



**2022-2023 MCC Governing Board
Regular Meeting + Public Hearing on FY2024 Budget
September 28, 2022 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 - Chair; Lisa Mariani;
Melanie Sletten; Shivani Saboo; Sarah Tran; Charlotte Loving;
Kristina Groennings; Anna Bartosiewicz

virtual: Rasheq Rahman (Chicago, IL; work travel)

Board Members absent:

Ari Ghasemian; Bill Glikbarg

MCC Staff present:

Evan Braff, Acting Executive Director; Holly Novak, Executive Assistant; Mike Fisher, Programs Manager; Matthew Hockensmith, Assist. Manager—Special Events; Sarah Schallern Treff, Performing Arts Director; Jennifer Garrett, Technical Director

Guests:

Deb Bissen (MPA); Camila Alfonzo Meza (Supervisor Foust’s office);
Raj Mehra (MCA); Paul Kohlenberger; James Lawless

CONVENE MEETING

Governing Board Chair Zamora-Appel convened a Regular Meeting & Public Hearing on FY2024 Budget of the Governing Board of McLean Community Center on September 28, 2022, at 6:34 p.m. This meeting was open to the public attending in-person. A courtesy announcement was made about the meeting being audio-recorded. No changes to the agenda were requested; it was adopted by acclamation.

PUBLIC HEARING ON FY2024 BUDGET PROPOSAL

Acting Executive Director Evan Braff was introduced by Treasurer Shivani Saboo to explain FY2024 proposed budget for the McLean Community Center. This meeting is an opportunity for Small District 1A-Dranesville residents to thoroughly learn about the proposed budget and make individual comments. FY2024 budget has been posted on MCC website for several weeks and referenced in public notices in local print media. Written comments about the proposed FY2024 budget may to be submitted by tax district residents through October 24.

Executive Summary highlights:

- *MCC celebrates the fact that we are starting to recover from COVID-19! We are getting people coming to our events!
Part of this FY2024 budget really reflects a restoration to our actual normal numbers of attendees.
- *The tax rate has been maintained since 2015. MCC’s 6% increase in revenue is a further indication that we are getting back to normal operations, which is good!
- *Fairfax County requires MCC to come in with a zero-based budget. An advantage to Small District 1A-Dranesville taxpayers is that if MCC has any carry-over (extra), we are allowed to carry that over from a previous year. This is exceptional in the county. Last year MCC had some carry-over but it had more to do with staff vacancies than programs.
- *Actuals (financial summary): In FY2023 we were at about \$6.7M and this year (FY2024) it will be \$7.1M. Every year, county employees receive some compensation – about 6%. A majority of this budget has no major proposals. We’ve done well in sustaining and adding things within our current budget.
- *Distribution of MCC’s EXPENSES: 40% is in Compensation; 43% of expenditures goes towards our Operating expenses and Programs & Services. The next slide shows how we anticipate projections (some attendance and additional details): actuals; advertised; proposed.

- *Real estate taxes: We are projecting real estate taxes to remain the same. About 81% of MCC’s revenue comes from taxes; a little under 20% comes from the revenue we collect from our classes and programs.
 - *Expenses broken out by program area: At the request of the Governing Board, we will continue to break out our expenses by the different program areas. This is our first year of showing this level of detail; in future years, staff has been directed to add some performance measures. Each line item shows: various programs offered; number of offerings; number of attendees; major expenses; and final landing.
 - *Performing Arts: There is a question regarding why our performing arts fees are increasing a bit, especially year-over-year. We did have to make some upgrades in Alden Theatre and we are starting to return to normal operations. The industry trend is, because of the COVID-19 environment for a few years, some expenses have increased for our artists/performers. We have had to take that into account.
 - *Youth Events: A “shout out” to our Youth Events staff: Camp McLean was completely full this year! This will be reflected in actuals of revenue for next year. It is a sign of MCC returning back to normal!
 - *OFC: Expenses are about \$380K; we are projecting to bring in revenues of about \$296K in revenues. That is a healthy balance. The board had requested an overview and in-depth guide of programming for OFC (which is now shown).
 - *Capital improvement projects – The Alden Theatre: specifically for Alden Theatre (\$170K in recommended capital expenses). This is in keeping with some directions by the Governing Board for improving energy efficiencies and thinking about ‘green’ initiatives. We are trying to be very mindful of that in new lighting constructs for the theater. Some board members have asked if there is a way to show those cost savings. We are not sure if we can document those cost savings, but hopefully we can do so in the future.
 - *CIP projects: Only two are moving over as placeholders: 1. EV charging stations 2. Electrical supply infrastructure upgrade for charging stations. **During the recent CFC meeting, other CIP projects were discussed. Acting Executive Braff would like to handle those in Q3, in carry-over. MCC had carry-over last year. If MCC has additional carry-over this year, as we try to fill some of the staff vacancies, we would rather use those monies then. The only other project we are working on right now is trying to get a cost estimate on ADA accommodation upgrades to OFC.**
 - *FUND statement: The most important chart! As stated before, MCC had about \$340K in carry-over; most of that was our staff vacancies. The Executive Director’s report will address how aggressively we are trying to fill those open positions.
 - *Explanation about the “reserve”: As to why we have those numbers in reserves, there are questions from the public about how much MCC has in reserves and why? Comptroller Karra’s role is to be a good fiscal steward; he does a great job at this, meeting with Treasurer Saboo and other board members to walk through the budget. **His advice has always been to keep MCC’s reserves at about \$5.5M to \$6M.** As in managing one’s personal finances: if something were to happen, you keep a certain amount of reserves so as to not have to dig into credit. **The reason why Comptroller Karra is overly cautious is knowing that MCC has a huge reliance on the local property taxes. If something were to ever happen to that... one of the good things about McLean is usually property taxes stay stable. But there may come a situation where that happens, and we just want to be ready.** I appreciate Comptroller Karra’s carefulness about that.
 - *Tax rate: 2.3c per \$100 of assessed value = the average resident in McLean pays to MCC about \$430 per year. We must explain this to the public so people are aware of what is the ‘value-added’ for their tax contributions. \$312.80 is the average tax paid by each household; divided by 12, the average person is paying about \$26 per month.
- Opinion of Vice-Chair Rahman*: That’s great – let’s make sure that number is right, because people will be concerned if we are citing a number that is just a ‘guestimate.’ A lot of people feel like they spend too much of their tax money on MCC
- Acting Executive Director Braff will validate this detail and report an accurate number on 10/26.
- Summary by Acting Executive Director Braff: We will discuss with the 50th Anniversary Committee specific budget implications for the future. The good news overall is that we are returning to normal operations! Our staff is excited about that. We are getting to a point where we will also get back to normal staffing patterns and having those needed positions filled.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON FY2024 BUDGET PROPOSAL:

- Raj Mehra (representing MCA)** – Looking at p. 16 which references Capital Improvement Projects, the EV charging stations and electric supply upgrade are listed in FY23 budget but are not listed in FY24 proposed budget?
Response by Acting Executive Director Braff: Those get carried over (placeholders). The direction from the Governing Board is for us to retain them as placeholders until we meet with the county and have a discussion with them in regard to the EV charging stations.
Raj Mehra: Since it is a balanced budget, are those \$250K worth included in the FY24 as Capital Projects - so, they are there?
Response by Acting Executive Director Braff: Yes – they are there.
- Raj Mehra:** My other question is going back to p. 11 – Performing Arts: the two largest expense categories are “overhead” and “Innovations.” Can you explain what those are? I know what ‘overhead’ is, but that’s a big number for overhead and there is no explanation as to what it includes. And what is “innovations?”
Response by Acting Executive Director Braff: Overhead – my understanding is that it is additional costs that MCC may incur as a result of performances. “Innovations” is direction that we got from the Governing Board regarding thinking about new types of programs that we are going to be offering.
Clarification by Sarah Schallern Treff and Jennifer Garrett: Overhead is non-program specific (such as a brochure advertising the whole season). Non-capitalized equipment goes into “overhead;” also one-time purchases (such replacing a wireless mic or a fall restraint/to increase safety protocols). There is a base figure that we keep which is ‘general’ usage (replacement batteries; replacement individual items – small dollar individually, but over a whole season, it adds to the cost). The largest amount would be one-time equipment replacement purchases that are non-capitalized (which is anything under \$10,000).
Raj Mehra: Thanks for that, Jennifer. What I’m curious about is: What was that overhead in FY2023?
➤ *Comment by Acting Executive Director Braff:* I am happy to get you that number. We can communicate after the meeting to be sure that I have your contact information to get you that requested data.

PUBLIC COMMENT (general – not related to FY2024 budget; verbal)

The Governing Board Chair invited individuals wishing to express verbal comments on other general topics to speak at the lectern - 3 minutes being allotted for each person, provided they first stated aloud their residential address so MCC staff could verify them as being a tax district resident. No one present wished to give a comment.

With no one expressing further comment this evening, the Governing Board Chair stated the following summary remarks: Thank you so much for your comments. All of your comments are important and we take into consideration.

PUBLIC COMMENT (general – not related to FY2024 budget; written)

Incoming written public comments on general topics have been received in weeks since the last Governing Board meeting on July 27, 2022. The following comments have been verified by MCC staff as written by a Small District 1A-Dranesville resident.

- 1. Jo-anne Sears** **VFOIA-65140 – August 3, 2022** ***e-mail correspondence by MCC Exec. Director Singh (multiple topics); results of previous VFOIA requests submitted during Mr. Singh’s tenure**
- 2. Richard Porter**

Hello Mr. Porter. Thank you for coming in to MCC this afternoon to inquire about the addendum comments on the DRAFT strategic plan. I just now returned to my desk and looked on the “search” function of our website. I believe this the material you are looking for; here is the link:

<https://mcleancenter.org/events-calendar/icalrepeat.detail/2022/07/11/13116/-/compiled-comments-on-draft-strategic-plan>

Sincerely,

Holly Novak

Executive Assistant - McLean Community Center



3. Sam Roberts

From: Anwah, Sabrina <Sabrina.Anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 12, 2022 9:19 AM
To: Leonard, Christopher A. <Christopher.Leonard@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Braff, Evan L. <Evan.Braff@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: FW: New MCC acting director named

Good morning, Chris and Evan,
We received this message in our main mailbox this morning. If you think it's appropriate, I can send them the standard response. Sam Roberts is a former MCC employee who is retired but still a member of the VFW in McLean.

Thank you,
Sabrina

From: McLean Post 270 <mcleanpost270@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, August 12, 2022 9:10 AM
To: lwilsondds@gmail.com; Yarborough <wgyarc@aol.com>; Anwah, Sabrina <Sabrina.Anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov>; samrobertsiii <samrobertsiii@cox.net>
Subject: Re: New MCC acting director named

Know nothing.

On Thursday, August 11, 2022 at 09:30:40 PM EDT, SAM ROBERTS <samrobertsiii@cox.net> wrote:

What do you know a new acting Director of the MCC
LIVE FEED

Evan Braff has been named McLean Community Center Acting Executive Director, effective Monday, August 15. Braff currently serves as a countywide coordinator in the Office of the County Executive for Fairfax County. <https://t.co/zWmprJhfZch><https://t.co/PWfjnImdg5>-2 hours ago

Sam Roberts
SamRobertsiii@cox.net

4. Debbie Sanders

Dear Ms. Sanders,
We appreciate your interest in MCC Governing Board meetings. In addition to being publicized on the Fairfax County Public Announcement Calendar, all regular meetings and committee meetings of the MCC Governing Board are listed in advance on MCC website: <https://mcleancenter.org/about/governing-meetings/meetings-agendas> Once the agenda is finalized for each respective meeting coming up, it gets posted there.

We also publicize all upcoming meetings in our e-newsletters. If you would like to be added to the e-mail list to receive MCC e-newsletters, please let me know.

Sincerely,
Holly Novak
McLean Community Center

From: Debbie <dssanders04@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 1:59 PM
To: Novak, Holly R <Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Please add me to the MCC Board meeting announcements



Hi Holly,

I was a MCC Board member from 2014-2017. I would very much like to be notified of the monthly Board meetings-date-time and agenda if possible.

You can use my email listed above for your mailing list.

If there are finance committee meetings, I am especially interested in being notified of those meetings.

Many thanks.

Debbie Sanders

5. Raj Mehra

From: Raj Mehra <rmehra123@yahoo.com>

Sent: Sunday, August 21, 2022 3:06 PM

To: Braff, Evan L. <Evan.Braff@fairfaxcounty.gov>

Cc: Louise Epstein <lkepstein@gmail.com>; Scott Spitzer <scottlspitzer@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: FY 2024 Finance Committee Meetings

Hi Evan - the McLean room is able to support Zoom participation - will that be available for all the committee and Board meetings ?

6. Louise Epstein

From: Louise Epstein <lkepstein@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, August 19, 2022 11:28 AM

To: Braff, Evan L. <Evan.Braff@fairfaxcounty.gov>

Cc: Raj Mehra <rmehra123@yahoo.com>; Scott Spitzer <scottlspitzer@gmail.com>

Subject: FY 2024 Finance Committee Meetings

Evan, Thanks so much for forwarding this email. Will this meeting be on "zoom"? Also, are there any Finance Committee meetings in August, and are they open to the public?

Best,

Louise

7. Nicholas Kalis; Kathleen Gillette-Mallard; Jeffrey Shapiro

From: Braff, Evan L. <Evan.Braff@fairfaxcounty.gov>

Sent: Monday, August 29, 2022 8:02 AM

To: nkalis@verizon.net

Cc: Fisher, Michael S <Michael.Fisher@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Anwah, Sabrina <Sabrina.Anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov>;

Rahman, Rasheq <Rasheq.Rahman@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Bartosiewicz, Anna <Anna.Bartosiewicz@fairfaxcounty.gov>

Subject: RE: Apparently, we were misled regarding The League of Women Voters

Good morning Mr. Kalis,

Hope you had a nice weekend. I want to acknowledge receipt of your e-mail and let you know that we will make sure it is shared with the MCC Governing Board.

Kind Regards,

Evan

From: nkalis@verizon.net <nkalis@verizon.net>

Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 3:53 PM

To: Braff, Evan L. <Evan.Braff@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Anwah, Sabrina <Sabrina.Anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Rahman,

Rasheq <Rasheq.Rahman@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Bartosiewicz, Anna <Anna.Bartosiewicz@fairfaxcounty.gov>

Cc: Fisher, Michael S <Michael.Fisher@fairfaxcounty.gov>

Subject: FW: Apparently, we were misled regarding The League of Women Voters



From: Gillette-Mallard, Kathleen D (kdg4g) <kdg4g@virginia.edu>
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 2:35 PM
To: Kristina.Groennings@fairfaxcounty.gov; Barbara.Zamora-Appel@fairfaxcounty.gov
Cc: Nick Kalis <nkalis@verizon.net>; Jeffrey K Shapiro <jeffrey.k.shapiro@hey.com>
Subject: Apparently, we were misled regarding The League of Women Voters

Message for Kristina Groennings and Barbara Zamora Appel

Last May, when elections took place for five new MCC Board of Directors members, a number of citizens questioned the impartiality of The League of Women Voters who helped with verifying and counting ballots. We were reassured that TLWV was non-partisan but now we find that claim is not possible.

We are hopeful that you will show caution in the future and allow for another group or individual citizens to count the votes.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Kathleen and Cole Mallard
McLean, VA 22101

From: Jeffrey K. Shapiro <JShapiro@hpm.com>
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 12:14 PM
To: nkalis@verizon.net; Kristina.Groennings@fairfaxcounty.gov; Barbara.Zamora-Appel@fairfaxcounty.gov
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] See today's Washington Post

I agree with Mr. Kalis. The League of Women Voters' claim to be non-partisan is *not credible*. It takes positions that are far left and out of the mainstream. This organization should never be used for an activity like vote-counting that requires trust from voters of all political persuasions.

Jeff McLean, VA 22102

From: nkalis@verizon.net <nkalis@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 12:09 PM
To: Jeffrey K. Shapiro <JShapiro@hpm.com>
Cc: Kristina.Groennings@fairfaxcounty.gov; Barbara.Zamora-Appel@fairfaxcounty.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] See today's Washington Post

Dear MCC Board:

Please see today's ***Washington Post***

The **League of Women Voters** www.lwv.org placed a full-page ad in today's *Washington Post* (August 26, 2022) that is an eye opener. The litany of issues the League supports puts a lie to the idea that this organization is non-partisan; their ad even reveals that they have waded into the abortion debate. They are clearly a left-of-center advocacy group – which they are entitled to be. What they are not entitled to is to portray themselves as some sort of neutral group whose primary or sole aim is to increase voter participation rates.

Their advocacy is in the issues of immigration, health care, the environment, census, fighting supposed voter suppression, and abortion.

It is my understanding that they have conducted vote counts for the McLean Community Center - they are hardly suited to conducting any vote count at MCC.

Nicholas Kalis JD
McLean, Virginia

Chair Zamora-Appel explained that some compelling requests have been received from SPARC participants at OFC advocating about upgrades for accessibility. She read Jonah's remarks aloud in the meeting; and all SPARC participants' comments are shown below:

8. Jonah (SPARC participant at OFC)

Hello, My name is Jonah, and I am 28 years old. I have been a SPARC member for almost six years. I think it is important to have a door access switch so people can access the door themselves. A lot of our members, me included, are in wheelchairs. Using community funding to put automatic doors would help us and make us more independent, which is what we strive for every day. Thank you for taking the time to hear my voice on this issue.

9. Dee (Diedre) Shields

Hello! I am 47 years old and my sister was the one that introduced me to SPARC. I have been coming for a long time. I think its important to have door access button/switch because its hard for my PSA to push me through to door while holding it open. Thank you for reading my letter.

10. Sherry Akbari

Hi. I am 54 years old and I have been coming to SPARC for 9 years. Personally, I think it is important to have a door access switch because I like it. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and facilitating this process!

11. Kyle

Hello. I am 32 years old and I have been coming to SPARC for 3 years. I think it is important to have a door access switch because it is hard to open the door. Thank you for taking time to read this letter and facilitating this process.

12. Kaitlin Payne

Hello, I am 35 years old and I have been coming to SPARC since 2000. Personally, I think it is important to have a door switch to allow me to enter the building since I am not able to use my hands. I would also like to have a Hoyer lift since I am in a wheelchair. I cannot use the rest rooms. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and facilitating this process! *Kaitlyn Payne – proud SPARC member*

13. Daniel

Hello! I am 27 years old and I have been coming to SPARC for 5 years. Personally, I think it is important to have a door access switch because I can't open this door. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and facilitating this process!

14. Sandy

Hello! I'm 56 years old and I have been coming SPARC 13 years. Personally, I think it is important to have a door access switch because open the door without help. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and facilitating this process!

15. Cathy

Hello! My name is Cathy, I'm 43 years old and I have been coming to SPARC for more than 10 years. Personally, I think it is important to have a door access switch because it will help the individual at SPARC to access the door independently. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and facilitating this process!

16. (anonymous)

I am 34 years old and I have been coming to SPARC for 6 years. Personally, I think it is important to have a door access switch because is easy.

17. Jason West

My name is Jason West. I am 25 years old. I have been coming to SPARC for 3 years in McLean, Virginia. It would be great if we had a door access switch because it would help us who have trouble walking. Thank you and God Bless. We love our SPARC club!

18. Hannah

Hello! I'm Hannah. I'm 25 years old. I have been coming to SPARC for three years. Personally, I think it is important to have a door access switch because it would be helpful for some of our friends at SPARC. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

19. (anonymous)

Hello! I am 38 years old and I have been coming to SPARC for five years. We need a push button because it make the door accessible to disabled people. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and facilitating this process.

20. (anonymous)

Hello. Could you write for me?

21. (anonymous)

1. 42 years – but I feel younger.
2. 15 years going on 16 [how long attending SPARC]
3. It makes us more independent, and easier to fulfill our goal.

APPROVE MINUTES **The Governing Board Chair transitioned to a review and final approval of Minutes of recent meetings.*
Minutes of July 27, 2022, Regular Meeting were reviewed. No changes were requested; accepted as written.

MOTION: To approve Minutes of July 27, 2022, Regular Meeting.

Approved by a vote of 9: Barbara Zamora-Appel; Lisa Mariam; Sarah Tran; Melanie Sletten; Rasheq Rahman; Kristina Groennings; Shivani Saboo, Anna Bartosiewicz; Charlotte Loving
– all voting “AYE.”

Ari Ghasemian and Bill Glikbarg were absent.

Minutes of September 7, 2022, Meeting-of-the-Whole on FY2024 Budget were reviewed. No changes were requested; accepted as written.

MOTION: To approve Minutes of September 7, 2022, Meeting-of-the-Whole on FY2024 Budget

Approved by a vote of 9: Barbara Zamora-Appel; Lisa Mariam; Sarah Tran; Melanie Sletten; Rasheq Rahman; Kristina Groennings; Shivani Saboo, Anna Bartosiewicz; Charlotte Loving
– all voting “AYE.”

Ari Ghasemian and Bill Glikbarg were absent.

CHAIR'S REPORT

1. Thank you to MCC staff for their presence at this meeting – it makes a huge difference in how we plan the budget as well being able to address board members' questions.
2. Volunteering at MCC events: If you actually assist at MCC events by volunteering, you talk to the public and hear what the public is saying. At the Yard Sale and OFC Block Party, many parents were giving feedback – and all the feedback was great! One small aspect to be fixed is parking; it was announced over the intercom that people were parking at the library and they needed to move their cars. So that is just a lesson learned. But overall, great feedback! Also, my daughter went to the I-Fly trip and she was very happy with it! And so were the parents and kids who attend those events. So again – another win. Thank you!

3. Last week, we met with Kim Dorgan of “Better Block”/McLean Revitalization Corporation: the idea is to create a gathering place for the community. “Better Block” is one idea but it might change. Kim Dorgan will visit us in October, so any ideas you may have please bring it to the table. The idea is to have the organizations in McLean get together (like it happens in Vienna and Reston) to have a community-led effort by the community organizations.
 - > I have asked Acting Executive Director Braff to ask Kim Dorgan to present at a future Governing Board meeting
4. The program coordination has been very smooth – thank you again to MCC staff. The fact is that the board is not the experts; you are. For staff to bring all those things to the table makes a huge difference in how we view not only the spending for our budget, but also how you plan programs. The thinking that goes behind the programs is important for MCC Governing Board to understand.
5. The strategic plan consultant was paid the remainder of their invoice. All their Word files & documents were provided to MCC; everything was turned over. We will revisit this topic again in November or December when the new Executive Director is on-board. We decided that this future timing was best.
6. On October 20 – Acting Executive Director Braff and others will present to MCA about MCC’s FY2024 budget.
7. Some good news, especially for those of us who work and must travel out-of-town: we have been given the option to have remote meetings. Holly Novak spent much time putting together an explanatory document; we will share it with the board to review it and take a vote in October. What Holly has done is describe in a large chart the features of an in-person meeting (“Remote Participation”) vs. an “All-virtual” meeting. This is not ‘hybrid’ meeting – rather, we either meet in-person or all-virtual. If we are “All-virtual,” then the quorum must be virtual, as well as all public participation being virtual. If we convene “in-person,” then the quorum would be in-person, as well as the public comments and participation in-person. More on that as soon as we get those documents shared around. With many of us having business travel, it makes a difference to have the option of these two methods. We will have to decide which of our meetings will be “All-Virtual” and which will not.
 - If you have any questions, please advise Holly Novak and she will implement those, so that by the time we take that vote, we are all on the same page. We will vote on this very soon.
8. REMINDER: If you are not able to attend our meetings in-person, connect with Holly Novak and Evan Braff. Coordinate with them to make sure that what you have to bring to the table is heard via connecting and sharing any advance information you may wish to bring up regarding topics.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Acting Executive Director Evan Braff has truly enjoyed his temporary tenure with MCC staff. He credits them with being resilient and creative - enthusiastic and dedicated subject matter experts in their respective disciplines. MCC staff is working hard to create outstanding programming that is meaningful to the community.

1. Mobile cart for A/V capability for other meeting rooms (versatility!): The board requested getting a mobile A/V cart for community groups to be able to use in other rooms of MCC and not just be limited to technology capability in McLean Room. The timing was perfect because the county had just received some funding that we were able to jump-in on. Now, if a group can’t reserve the McLean Room, there is other space at MCC they can use. The cart is basically a big TV screen on wheels. It’s an exciting upgrade that the board had asked for! Allowing us to do the research without building it into the budget really gave us the opportunity to obtain it.
2. Successful programming MCC has been offering: Parking Lot Sale + Block Party = both had over 1,000 people attending! Harvest Happenings had 200 attendees. We are starting to get back to normalcy! Theater performance on Saturday night had about 80 people; the night before had 150 attendees! It was the first time McLean Community Players had been back in our building since COVID-19; they were excited to be back in the building!
3. Innovation in Special Events department: “Shout-out” to Matt Hockensmith. In preparing for McLean Day 2023, the Special Events team came up with a new idea to give incentives for previous vendors to enroll in McLean Day earlier. We already have 25 vendors signed-up! We are doing it much more in advance; I just want to thank him.
4. Volunteer needs: We are still looking for a few more volunteers for Trunk-or-Treat at OFC

5. Open staff positions: IT specialist – has been advertised and closes on Friday; volunteer coordinator (re-purposed a former position)- will be advertised soon; management analyst (formerly a new Executive AA position) – this person will be responsible for managing data. A request from this board is to receive more data; the staff totally agrees with that priority. We will have a position totally focused on compiling such information so this board and future boards can have relevant data to be able to make informed decisions.
6. Future programming in this building: (especially some things that board member Melanie Sletten has been promoting – exploring opportunities that minimizes costs of programs). In two weeks, we will meet with Virginia leadership of AARP – coming here to begin talks about programming that we can offer here. Some MCC staff are getting ready to become a notary. We will offer in the future, perhaps one day or twice a week, if someone from McLean needs something notarized, they can come to our front desk to receive notary services. We understand people are really excited about that!
7. McLean police Captain will host a quarterly coffee meeting at MCC with residents, for residents to give feedback.
8. We are working on getting the DMV remote bus (perhaps quarterly or twice per year) to be present here – instead of standing in line at DMV, residents can come to MCC to access DMV services.
Opinions expressed: I love the DMV idea! Yeah, that’s awesome!
We are also looking into having a shredder truck here at MCC once or twice a year (for document shredding).
Question: I wonder if there are other opportunities that MCC can offer here for recycling? Has that been investigated before?
Response by Acting Exec. Director Braff: Yes – we floated that idea as to whether there are other opportunities where, on designated days, someone could bring their old paint. We can definitely consider that; those are the types of things we want to be able to offer. We floated the notary idea to a few people and they said, “This is great, if I can come up here and get something notarized.” We build that [community needs] into our planning.
9. Connecting with Lewinsville Senior Center: We had our first kick-off meeting, looking for opportunities to partner with them so we are not competing. They have an interest in supporting MCC with some programming over here.
10. Lisa Mariam’s idea – mental health support for teens: Safe Community Coalition (initial meeting); we will follow up to see how they can give us information on our programming and influence MCC program development. SCC is thinking about hosting an event here. We also received a call from a local PTA - we will let them use MCC for a program on mental health services that families can learn about for their students.
11. Option for virtual meetings: an exciting policy innovation that we will explore with you all to have virtual meetings.

Remarks by Deb Bissen, Communications Director for MPA:

ArtFest on Sunday, October 2, had to be cancelled because of torrential rain expected Friday through Tuesday. FCPA is very careful about avoiding heavy usage of the park when the ground is soggy: it would be damaging to have carts of artwork, supplies, musicians, bringing things into the park on soggy ground. MPA hopes to offer an alternative event later this fall on a smaller scale to feature some artists. Thank you for MCC’s support of the ArtFest event. We are very happy with that partnership and it’s a wonderful event for the community.

Some great art is upstairs on exhibit through November 10: “Continuum” features 18 artists; an excellent assortment of talented individuals from throughout mid-Atlantic area, many of whom teach at area colleges. MPA would be glad to host an invited gathering for the MCC Governing Board on October 26 to preview the gallery exhibit at 5:30 p.m.

> Deb Bissen will send an e-mail an official invitation to Holly Novak to forward to the board.

Two virtual artists will give talks coming up (to be publicized soon). ArtReach Tours: a small group visited from Second Story Safe Youth Project; it is a wonderful chance to welcome community members to see the exhibit. We appreciate MCC for welcoming kids and seniors and other people who might not always have a chance to view art. Classes will begin on Monday, October 3 – if you are interested in an art class, there is still room and we would love to have you join us!

50th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE Chair Lisa Mariam summarized discussion topics in the September 14 meeting:

Reviewing a charter for the committee (outlining goals of the 50th Anniversary and how committee members and MCC staff



and community members will have various roles). A very important outcome of the meeting was approval of a MOTION for MCC staff to develop a work plan and a budget –coming back to present a preliminary version of it at the December meeting, and a more developed plan in February 2023.

PROGRAMS & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Chair Anna Bartosiewicz summarized collaborative discussion points with MCC Program staff in the September 14 meeting:

From the Chair’s perspective, it was an awesome meeting; and it is terrific to have MCC staff here tonight, to get your live input on-the-spot! The committee heard about upcoming events, classes, programs - with awesome details. We also had a great presentation by a consultant who has now completed his work on new types of marketing strategies for The Alden Theatre. Overall, we seem to be moving in the right direction in terms of getting the word out about MCC programs and encouraging community engagement... and getting engagement from outside the community, as well.

The committee had a short conversation about the importance of Governing Board member engagement in upcoming programs. A list of upcoming volunteer opportunities was sent to the board. Chair Bartosiewicz reiterated that there is definitely value to all of us showing up at programs to see what’s going on and having first-hand experience about what the programs are like and being more immersed in it. Not just talking about it and ‘opining’...but actually participating.

Comment by Vice-Chair Rahman: On that point, at the Block Party I really enjoyed meeting the person who ran the sensory room. That’s a really interesting concept; I had never been aware of something like that. My kids used it a bit. Particularly for harried parents like myself who have kids running around – it was good to have a place to ‘de-compress’ for a little bit. I would love to explore having a ‘sensory room’ – either as part of future programs or maybe as a permanent fixture at MCC. I just want to add this comment: I really liked having it [the sensory room] at OFC. With many kids running around, it was good to have something like that. *Evan Braff and Mike Fisher thanked Vice-Chair Rahman for his comments.*

YOUTH AMBASSADOR PRESENTATION **a one-page hand-out was distributed*

Governing Board youth members Charlotte Loving (representing Langley H.S. boundary area) and Sarah Tran (representing McLean H.S. boundary area) came up with an idea for greater high school involvement in the MCC. They met with Andrew Carter (Old Firehouse Manager), Aaron Greene (Afterschool Program Manager) and Mike Fisher (Programs Manager) to discuss a new ongoing “youth ambassador” role. Purpose: having a designated student at each school who will actively promote and facilitate student involvement in MCC programs. This idea is still in concept development. Charlotte and Sarah explained the goals and new activities being proposed so far to engage high school youth more effectively.

There is awareness that last year, one of the struggles Max Blacksten and Ivy Chen had was getting more teens involved in the events at OFC. Typically, middle schoolers are at OFC but as they transition to high school, they don’t keep going to OFC. This “youth ambassador” idea would be a tax district-wide program to have high school students act as ambassadors for the MCC. It would increase involvement and have a connection to the high school. It would not only be a way for them to feel a part of MCC, but also a way for the MCC to be better publicized throughout the high schools. As described, the youth ambassador would collect feedback from the youth and share it. Also, part of their job would be marketing to the high schools. Sarah and Charlotte would be a part of this effort for this year, but it would be the ambassador’s whole job to get more people to come in. This is something that could be improved on now, including how we get the word out more effectively to high schoolers.

As described in the concept document, we would start testing it with high school students. And then if it works well, maybe expand it to middle school students to see what they want to have at MCC. We think it will be a good way to bring in activities that people will look forward to. We would start this program initially only at Langley and McLean H.S. (testing it) and then hopefully, expand to more high schools throughout the entire tax district. Eventually to also include private schools too - such as Potomac School and some students at Marshall High School who live in the tax district.

Comment by Mike Fisher: In part of the conversation, they also came up with a wonderful idea (this would also be part of the planning for the potential youth ambassadors): a game night for high schoolers at some point during AP/Finals time frame as

a ‘blow off steam’ night! This is targeted at bringing high school students back into OFC and also providing a nice, fun opportunity for these ambassadors to ‘own’ something throughout the process: not just – ‘Hey, get us more people...’ but also ‘Help us plan this event that you’re going to participate in and have a lot of fun too!’

Comment by Charlotte Loving: I think a big part of this will be just getting people into OFC. Once they see how much OFC has to offer, they will continue coming. With COVID-19, people missed a big chunk of just being able to come into OFC. The purpose is actually having them get to know OFC again.

Summary by Acting Executive Director Braff: Charlotte and Sarah are hoping for an endorsement from the board to move forward with this initiative. That is the request here now...

The Governing Board Chair asked if any board members had any questions or ideas on this topic.

Questions/Discussion:

Question: Are you going to market MCC’s current programming? Or are you just soliciting ideas for additional programming?

The idea would be to market our current programming and get feedback on that. And then use that feedback to build more to work with what we have.

Questions by Governing Board Chair: Thank you, Sarah and Charlotte. I really like what you have come up with. I spoke with Sarah two months ago when she had just started the idea and I’m very happy to see that this is what you now have. From the perspective of having students’ attention: 1. How are you going to get youth here? Is it just the programs? I know youth always enjoy food! Do you need a budget for it? Is there something you can plan to bring them into OFC aside from the program? Because what I heard from Max and Ivy last year is that FOOD attracts kids - so you need some money. Aside from the board’s endorsement, are you looking to get funds?

Response by Charlotte Loving: I don’t believe so. It is true that food attracts students, but we know that in previous years, they’ve had programs that DID advertise food...but it still didn’t get high schoolers to come. **I think the reason why is that they felt that it was more of MCC telling them to come – rather than it being a high school oriented and high school planned event publicized throughout social media.** MCC does use social media but most of the high schoolers don’t use it. **A benefit of the ambassador program would be that these ambassadors would use social media very often to interact with posts and also share them; and post about it themselves so that the program can be better understood and interacted with the community. That’s the key to how we would get them to come, as well as food.**

Comment by Acting Executive Director Braff: A next step they are recommending is to come back to a future board meeting with an initial report. They want to get approval tonight and then come back with any small budget request soon – maybe at the next meeting. This was their first step tonight: to just make sure they can move forward with it; and then Charlotte and Sarah would come back at a future meeting. I do think they will need a small budget.

Question from Governing Board Chair: If they come back with a list of five activities that are not a big level of effort, is that something the MCC staff would be able to accommodate?

Response by Acting Executive Director Braff: Yes – MCC staff have already talked about this with Charlotte and Sarah. If it’s something bigger than that, then we would come back to the board and so indicate.

Question: You had previously mentioned something about “community service” that you could tie-in to it as well, for whichever grades start getting into community service hours? I know the MCC has something already in place. I think that attracts people to come in – not just to engage in activities, but also to receive something in return; that might be a hook.

Comment by Acting Executive Director Braff: Mike Fisher talked about this aspect: the Presidential Volunteer Service Award. Yes - we are going to build that into the youth ambassador program.

Comment by Governing Board Chair: O.K. – you have my endorsement!

Kristina Groennings offered to provide any guidance about social media: “Do’s and Don’ts” if that is helpful.

Comments by Acting Executive Director Braff and youth board members: Thank you!

Comment by Vice-Chair Rahman: My only other comment is: I love this idea. I like to see how it works with the high schools but also as a part of this, think of an ‘extension’ strategy to basically anyone who would be served by OFC. I know there is an interest in having 5th and 6th graders participate. Think about how this could go downward, because if you get students



earlier, they are likely to continue on. Think about it beyond just high school students, to make an extra point. But otherwise, I love the idea to get high schools more involved with the community center, no matter where it is.

Response by Youth board member Charlotte Loving: Yeah – I think just because we’re familiar with high school environments, we are going to start with this. And if it works well, we will expand it down to 5th and 6th grade and middle school.

Comment by Acting Executive Director Braff: One of the recommendations Charlotte and Sarah may come back with at some point is: whoever in the future are the youth representatives of this board would be leading this ambassador program. If this is a successful pilot, they may come back with a future recommendation – an understanding that any future youth serving on the MCC Governing Board would lead that youth ambassador program.

Comment by Youth board member Charlotte Loving: I definitely think over time and the longer we have this ambassador program and the more people we bring in and the more developed it would get... it will definitely get more effective as time goes on. So, it would be good to have it become consistent throughout the years.

The Governing Board Chair thanked Charlotte and Sarah for the presentation. She believes the board endorses moving forward.

VERBAL endorsement of the Youth Ambassador concept – 9 board members (all who were present) stated: “AYE.”

GOVERNING BOARD PARTICIPATION IN RECENT MCC EVENTS

Board members were asked to share their personal experiences of participating in events at MCC and The Old Firehouse in recent weeks.

1. Which MCC events did you attend over the past month? 2. If you did not, can you please tell us why? 3. If you did attend, what did you take away from that experience?

Anna Bartosiewicz: I attended the last two free concerts (at MCC and at the park); my family and I attended the violinist in the park (Sons of Maestro). That was a lot of fun! It was really great! I feel like the attendance for Lil’ Maceo was thin (for re-scheduling reasons). These musical performances are what we have been attending recently.

Charlotte Loving: Since September with school starting it has been crazy; but over the summer, I went to a lot of activities: one of my favorites was 4th of July (rain and thunderstorms happened!). The food trucks were very good! I liked the atmosphere there. I think it was very good.

Sarah Tran: In the past month, I attended MCC’s Yard Sale and the OFC Block Party just to see how that was. The Yard Sale was really cool – there was actually a lot more than I thought was going to be there.

Question by Acting Executive Director Braff: At the Block Party, did you have a speaking part there?

At OFC Block Party, they weren’t able to organize a speaking part; however, Sarah was able to interact with everything and tour the facility (it was her first time being inside OFC). It’s actually a lot bigger than it looks – it’s really amazing! I think it will be great for high schoolers. There was a lot of food there at the event. The silent disco was really incredible – it’s really interesting and nice because it’s easier to hear.

Melanie Sletten: I attended the Block Party, the Yard Sale and the musical review on Friday night. I’m inviting my niece with a young son next year to attend the Yard Sale because there were so many wonderful toys available!

Shivani Saboo unfortunately has not been able to attend any MCC events recently due to other commitments.

Lisa Mariam has been super busy with doing the “Art and Economic Prosperity” survey for Fairfax County involving her presence at a lot of other events. There weren’t any eligible events here at MCC to volunteer at doing the survey, so she has been occupied elsewhere. She did attend the MPA reception on Thursday night and she encourages everyone to check out the exhibit – it’s very lovely.

Kristina Groennings has not been able to attend any MCC events this month. She has been present at events of other organizations; it has been a busy month.

Rasheq Rahman in between a lot of work travel he was able to take his kids to OFC Block Party and they really enjoyed it. He loves the Block Parties and that’s something MCC should be doing on a quarterly basis. We would love to see a winter Block Party again because it really brings the community together – it’s fun to have free food, and things to do, and focusing on people with young kids. His kids went to a cooking class in August; they are looking forward to doing more stuff. It’s



really great to see on social media all the great advertising of all the stuff coming up. It literally feels like there is a lot going on at MCC! That has been very refreshing for those of us who have been with the board over the COVID-19 period – to see a lot of pick-up in activity.

Barbara Zamora-Appel: At events, I look forward to talking to the families and seeing friends. We always enjoy not only the gathering (because sometimes we don't get to visit a lot) but the feedback from the kids also. Seeing the kids jumping around at the Block Party was great! My kids were shopping at the Yard Sale. That's a very important learning experience - dealing with \$cash\$, which is something we hardly ever do anymore. I have not been to an indoor event yet since 2019; but I'm trying to convince my kids to do so. Hopefully next month, I will try to attend a concert.

Comment by Mike Fisher: Thank you, Barbara, for agreeing to come to the McLean 5K to help us open the event and to introduce Supervisor Foust. We all hope the rain starts after 10 a.m.

OLD /NEW BUSINESS **The Governing Board Chair opened the floor for any old or new business matters.*

***Accessibility upgrades at OFC**: When OFC upgrades have been previously considered by the board, the discussion was only about bathrooms. The comments received from SPARC participants are now pointing out an additional need for accessibility of the doors.

- > Acting Executive Director Braff is getting the county to review the entire OFC facility for ADA compliance and accessibility upgrades. We will find out what the costs will be to have the drawings done. At a future meeting (October or November) we will be prepared to discuss that with the board.

Explanation by Mike Fisher: SPARC – Specially Adapted Resource Club is targeted for special needs individuals and those with other types of disabilities. The whole point is that it starts at age 21 (when people age-out of Fairfax County services). SPARC steps-in to provide a clubhouse style atmosphere where individuals can come to OFC for fun, socialization, some learning, and connection to other types of services. It's been wonderful to have them in OFC and be able to interact with them. Just today after hearing a speaker (which was on the topic of advocacy), SPARC participants helped to prepare the swag bags for the McLean 5K. They have done this task for the past 6-8 years. They are an integral part of our community and the OFC and we love having them. Hours: they attend on M-W-F, from 10 a.m. to 1-2 p.m.

Evan Braff helped start SPARC. He knew two parents who had a child with a disability – as that child aged out, the family's options become a lot more limiting. These parents got together and wanted to create an atmosphere where adults with disabilities could come together – not only programming for them but also how can they give back to the community. SPARC has two locations – it has really grown. It's a good option for a family with an adult with a disability where work at a job site isn't really an option. Just like we all have options, we want to make sure that our disability community has options as well. I give a lot of credit to those parents – because they started it off on Day One... with everything they have done, they get very minimal funding from the county to do what they are doing. It's amazing! **Their hardest challenge has been getting space. The fact that OFC is available during the day in the school year is another good way of maximizing this community resource and allowing somebody to use it during those off-hours.**

Question: I have two neighbors who may want to participate. Who would the point of contact be?

- We can get you that information (whom to contact)
- **ACTION ITEM**: Please have exec. director of SPARC give a presentation at a future board meeting.

Comment by Deb Bissen (MPA): ArtReach program works with SPARC often. ArtReach is a wonderful way that MPA can easily access the community and it's nice to welcome them here.

Summary by the Governing Board Chair: I appreciate these comments. I think it grounds us to see the services that MCC can provide with our taxes and our facilities. Thank you for sharing those with us.

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

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chair Zamora-Appel thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted – Holly Novak, Executive Assistant