time to share your comments about meeting sequence and processes. 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

-----Original Message-----

From: dick porter <dickporter17@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 7:45 AM
To: Novak, Holly R <Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: October 20 Committee Meeting

Hi Holly. I would appreciate it if you would provide me with the date on which the Program and Outreach Committee agenda containing the resolution that was passed last evening was first published on the MCC website. Thank you.

9. Barbara Ryan

From: McLean Center Bookings <bookings@mcleancenter.org>
Date: October 22, 2021 at 8:50:50 PM EDT
To: mail@mcleancenter.org
Subject: McLean Community Center: Public meetings
Reply-To: Barbara RyN <barbara.ryan@verizon.net>

This is an enquiry email via

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.mcleancenter.org%2F&data=04%7C01%7Csabrina.anwah%40fairfaxcounty.gov%7C9234e293ae0e48d1c67b08d995bf3ad8%7Ca26156cb5d6f41729d7d934eb0a7b275%7C0%7C0%7C637705470979021745%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IjEhYWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000&data=3%2BNWXFdxKQfhPJSSWGBGEWm0%2BqY%2BAQd3wU1nLxCre8%3D&reserved=0> from:
Barbara RyN <barbara.ryan@verizon.net>

Please provide a virtual option for MCC public meetings, including the upcoming Nov 18 meeting on strategic planning, so that residents of the special tax district which funds MCC can safely attend and express their views. We are still in the midst of a pandemic.

Thank you,
Barbara Ryan

10. Paul Kohlenberger (letter from MCA – McLean Citizens Association)

From: Paul Kohlenberger <paulkohl@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 2:40 PM
To: Novak, Holly R <Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Re: MCA Letter to MCC Regarding Budgeting and Governance

Holly—
Thank you for your acknowledgment, and for all your work.
Best, Paul

On Oct 26, 2021, at 2:27 PM, Novak, Holly R <Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov> wrote:
Dear Mr. Kohlenberger,

We appreciate your taking the time to share the letter from the McLean Citizens Association commenting about MCC's budget process.



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

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

Thank you.

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

From: Paul <paulkohl@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 2:14 PM
To: Bárbara Zamora-Appel <bgzamora@gmail.com>
Cc: Rob Jackson <rhjackson10@verizon.net>; Scott <scottlspitzer@gmail.com>; 'Bill Crosbie' <bcrosby@livingstongroupdc.com>; Bruce Jones (bjones123@verizon.net) <bjones123@verizon.net>; Linda Walsh (lawmclean@aol.com) <lawmclean@aol.com>; Raj Mehra <rmehra123@yahoo.com>; Foust, John W. <John.Foust@fairfaxcounty.gov>; feedback@mcleancenter.org; Singh, Daniel <Daniel.Singh@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Karra, Ashok <Ashok.Karra@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Anwah, Sabrina <Sabrina.Anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Novak, Holly R <Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Bruce Jones (bjones123@verizon.net) <bjones123@verizon.net>
Subject: MCA Letter to MCC Regarding Budgeting and Governance

Dear Chair Zamora-Appel,

Please find attached a letter from the McLean Citizens Association, commenting upon the Center's budgeting and governance. We would appreciate it if you, or Ms. Novak, would distribute it to the broader membership of the Governing Board.

Thanks for your consideration of our views.

Regards, Paul Kohlenberger - MCA Corresponding Secretary * MCA letter follows; received by e-mail on 10/26/21:



McLean Citizens Association



The Voice of McLean for Over 100 Years

Post Office Box 273
McLean, Virginia 22101

October 26, 2021

Barbara Zamora-Appel, Board Chair
McLean Community Center Governing Board
1234 Ingleside Avenue
McLean, Virginia 22101

Dear Chair Zamora-Appel:

I write on behalf of the McLean Citizens Association (MCA) to express the Association's concerns regarding the 2021-2022 Governing Board's commitment to proper public process generally, and the development of the McLean Community Center's proposed FY 2023 Budget.

As you may know, the MCA was founded in 1914 as the School and Civic League of McLean. For several decades, it paid the expenses for community organizations to meet at the Franklin Sherman School. In the 1950s, the MCA formed the Community Center Committee. In 1964, the MCA was the principal incorporator of McLean Community Center, Inc., now Friends of MCC. Accumulated proceeds from decades of MCA's McLean Day fundraisers helped purchase property for the Ingleside Avenue facility. The MCA, thus, has a long-held interest in and concern for the McLean Community Center (MCC) as an institution, the purpose of which is to serve, while remaining accountable to, the residents of the Greater McLean community.

Given our primary role in founding the MCC, we are concerned that the 2021-2022 MCC Governing Board has limited the public's access to information, its ability to attend and comment upon public proceedings, and its ability to review and comment upon proposed public expenditures. Our concerns are described more specifically below.

Minutes

Since the beginning of the 2021-2022 board year, the MCC's Governing Board has held ten meetings. As of October 24, however, MCC minutes had not been posted on the MCC web site for the board regular and special meetings on July 15, September 2, September 22, September 29, and October 13. Citizens who wanted copies of the missing minutes had to submit Freedom of Information Act requests at their own expense.

Public Comment

- At the August 4 special called meeting, the only agenda item was a proposed policy that would violate the MCC's responsibility under its Memorandum of Understanding¹ (MOU) with the Board of Supervisors to allow public comment at all meetings.
- At its July 28 meeting, the Board limited the number of public commenters to five.
- At three later board meetings (September 2; September 29; and October 13), the MCC Governing Board failed to provide room on its published agenda for public comment, even though the MOU states that "[m]embers of the public . . . shall be given the opportunity to present their views and concerns to the Board."²

Board Member E-mail Accessibility

For the past few years, the Governing Board's web page on the MCC web site allowed the public to directly e-mail individual members of the Governing Board. Since the 2021-2022 Governing Board convened in June, this function has been removed. This past week, the web page with the names of the current Governing Board members hasn't even been available on a consistent basis – sometimes it was, sometimes it wasn't. The MCC should have an easy-to-find Governing Board web page with the names, board positions, and MCC email addresses for each member.

Meeting Materials

According to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (VFOIA), "[a]t least one copy of... all materials furnished to members of a public body for a meeting shall be made available for public inspection at the same time such documents are furnished to the members of the public body."³ Such materials were not made available to the public at the Governing Board's September 8 and October 13 meetings, wherein the MCC Board discussed its FY 2023 budget proposals.

Closed Sessions

The VFOIA states that its provisions shall be "liberally construed to promote an increased awareness by all persons of governmental activities and afford every opportunity to citizens to witness the operations of government."⁴ It goes on to mandate that "[a]ny exemption from public access to...meetings shall be narrowly construed."⁵

- The Governing Board held closed sessions on September 8 and September 29, neither of which complied with the VFOIA's requirements.

¹ VLC.3. & VLD.2.c. (<https://mcleancenter.org/images/MCC-MOU.pdf>).

² VLD.2.c. (<https://mcleancenter.org/images/MCC-MOU.pdf>).

³ Va. Code Ann. § 2.2-3707.F. (1950).

⁴ Va. Code Ann. § 2.2-3700.B. (1950).

⁵ Va. Code Ann. § 2.2-3700.B. (1950).

- The September 8 closed session motion failed to identify the subject⁶ matters to be discussed, and merely cited exemptions, which is “not sufficient to satisfy the requirements for holding a closed meeting.”⁷
- The September 29 closed session was described as “FOIA Training” and was closed based on a misapplication of the legal advice exemption, which cannot be used to “permit the closure of a meeting merely because an attorney representing the public body is . . . consulted on a matter.”⁸ Indeed, the Virginia Supreme Court⁹ and Virginia Attorney Generals¹⁰ have opined that this legal advice exemption cannot be used to discuss general legal matters, as was done at this meeting. Further, the MCC board failed to hold a roll call vote after the September 29 closed session certifying its propriety, as required by law.¹¹

Transaction of Public Business

We understand that the MCC has hired AMS Planning and Research, an arts management consultant, to guide an MCC strategic planning process. There is no evidence that this expenditure was previously budgeted for FY 2022. This consulting contract has not been discussed, considered and acted upon in open session, even though VFOIA requires all official actions to be taken in an open meeting¹² and prohibits transaction of public business other than by votes at meetings.¹³ At the October 13 special called meeting, the MCC Executive Director also stated that he had a pre-existing relationship with the consultant¹⁴. Has this contract been properly bid, considered, and executed by the Governing Board?

Personnel Planning

At the October 13 special called meeting, the Governing Board approved a revised budget that spends nearly \$90,000 for additional/expanded positions. The Governing Board has not

⁶ “[T]he General Assembly intended that such motions contain more than a citation to an exemption and a reference to the language of that exemption. A public body must identify the subject matter more specifically in a motion for a closed meeting.” *Code v. Smyth County Board of Supervisors*, published in <https://www.opengovva.org/node/407>.

⁷ Va. Code Ann. § 2.2-3712.A. (1950)

⁸ Va. Code Ann. § 2.2-3711.A.7. (1950).

⁹ “Code § 2.2-3711(A)(7) is not a categorical exemption for any discussion between a public body and staff or legal counsel.” *Code v. Smyth County Board of Supervisors*, *supra*.

¹⁰ In 1986, the Attorney General opined that “a board of zoning appeals may not meet in executive session to discuss general legal matters relating to a board of zoning appeals’ function, powers and duties, or the meaning of legal terms, in the absence of a specific legal problem requiring the consideration of such matters.” 1985-86 Va. Op. Atty. Gen. 103 (Va.A.G.), 1986 WL 221216, published in <https://www.opengovva.org/node/407>. In 1992, Attorney General Mary Sue Terry summarized prior Attorney General Opinions by saying that “the legal matters exception applies only to discussions of specific legal transactions or disputes and may not be used to justify closed meetings involving more general issues, even though those issues eventually may have legal consequences.” 1992 Va. Op. Atty. Gen. 1 (Va.A.G.), 1992 WL 526776, published in <https://www.opengovva.org/foi-opinions/92ag1>.

¹¹ Va. Code Ann. § 2.2-3712.D (1950)

¹² “[I]f no event may any public body take action on matters discussed in any closed meeting, except at an open meeting.” Va. Code Ann. § 2.2-3712.H. (1950).

¹³ Va. Code Ann. § 2.2-3710.A. (1950)

¹⁴ “AMS Planning & Research worked closely with the Catherine French Group, a national executive recruitment firm, to conduct a nationwide search to identify a candidate to lead New Spire Arts. Following the extensive national search, Daniel Phoenix Singh, a DC based dancer and arts leader, was selected to lead New Spire Arts and implement the new strategic plan.” (<https://newspirearts.org/pwss-invited-to-the-new-spire-steps-a-principal-ranking/>)

thoroughly discussed the advisability of these positions, at least not in public. The MCC Executive Committee traditionally reviews such requests, but it has not met this board year, even though personnel planning is one of the principal powers and responsibilities¹⁵ of the Governing Board.

Committee Meeting Schedule Frequency

Traditionally, each committee of the Governing Board met, on average, once per month¹⁶. According to the Committee Meeting Schedule¹⁷, each committee for the 2021-2022 board year will meet *less than once every other month*. This Governing Board has not exhibited a commitment to providing the engaged and robust oversight that its predecessors offered. Infrequency of meetings impairs each member's ability to get to know her colleagues, MCC Staff and MCC operations, and this, in turn, impairs the Governing Board's ability to perform its duties.

FY 2023 Budget Process

The MOU requires the Governing Board to initiate, oversee, and approve the "preparation and submittal of the Community Center's budget, including current and long-range financial objectives and a five-year financial forecast." However, this year's board did not follow many past practices that allowed the Governing Board to fulfill this mandate. For example:

- Traditionally, the Finance Committee met every summer to recommend a tax rate for the special district, based upon which MCC Staff could begin to develop a budget¹⁸. Neither the Finance Committee nor the Governing Board have publicly discussed the propriety of the current tax rate throughout the budget process this year.
- Traditionally, the Program Committee reviewed prior-year actual, current-year and proposed budgets for continuing programming, including attendance figures¹⁹. This year, the Governing Board leadership failed to secure for its membership's review anything more than proposed FY 2023 expenditure figures for each program.
- Traditionally, the Program Committee reviewed proposals²⁰ for new programming to ensure their alignment with the MCC's mission. The Program Committee did not provide detailed oversight for any new programming proposed for FY 2023.
- Traditionally, the Executive Committee reviewed proposed conference and training budgets for MCC Staff, in addition to proposed personnel changes. The Executive Committee has not yet met this board year.

¹⁵ V. (<https://mcleancenter.org/images/MCC-MOU.pdf>)

¹⁶ Documentation available upon request.

¹⁷ https://mcleancenter.org/images/COMMITTEE_meeting_schedule_2021-2022_002-10-12-21.docx. This document – one page for 2021-2022 – was three pages long in 2018-2019.

¹⁸ Documentation available upon request.

¹⁹ Specifically for the FY 2023 Proposed Budget, it normally would have included: FY 2021 Actuals; FY2022 Actuals/Adopted; FY 2023 Proposed.

²⁰ Narratives touching on proposed budgets, audiences, outreach, necessary contracted services, etc.

- Traditionally, the Finance Committee and Governing Board performed quarterly budget reviews and reviewed revised budgets. Were quarterly budget reviews performed and Revised FY 2020 and FY 2021 Budgets discussed in public meetings? The first quarter FY 2022 budget review has not been scheduled, and, according to the Committee Meeting Schedule²¹, the Finance Committee will only meet again *once* before June 2022.
- Typically, the current-year budget shown on Fund Statements would have been revised to correspond with the prior-year actuals. The failure to post quarterly budget reviews or revised budgets makes it impossible for the public to follow the Fund Statement.
- Given that the MCC's normal operations were disrupted by construction and the COVID pandemic for many of the fiscal years between FY 2017 and FY 2022, it is impossible to put the proposed FY 2023 Budget in context, since it provides almost no trend data.

In sum, the Governing Board has not secured and reviewed sufficient financial and programmatic information to properly exercise its oversight duties, although Governing Board minutes obtained through a FOIA request indicate that some members attempted to obtain information. While a number of substantive aspects of the proposed FY 2023 budget raise concerns, without more complete and updated information, the MCA cannot do the analysis needed for us to comment on the MCC's proposed FY 2023 Budget.

Conclusion

The MCA was the principal founding benefactor of the MCC. We ask that Governing Board members, as temporary stewards, fulfill their fiduciary and civic responsibilities more conscientiously in the future. Further, we request a meeting with the Board Chair, the Board Treasurer, the Executive Director, and the Comptroller to review the MCC's governance, financial documents and FY 2023 proposed budget.

Respectfully,



Robert H. Jackson
President

Cc: Carla Post, MCC Governing Board Vice Chair
Maria Foderaro-Guertin, MCC Governing Board Secretary
Shivani Saboo, MCC Governing Board Treasurer
Max Blacksten, MCC Governing Board Member
Ivy Chen, MCC Governing Board Member
Bill Gikbarg, MCC Governing Board Member
Suzanne LeMenestrel, MCC Governing Board Member

²¹ https://mcleancenter.org/images/COMMITTEE_meeting_schedule_2021-2022_002-10-12-21.docx



Lisa Mariam, MCC Governing Board Member
Rasheq Rahman, MCC Governing Board Member
Melanie Sletten, MCC Governing Board Member
Supervisor John W. Foust, Dranesville Magisterial District
Daniel Singh, MCC Executive Director
Ashok Karra, MCC Comptroller
Sabrina Anwah, MCC Public Information Officer
Holly Novak, Executive Assistant to the MCC Governing Board

11. Richard Porter

From: dick porter <dickporter17@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 4:11 PM
To: Novak, Holly R <Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Re: October 20 Committee Meeting

Thanks Holly. Really not much notice for adequate public comment . Not your fault but this is not how good government is supposed to work. It is significantly at odds with the Board’s recent words, i.e. “We thank members of the public for contributing their feedback. The MCC Governing Board takes your suggestions seriously.” ☐☐

On Oct 26, 2021, at 3:56 PM, Novak, Holly R <Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov> wrote:

Dear Mr. Porter,

I apologize for the delay in responding to your question. I had to look back into my notes in the preparation for last week's Programs & Outreach Committee meeting. The Agenda was posted on the MCC website on October 18.

We appreciate your taking the time to share your comments about meeting sequence and processes. 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://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmcle>

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Holly Novak

Executive Assistant to the Governing Board - McLean Community Center

-----Original Message-----

From: dick porter <dickporter17@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 7:45 AM
To: Novak, Holly R <Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: October 20 Committee Meeting

Hi Holly. I would appreciate it if you would provide me with the date on which the Program and Outreach Committee agenda containing the resolution that was passed last evening was first published on the MCC website. Thank you.

12. S. Kuhn



From: Singh, Daniel <Daniel.Singh@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 5, 2021 9:30 AM
To: S K <skuhn6@hotmail.com>
Cc: Dranesville BOS <DranesvilleBOS@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: RE: Extremely Loud Horns from Trucks at the McLean Community center 10/11/21

Dear Mx Kuhn,

Thank you for your note. I apologize for the delay, but I wanted to check a few facts before responding. We checked and I can assure you that we did not violate any noise ordinances. However, we hear your concerns, and for future events, we will be sure to post appropriate signs, and work with the Park Authority with plenty of notice so everyone is aware and can plan accordingly.

We had over 1200 attendees at this event, and the kids were awestruck with the trucks and heavy machinery present for them to explore. We see activities such as this as an investment in training young minds to be the future engineers and astronauts our world needs.

You can contact the Park Authority with your mold concerns from this website: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/contact-us>.

We hope to see you at McLean Community Center soon. Please do stop by and say hi to me when you are here.

Kind regards,
Daniel Singh
Executive Director
McLean Community Center
<http://www.mcleancenter.org>

From: S K <skuhn6@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 1:44 PM
To: Singh, Daniel <Daniel.Singh@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Cc: Dranesville BOS <DranesvilleBOS@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Extremely Loud Horns from Trucks at the McLean Community center 10/11/21

1. Please, please DO NOT OFFER this group back to the MCC again. The noise from the horns going off every 10-15 seconds for hours from the trucks was so Loud that we could not hear our instructor giving Pickleball lessons at the court at the McLean Central Park offered through the Park Authority for two hours. We could hear this noise from our home on Capitol View Drive. Fairfax County has a noise ordinance that this noise must have been violating.
2. The 3 Tennis/Pickleball courts behind the library are cracked and have black mold that keeps us from having our pickleball lessons on Mondays offered by the Park Authority when damp. Please pass this problem to the correct authority that is in charge of the safety of these courts.

Thank you for responding,
S. Kuhn

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Zamora-Appel thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

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