



2022-2023 MCC Governing Board Regular Meeting

December 7, 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 Mariam; Rasheq Rahman; Melanie Sletten; Sarah Tran; Charlotte Loving; Ari Ghasemian;
virtual: Kristina Groennings (*Los Angeles, CA; work travel*); Anna Bartosiewicz (*McLean, VA; personal situation*); Shivani Saboo (*McLean, VA; personal situation*)

Board Members absent:

Bill Glikbarg

MCC Staff present:

Evan Braff, Acting Executive Director; Holly Novak, Executive Assistant; Mike Fisher, General Programs Director; Sarah Schallern Treff, Performing Arts Director; Catherine Nesbitt, Special Events Manager

Guests:

Paul Kohlenberger; Deb Bissen (MPA); Debi Alexander (Executive Director, SPARC); Sowjanya O’Neill

CONVENE MEETING

The Governing Board Chair convened a Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of the McLean Community Center on December 7, 2022, at 6:32 p.m. The 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.

APPROVE MINUTES

Minutes of two recent meetings were approved by MOTION. No changes were requested; accepted as written.

- October 25, 2022 Special Called Meeting (Subcommittee-of-the-Whole)
- October 26, 2022 Regular Meeting

Approved by a vote of 10:

Barbara Zamora-Appel; Lisa Mariam; Sarah Tran; Melanie Sletten; Rasheq Rahman; Shivani Saboo; Kristina Groennings; Ari Ghasemian, Anna Bartosiewicz; Charlotte Loving – all voting “AYE.”

Bill Glikbarg was absent.

SPARC PROGRAM – WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Chair Zamora-Appel welcomed Debi Alexander, who explained the origination of SPARC and how it serves the community.

SPARC was founded in 2006 by a military family. Meeting with what is now Fairfax Co. Long-term Care Coordinating Council, in conjunction with Fairfax County Therapeutic Recreation – they went on a walking tour to see what services were available for adults with profound disabilities. The family’s daughter is quadriplegic, blind and non-verbal. At that time there were no ‘non-Medicaid’ provider options. A Medicaid provider has a mandatory ratio of one caregiver to a minimum of four people. Over the course of an 8-hour day, it is only possible to basically park people in the hallway. Individuals are kept clean and fed but there is no engagement. Parents refer to it as “human warehousing.”

When the family considered a future for their quadriplegic daughter, they realized the need for change. Working closely with Fairfax County Therapeutic Recreation, Supervisor Kathy Hutchins helped to get space in the first community center at Southgate in Reston. Our second center is OFC – and it is our favorite center! It has the most amazing energy! People walk in and see the interesting floor, walls, artwork, the staff – it is truly remarkable.



SPARC represents the 1% of the adult population with disabilities who are not able to work. The majority of our participants have cerebral palsy. **The challenge for our population is: No one is going to get better. In terms of 'program metrics,' they are not going to improve. But what we can do is to ensure that our participants have meaningful human interaction and are not sitting at home in isolation.**

Criteria to participate in SPARC: the individual must come 'one-to-one' (accompanied by a personal support attendant) Exception is if they have jobs and take public transportation to work and live in an apartment. There is an aide that comes and helps with some things; but if you are able to take a bus to go to work and come back by yourself, you can attend SPARC on your own. Out of our entire SPARC population, that is only three people.

Daily activities: When they arrive at SPARC, there is music playing; we do stretching. Our curriculum is based on a theory called "circuit-training your brain" (like a gym with different stations) because SPARC participants have many different abilities and we want to make sure there is something for everyone to do. For our folks who are blind we have sensory trainers; we do things where you can touch and feel. We have a lot of 'assistance technology' such as jellybean buttons to make choices or engage in other ways. We play games – therapeutic yoga, Zumba. Through an amazing partnership with MPA - they offer therapeutic art projects. This past summer, The Alden Theatre brought in a remarkable visiting artist from Portland, Oregon (BLKSMTH). He brought a duffle bag full of beautiful paper flowers and patches of fairy grass (like used in dollhouses) – for a sensory experience that is very cool to touch. He explained the different art forms and we started creating. One of our young ladies is the 'Eeyore' of our group; she is never happy. Tears were running down her cheeks and she said: "I'm at peace." It was amazing because we never hear anything like that! It was incredible. **The staff at OFC and Alden Theatre were so engaged and really understood what SPARC does. I want you to know how remarkable your team is!**

Facts about funding: **SPARC serves a population that is truly underserved in Fairfax Co.: there is no funding for adults with disabilities who can't work. We pour millions of dollars into Special Ed. for children – but literally, when you age out of the system at 22 years-old, it's called "falling off the cliff:" services and support vanish.** Last year, the leader of Community Foundation for Northern Virginia was very excited to receive their first grant for adults with disabilities. And then they invited me to come talk to their staff. Funding for our people just doesn't exist – it's really frustrating. **That's another reason that SPARC is deeply grateful to have the partnership with MCC. Between four community centers + one church where we operate = that's about \$154,000 per year of value to SPARC. We couldn't offer it without it.** We keep our fees very low because families are very hard-pressed: all their resources are going to pay for their loved one when they are no longer around. We also have kids who on their 18th birthday are dropped off at homeless shelters as their families say: 'We don't have to take care of you anymore.' Those individuals have no resources because they don't have family to back them up. We charge \$750/month (for 5 days a week) – that represents about 1/3 of actual operating costs. We must raise about \$11,000 per month to provide our services (it would not be possible if we had brick-and-mortar on top of that). So, your donation is making a huge impact on our population.

All of you are invited to come visit us anytime: SPARC is at OFC on M-W-F, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We always welcome visitors. Our folks enjoy seeing new faces; they love to hear your stories and what you are doing in the community.

Q & A: *Question: Is there anything we can do to make the OFC facility more helpful? Are there areas of accessibility challenges?*
Yes, there are two areas that our advocates wrote to you about:

1. OFC doors are not automatic. The majority of our participants are in big automatic wheelchairs and if they have an aide with them, trying to navigate through any door that isn't automatic is a challenge.
 2. There are no adult-size changing tables in the bathrooms; that improvement would be huge. A massage table was donated; however, it is too high for the aide to easily transition the person to such high table to change their diaper.
- Other than that, OFC is remarkable. We love it and we love the staff there. They are very engaging, and they love talking with our participants. It's a beautiful space!

Summary by Acting Executive Director Braff: He was at the beginning of SPARC and from experience in his past career as a



therapeutic recreation specialist – SPARC is filling a huge gap. These folks would just be staying home – isolated and not doing a thing. Just from the letters they sent to us at budget time, they have benefited from being in this program which developed their confidence to be able to submit their views. He credits this SPARC program, knowing they operate on a very thin budget, and yet figure out a way to provide much-needed services to the county. Thank you!

Comment by Debi Alexander: We created the “Advocates Advisory Council” (every Wednesday) and these guys tell me what they need on-the-ground. SPARC is a client-driven, “people first” program.

Comment by the Governing Board Chair: The letters we received from SPARC participants [public comments] were moving. Acting Executive Director Braff has started the process of reviewing ADA access at OFC, not just because of those letters, but because we want to have an accessible space. There is more to come in the next year; it’s part of our plan.

Mike Fisher echoed the invitation for board members to visit OFC and observe SPARC: having been at OFC for ten years, the joy back in that room is unrivaled! So, if you need a boost, come visit SPARC. It will make your day!

ENC – 2023 GOVERNING BOARD ELECTION **summary remarks by Shivani Saboo, ENC Chair*

Last week, the Elections & Nominations Committee met to consider the following:

1. Online voting method (previous idea from last year): We talked about the potential of having online voting as an option in our elections. Given all sorts of inconsistencies... and with the new Exec. Director, and other things going on this year, **ENC decided not to push for online voting in 2023 just to keep some things consistent. We also realized it is a process that would take a lot of time to actually get implemented.** Instead of just pushing it off until next year, even this year we will begin work to actively take steps to realize a potential online voting option for the election in 2024 – so we can have two years of active efforts towards it.

2. Partisan crosswinds: The other item was based on feedback from last year, which was a tumultuous election cycle. A concern that several people brought up was how political the election got despite it being a non-partisan election. **As you all know, we struggle to maintain it as non-partisan. Because as a community center... as a staff and board... we don’t have the right to infringe on other peoples’ freedom of speech. Or, if political groups want to endorse candidates, we can’t do much about that. But I personally was on the ENC last year and I thought it was very harmful to the candidates – both to those who won and those who lost.**

Possible solutions – a list of rules with personal signature required (though unclear how effective it will be):

a. Write every single rule and guideline that we expect for the candidates on one sheet of paper. And we ask each candidate to sign that piece of paper saying that they intend to follow letter and spirit of the document. There were some inconsistencies last year in how rules were enforced for different candidates. We think this would help, especially with the non-partisan aspect: encouraging candidates to keep themselves out of partisan organizations as much as possible.

b. Also, there is a rule in the ENC Policies & Procedures that if you are on ENC, you are not to campaign on behalf of any candidates. We would like to extend this rule to the entire board. It’s lost on me why only the ENC follows it – and that the rest of the board shouldn’t be expected to follow those procedures as well. **I also think we should have a similar list of written rules that every board member will sign – saying that they agree to follow the spirit of this agreement and they will do their best to maintain certain rules, one of which is making sure the election stays non-partisan.** If our board members see partisan organizations stepping-in too much, they will do their best to maintain a non-partisan spirit.

Those are two points we discussed and some workarounds which may improve the 2023 election. Obviously, it’s not going to completely eradicate the problems but these are possible solutions. We would love to hear your thoughts.

***trying to define ‘partisanship’**

Question: Did you all define or identify actions that would avoid the non-partisanship? That’s a tricky situation.

Yes - but it’s hard for us to define or spell that out in a way that doesn’t infringe on other peoples’ rights of expression. If it would be more helpful, we can come up with wording and bring that agreement to the next meeting, perhaps worded as:

“This election is non-partisan and as a board member I will do my best to ensure that the spirit of non-partisanship is maintained throughout the election both inside and outside of MCC.”

***board members participate widely in many other organizations**

Opinion expressed: Some of us serve with members of other political organizations outside of our work at MCC. So, extending it beyond MCC is unclear. **It would be good to have some clarity as to what we as board members should say...or not say. Even during this last campaign, when people reached out to me with questions, I wasn't sure what to say or not to say? How may I speak about my current experience on the board, or on particular issues?**

Clarification by Acting Executive Director Braff: Your point is a good one. This is just a temperature check tonight (before making more efforts) to see if everyone is comfortable with the direction the committee is recommending. Chair Saboo's plan is to come back in January's meeting with something that everyone can react to. **I agree with Shivani and appreciate her insight: she understands this navigation we must make between not infringing on peoples' rights but also giving some guidance around what the expectations are for campaigning.** Tonight is just to check and make sure no one is uneasy as we move these topics forward.

Comment by the Governing Board Chair: From the perspective of candidates, many board members have received calls from candidates asking: “Can you tell me about being on the board?” “How much time does it take you?” That is something which should not change; we still should be able to answer those questions. I got a lot of those questions last year and I never shied away from answering because what I'm providing is the facts about the job/volunteer position. But I did not get into: “This is how you should run your campaign...” None of that, though I did also receive those types of questions from some candidates. I see on the Agenda that you have a MOTION but you are asking to make some changes - so, I am assuming that the MOTION will not be called on tonight...

Discussion ensued about a possible MOTION:

Explanation from ENC Chair Saboo: To my understanding, the MOTION is just for the ENC Policies & Procedures as a whole, which will also finalize the schedule for all the stuff that we have to shift forward, starting now to get ready for the election. This is the background document so we can get started on the scheduling. But that is not the same thing as the proposed signed contract or agreement that we've suggested as the ENC, or the board as a whole.

Comment by Governing Board Chair: Actually, in Section 4 Item G Number 2 of the ENC Policies & Procedures, it does have that entry about members of the ENC cannot get involved with candidates.

Comment by ENC Chair Saboo: And to your other point, I agree: I do think all the board members should be able to answer questions about the job. But I just think the expectations that apply to the ENC should also apply to the rest of the board. Even the ENC members were entitled to answer questions about our roles and experiences on the board – that's the goal. In previous years, if you were on ENC, the rule was that you could not be actively campaigning with organizations or for particular candidates. And I think that's a rule that should be extended to the entire board.

Comment by Governing Board Chair: If you are still saying you need to change this item, then I don't think we're prepared to have that MOTION tonight unless you change it to reflect this.

Comment by Acting Executive Director Braff: I think we can change it. Maybe we just change it to the fact that you are allowing the ENC and county staff to start the process of setting up the elections for this coming year.

Question by Governing Board Chair: When do we have to have the documentation before this process begins? I know there is a deadline.

Comment by Ms. Novak: Very soon – we actually start on January 16, 2023 with Candidate Packets available to the public.

Question by Governing Board Chair: So then, whatever changes are to be made have to be done by then. **I just want to understand because last year, once you started the election process, there was no changing in the process. So, this is changing part of it in a way because you are going from only the ENC committee members are 'prohibited...' to now all members of the Governing Board.**

Summary by ENC Chair Saboo: I think that's a change we can actually make right now. I do think it's appropriate for all board members to sign a piece of paper that lists out the procedures that we are agreeing to abide by during the

election process. I understand the request to see the actual wording; we can start if you all agree to it and I will have that wording ready for the next meeting. I also think we can make that switch right now to the ENC Procedures & Policies - where it says: "limited to the ENC" and just re-word it to the board as a whole. That's an easy switch to make; it doesn't require a lot of wording. As to the theory behind it - we can have that discussion right now. I think the broader question is: Is there anybody who does *not* believe that all board members should be held to the same standard as the ENC when it comes to getting involved in the campaigns of other candidates?

Opinion expressed: I'm concerned that there are no defined standards. *Comment by Chair Saboo:* No – there are, there are!

Clarification by ENC member: If I can make a clarification: in Section 4 G. 2 – "members of the ENC are prohibited from any electioneering activities on behalf of board candidates." I think we are proposing right now just to strike "Elections Committee" and replace that with "Governing Board members".

Comment by ENC Chair Saboo: And to the earlier point, what we were talking about regarding new wording was a separate document: having a physical agreement so that board members feel more obligated to actually abide by those standards. Maintaining a non-partisan election, for example, is something that theoretically all board members should have already been doing, but it hasn't always been the case. So that sort of physical agreement is, I think, separate from this MOTION.

Opinion expressed: I am fine with the MOTION focused on Section 4 G2 and amending that. I would like to see a defined agreed-upon set of 'electioneering activities' – which I am not seeing a definition of here. That's what I'm concerned about.

Comment by Acting Executive Director Braff: To your point, where they are taking that from is the guidelines that have been developed and handed out to each candidate already - and now we would be asking them to actually sign it. We have handed it to them but haven't ever gotten anything back from them saying that they have reviewed and agree to the guidelines.

Opinion expressed: **Which is fine for the candidates. The question is for the board members because the ENC's prior to this have never signed that document themselves. You are inventing a new process where any board member will have to sign an agreement about a set of activities.**

Comment by Acting Executive Director Braff: Fine, and I agree. But I think the MOTION that Ari is talking about is just taking out the 'electioneering' comment.

Comment by ENC Chair Saboo: They are two separate things: I will come up with some wording with the rest of the committee and bring back for our next meeting. But that is separate from just cropping-out "ENC" and inserting "Board members" in that particular line of our MOTION today.

Opinion expressed: Another aspect brought up at a previous board meeting proposed that we add to our oath: non-partisanship (the Pledge that we sign annually as board members). I suggest that we also broaden it to cover the issue of non-partisanship in that, as well. And not just the campaign, but our general practice.

Comment by Governing Board Chair: Yes – that is once we're elected. And I think that's a good idea.

Chair Saboo asked if the board was comfortable now with proceeding to a MOTION. There were no further questions.

MOTION: To amend the current ENC Policies & Procedures Section 4 G2 to strike "Elections Committee" and replace it with "Governing Board" so that it would read: "...members of the Governing Board are prohibited from any electioneering activities on behalf of board candidates..."

Approved by a vote of 10:

Barbara Zamora-Appel; Lisa Mariam; Sarah Tran; Melanie Sletten; Rasheq Rahman; Kristina Groennings;

Anna Bartosiewicz; Ari Ghasemian; Charlotte Loving; Shivani Saboo – all voting "AYE." Bill Glikbarg was absent.

ENC Chair Saboo thanked everyone for giving their opinions. She will work with the ENC to create sample documentation for the next meeting - to see a copy of the actual agreement for both candidates and board members, for further discussion.

FINANCE COMMITTEE *Treasurer Saboo gave a summary of the committee's work in calendar year 2022.

We had our last meeting in October. There was a Meeting-of-the-Whole on Sept. 7 and Regular board meeting on October 26 where we passed through the FY2024 budget to Fairfax County. Since then, there has been no further activity of the



Finance Committee. If there are any questions or thoughts from any board members that you would like to relate back to Comptroller Karra or from him, feel free to reach out to me and Comptroller Karra can talk through that with you.

CAPITAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE *Vice-Chair Rahman gave a summary of the committee's work in calendar year 2022.

The next upcoming meeting is December 14. There are no updates to report on as of tonight. The topics next week will be on EV and solar; and we will have a discussion about some additional roof repair.

Year-end summary: In general, we have done some new, interesting things:

1. In August, CFC and other members of the board toured the MCC building and got a very good idea of what the facility looks like and what the challenges are. I encourage this walking tour to be a regular occurrence for the committee every year, for better understanding.
2. Chair Rahman spent time with Facilities Manager Joe McGovern to understand the issues.
3. We have continuing challenges with the roof and there is a better understanding: let's get the roof right as we look at future investments in sustainability and such things as solar panels or EV charging infrastructure.
4. With particular thanks to Joe McGovern and MCC staff, another good accomplishment is the new virtual video systems (rolling cart) – we will try it next week.
5. There are some ongoing questions about how to continue to improve A/V and acoustics in Community Hall, but we are learning as we go by various initiatives. Many thanks to staff and the county for providing some first steps.
Comment by Acting Executive Director Braff: It's interesting because MCA is meeting in there tonight and they're using the portable A/V cart. It's pretty neat and people are really excited to see that, if McLean Room is being used, there are other options. **I want to give some kudos to the Governing Board for thinking about some other options that we can implement. I think that's in response to the community too – you all heard that the community just didn't want only this one room [McLean Room]. They wanted multiple rooms to be equipped with appropriate technology. So that's a big win for Capital Facilities Committee.**
Comment by CFC Chair Rahman: Yes, a big win for our committee and for our view of how to best use this facility space. At Supervisor Foust's holiday party, people said that if MCC is to be a center both physically as well as spiritually, it makes sense for us to think about that.
6. I look forward in the next couple of months to look at: What is our opportunity to actually 'green' our operations and really think about how do we achieve some sustainability goals?
7. *Clarification by Acting Executive Director Braff:* This Spring, we will be able to address the request for availability of feminine products. We are working through that. That's not off the list; we are just working through it.

Many thanks to my colleagues: Melanie Sletten, Kristina Groennings and Bill Glikbarg – for looking at everything related to facilities and helping us to make decisions particularly within the budgeting season, on what our top priorities should be. I think we are well-positioned for the coming year.

REVISED MEETING PROCEDURES – “ALL-VIRTUAL” *Comments by Board Secretary Groennings

We are considering going from what we have now to including “all virtual” meeting options – actual legal policy guidelines and proposed schedule. On October 26, the new “All-Virtual” meetings policy was explained and the board directed Secretary Groennings to work with MCC staff to establish future dates for All-Virtual meetings in 2022-2023 board cycle.

MOTION: To adopt the “All-Virtual” policy including abiding by all requirements of board member and public participation. Monthly board meetings on the following dates will be convened virtually: January 25, March 22, and May 24, 2023 – in this board year.

Approved by a vote of 10:

Barbara Zamora-Appel; Lisa Mariam; Sarah Tran; Melanie Sletten; Rasheq Rahman; Kristina Groennings; Ari Ghasemian, Anna Bartosiewicz; Charlotte Loving; Shivani Saboo – all voting “AYE.” Bill Glikbarg was absent.

Ms. Novak requested to give a point of clarification: We have asked for guidance from the county attorney's office as to whether the remaining in-person meetings are still governed by the "Remote Participation" policy. Because the "All-Virtual" policy will apply to the all-virtual setting; but in the case of the alternating in-person meetings, we are seeking clarification that those will still refer to "Remote Participation" as being the operative guidelines.

Comment by Board Secretary Groennings: We have to. We have to. Especially because it concerns not only the elective virtual, but also the policy refers to if a board member is sick... I feel like a lot of that ["Remote Participation"] we can't NOT do...

Comment by Ms. Novak: Right. So, we can't have only "All-Virtual;" rather, we expect to have the alternating policies in place respectively, [All-Virtual vs. Remote Participation], depending on the style of the meeting.

Question: Are there separate policies for committee meetings defined as "All-Virtual" yet?

Response by Board Secretary Groennings: No – not yet. We will work out those schedules with the committee chairs.

CHAIR'S REPORT *The Gov. Board Chair summarized recent progress on topics from the October meeting and in weeks following.

What a year! It will go down in the books for so many reasons! I want to thank the volunteer board members for all the work and effort. I know sometimes we must prioritize this volunteer work over other things we could be doing. Your commitment to serving this community is invaluable and thank you. I want to thank the staff for continuing to put together programs and events that our community enjoys. I want to thank the community members who keep us on our toes and provide support, not only by participating in all of our programs, but also by volunteering. We have a small group of people who are always there and we can count on them. No matter what challenges we faced this year, programming was strong. We did not drop the ball at any time; I think we were able to do that. I was sad that the MPA ArtFest2022 event got cancelled; but it was not because of something we did. The cancellation was caused by hurricane weather.

1. We started this year with the "Winter Block Party" with over 1200 attendees. We realized then that people like outdoor events. That led staff to think about: What else can we offer that is outdoors?
2. We have begun to ask: How can we allow the community to use our facilities in a much more efficient way? So, we requested a review of how many rooms can we have with upgraded technology for us to have hybrid meetings? Having that portable cart is helping with that. The request is still there to, at some point in the future, wire the rooms to be able to provide that for everything. If it doesn't happen, and we cannot re-wire the rooms or upgrade the theater, then at least we have the portable technology cart in a way that we can still utilize that.
3. We are exploring different programs for our community. As our kids get more exposed to different things in other areas, we come to expect to see that here. So, the communication and collaboration that we have of the board, the community and the staff is important. That communication is invaluable for what we do. I don't shy away from bringing some of those ideas that I see somewhere else.
4. We are slowly getting into our sustainability efforts. I know a lot of things happen throughout the year: priorities change; budget; questioning... but I think we are committed to making this building more sustainable: using less paper; more energy-efficient - the things they are doing in Alden Theatre – that investment is in line with that. Those are little things that, in the overall scheme, you cannot go "green" from today to tomorrow. It is a slow process; but in the end, in a few years, we are actually going to see that.
5. We also learned to think differently this year. There was a lot that we had to overcome – a lot of challenges, a lot of new things, a lot of different thoughts, processes. But I think we are in a good place right now.
6. We will continue to pick up with the Strategic Plan. That was a pretty nice exercise as to where we want to be. We will have another opportunity to look into it in January or whenever the time permits it. But because we've been through it already, we know what we need to work on and just be more efficient about doing that.
7. Our Youth board members are creating initiatives. I was sad to see 2020 and 2021 – the year just 'went by' and there was not a whole lot for our youth board members to do. I applaud Charlotte Loving and Sarah Tran for taking the initiative to do something differently!
8. Some of our board members have talked to AAUW and they really want to get more involved with STEM. I think that's a great opportunity for our Youth board members to take on and just run with it.



Highlights of some main events that occurred in 2022:

Earth Day – 235 vehicles; Flamenco dancers; country music, a variety of things. To me, I never had time and that's so sad! But I highly encourage everyone to actually attend all of these events.

First-ever Iftar, in observance of the holy month of Ramadan, with members of McLean Islamic Center;

Spring Garage Sale – 781 attendees; OFC Sensory Day 63 attendees

McLean Day – 9,200 attendees; Harvest Happening Festival – 330 families registered

McLean 5K – 374 registered runners; Fall Parking Lot Sale – 1,200 attendees

Touch a Truck – 1,100 attendees. A lot of kids – they loved that!

PetFest – 1,388 attendees + lots of dogs and cats.

Monster Mash – 275 attendees and 28 on waitlist. That's one thing I have to say: we have a lot of waitlists this year, unlike 2020 and 2021. It's incredible how people are coming back again.

Antique Show - 1,100 attendees. If you didn't get a chance to come over here, you should have! I got some pretty nice things for my mother, so I'm very happy about that.

Trunk-or-Treat – 880 attendees; lots of families and kids. I had a big trunk display and it was a lot of fun!

MLK Celebration with Darryl Davis – 109 attendees.

Trocadero Ballet – 359 attendees; that's a big number for The Alden Theatre.

Duo pop – 197 attendees. There is a lot that kids are getting to see.

Bassem Usef (Egyptian activist and comedian) – he brought in 381 attendees.

Foreign language films – over 200 attendees.

I wanted to recap all of this because the staff is doing a phenomenal job!. Even with all the change that happens, we just have to face it. But nothing really impacted the programming. THANK YOU! Thank you for all that you do.

And I don't want to finish without saying: the OFC camps and field trips are phenomenal!! The fact that you're opening up to 5th and 6th graders is going to make a huge difference. I've started to hear from kids who are so excited to go on those trips! I mean – that's amazing!

Great news on cost-effective programming: Thank you to Evan and the staff for giving us the breakdown of how much those things cost vs. how much those things cost to our community. It just shows what Melanie has been trying to do, and Melanie now has great news! It's all coming into what we are trying to accomplish.

For me, in two and a half years of doing this, I think we're in a good place. And more change... good change... is coming up. I highly encourage you to continue to speak up, continue to be involved. I really appreciate everything that you do.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Acting Executive Director Braff had said the last time [October] was going to be his last meeting but he's still here!

It's all good. I just have a few announcements of some things that are very exciting:

1. On Monday, December 12, we are hosting McLean H.S. Ethics Day here at MCC. High school students will be here throughout the building.
2. We are super-stoked about (first time at MCC) – Fairfax Co. Fire Dept. Academy graduation will be held here on Friday, Dec. 16. A lot of dignitaries will be here for that. I want to thank Sarah Schallern Treff, who accepted the opportunity. It's another way to show the community what MCC is doing. Sarah is trying to convince them to hold the graduation ceremony here every time! And we are excited about that.
3. A special 'shout out' to Sarah Tran and Charlotte Loving about the Youth Ambassador program. It has been in every newspaper! He suggests that Sarah and Charlotte make copies of those advertisements to show what their efforts have been. We are getting some applications in; the last day for submission is December 9.
4. I want to thank Catherine Nesbitt and her Special Events team for the Holiday Craft Fair – this parking lot was jammed on Friday, Saturday and Sunday! We had 2,370 people come through the doors! That's amazing. Catherine Nesbitt's team worked really hard, and we thank her for that.

5. Winter Program Guide – coming out shortly. As part of the “green” initiative, we have sent postcards out to all tax district households letting them know that we are not printing as many hard copies. Hard copies will be here next Monday if people need them. The Registrar reports that people are registering already. We will track that, but it seems like we are doing O.K. [with this new method.]
6. Thanks to Sarah Schallern Treff about Thursday night, January 12 – “Pulling Back the Curtain” at Alden. We’ve gotten a lot of questions from the community around the expenses of running a theater. The Alden staff will demonstrate behind-the-scenes look at the expenses and processes of running of a theater: What it takes to run a year-long performance season. We will get this announcement out to many folks; it will be interesting for people to learn about all the intricacies. The staff is very excited. Some community members actually brought up this idea and are really excited about it.
7. Winter Block Party – Saturday, January 7.
8. We are getting in the holiday spirit! Virginia Chamber Orchestra on Dec 18 will be a sing-along. Frosty will be on December 19. *Comment by Sarah Schallern Treff:* Virginia Chamber Orchestra’s concert is entitled: “Leaning Into the Holidays!” We think of Evan every time we hear that title!

Acting Executive Director Braff sincerely thanked the MCC Governing Board for their time and commitment with him:

“You all have made it really easy for me. I also want to echo what Chair Zamora-Appel said: we have a wonderful staff here who just really lean-in. We were so excited to see the little kids running in today for the event; and this weekend starting on Friday... I was afraid to go out to lunch because I thought I wouldn’t have a parking space when I got back! So, it’s been really cool to see folks very excited about coming back into this building and engaging! And I just want to thank you all.”

Update on McLean Project for the Arts *remarks by Deb Bissen, Communications Director for MPA

A printed calendar of upcoming events at MPA was distributed – including: Winter exhibition opens on Friday (with an opening reception on Friday night from 7 – 9 p.m. If you’re available, please join us. “Dimensional Fiber Works in the Round” featuring five really unique artists.

Atrium Gallery – “Trees On the Edge” (by one of the instructors who teaches workshops)

Winter and Spring art class registrations are now open. It’s a great idea to offer an art class as a holiday gift!

We had a great “Giving Tuesday.” As you know we need to raise a lot of money to support our operation, so it was nice to see good support from our community. We had smaller donations and it’s nice to reach people in a way that’s not too expensive but want to support something. So, it’s nice to reach out to the community.

Question: MCC provides funding for ArtFest – is there a plan for that since this year was cancelled?

I don’t get involved in the financials but I know there had been a question; Lori Carbonneau was preparing a response to that. There were some expenses that we were unable to get refunded after the cancellation. I’m not sure what the finances ended up being in terms of what percentage of costs were able to be refunded.

Comment by Acting Executive Director Braff: We will get a report. In the MOU for ArtFest in 2023, MPA will come and give an overview of expenses. I have already talked to them and they will attend the February 23 meeting to give an overview.

DISCUSSION OF “RULES OF CONDUCT” POLICY

**An updated DRAFT policy was distributed for advance review. Board Secretary Groennings gave the following explanation.*

We are not going to do a MOTION to adopt the policy tonight, as we want to allow for public comment (including any this evening). After our discussion on the DRAFT Rules of Conduct we will make any modifications that we need to and have the Office of the County Attorney review the new DRAFT. We are aiming for the DRAFT that we are distributing this evening and any modifications to hopefully be passed at the January 25, 2023 board meeting.

In addition to the “Rules of Conduct,” we are also developing two additional policies:

1. Customer Bill of Rights
2. Progressive Discipline policy

**DRAFTS of these documents will be presented at future board meetings.*

Discussion / Q & A:

Opinion expressed: I want to add something that I thought was missing: No proselytizing at MCC or promoting one faith over another... materials. The library has a policy about that, so we can look at the language they use. But that [point] is missing.

Question by the Governing Board Chair: This goes back to our earlier discussion of the Candidate Packet: Is there such a thing as a Code of Conduct for candidates as they are trying to become members of the MCC Governing Board?

Clarification by Acting Executive Director Braff: That is something we can ask the county attorney about. Because in my initial conversations with the county attorney, one thing he has flagged is that piece - around "free speech." The county attorney is waiting to see our final DRAFT and then they are going to probably give some guidance on that area. It's a little tricky especially because MCC is a public space. The example the county attorney used is at the Fairfax County Govt. Center, they designate spaces where someone can leave materials. For example, at the Fairfax Co. Government Center it can only be done outside in a certain area. We will get some guidance from them in regard to what latitude we have.

Comment by Governing Board Chair: Right. Because on #9, it ends with: "...with written approval." So if one candidate out of nine gets written approval and then it's not the same for all the others...

Clarification by Acting Executive Director Braff: The county attorney is where you are: he's a little concerned about that. The county attorney first wanted to get our sample of the whole thing and then come back with Secretary Groennings and Anna Bartosiewicz to go through those changes. That is one area that is going to have to be reviewed. I think he is concerned (as you are) about - Who is giving that approval? And you've got to make sure it's consistent. The last thing you don't want to happen is for someone to feel that MCC is 'playing favorites' or giving somebody something. So, that is one area we're going to have to take a look at.

Public comments about this topic are open tonight. *There were no public comments given verbally in this meeting.

Summary by Acting Executive Director Braff:

1. I think when we were doing this, we looked at what other agencies that are similar to MCC have: first, what their "policies & procedures" are. **I do want to be clear and go on record about this: All the centers and all the other agencies that operate centers like this allow people to come in and sit in their lobbies and be in these spaces. So, if MCC were to do something different than that, we would significantly be an outlier compared to the other Fairfax County agencies.**

2. My other concern is just really being careful about who we determine who can and can't be here. I've been doing this for 28 years and the way we do this is: **Everybody is welcome and we kind of look at behaviors. The only way we are going to ask someone not to come anymore is if they're doing something that is really threatening. If we take any other type of position, that could be viewed as very discriminatory and MCC would be subject to legal ramifications.**

I just want to make sure that's on-record with folks as you're determining this Code of Conduct - and understand those ramifications for the MCC Governing Board.

Question: Once this "Code of Conduct" is adopted, how will people be made aware of it? Will it be added when they sign-up for programs?

Clarification by Acting Executive Director Braff: We will add it when they sign-up for stuff. We're going to be posting it. We will make every effort possible to inform everyone in the building that this is the "Code of Conduct" that we have.

In fact, it is very similar to what other agencies have done: Neighborhood & Community Services; libraries. I think we can model it after them. Three years ago, I was part of that effort to update their "Rules of Conduct" and they had a very systematic way of getting that out. We have some examples of how we can do that for the community here.

Comment by Governing Board Chair: I think it would be a good idea to have a poster at the entrance but also have the DEIA statement next to it - because I think those go together for what we're trying to accomplish here, about being welcoming and inclusive.

Question: I suggested an edit that I don't know if it has been taken? But as I read the "Code of Conduct", it did not include any performers or entertainers – that they, too, are responsible for the conduct expected of everyone?

Clarification by Acting Executive Director Braff: When MCC has performers and entertainers, they must sign a detailed contract that outlines the expected behavior. Every person Sarah Schallern Treff brings on as a performer – it is very strict! She is having the artist initial every piece – so, that is in their contract. And even for MCC staff – there is a contract that our staff must sign regarding acceptable behavior. So, **I just want folks to know that for MCC staff that we hire, as well as for people with whom we contract– there are the same expectations that they must follow.**

Question: How do you see operationalizing this? If someone has an issue, how is that going to be implemented?

Comment by Acting Executive Director Braff: That's the next phase Secretary Groennings is talking about. I wrote the one for NCS; the next phase of this is going to be our "Management Behavior and Discipline Practice." I just had a discussion today with the county Office of Emergency Management and site safety. We will have some training for our MCC staff team in January. It's an area that maybe we didn't have prior focus we needed to have. We're going to do some training around different scenarios and how you deal with disruptive behavior. And we will include the practices that we're expecting people to follow if something were to happen in this building. I think this is an area of growth for the staff in regard to that training. So that will be happening in January.

BIG THANKS to Kristina Groennings and Anna Bartosiewicz for all their efforts. They have worked non-stop: on an initial version, and then two days later I get the updated version! They have really put a lot of time and thought into this! I know they have reached out to everyone and I really want to thank them for their efforts!

Comment by the Governing Board Chair: I want to add to that, and I also want to ask of the board:

Whenever a request for response is asked of all board members, please respond because that would reduce the number of hours that we spend trying to create or edit these documents that we need to have ready on a timely basis. It was just this week that Anna and Kristina polled many of us – and that's because of non-response. We should not get to that point. If you get an e-mail, but if you don't want to respond in an e-mail, that's fine – just give them a call. Always, but especially when we're working on documents. Because sometimes we need it timely to get it out to the public so we can receive comments, or feed into our meetings – and being more effective in that way. I really appreciate that. I know everybody has other priorities, but we need to be timely in our responses.

50th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE *Chair Mariam gave a summary of the group's efforts so far in calendar year 2022.

We were not able to have an official meeting because we didn't have quorum. Anyone on the committee – I ask for your attendance so that we can make progress. We continued with the agenda on November 2: talking about the charter for the committee and also reviewing a comprehensive inventory of all the great ideas that people have been suggesting over the past year... of different ideas for all types of programs, new expansions that could happen during the 50th anniversary year... and trying to prioritize. We cancelled the December meeting. We will meet again in January and hope we can actually vote to adopt the committee charter and then move it along to the full board for approval. Sabrina Anwah in the PIO office is on-board with all that the committee has discussed so far.

Comment by the Governing Board Chair: Thank you, Lisa. I just want to remind everyone: the committee compositions are very small. If it has four board members, in order to have quorum we must have three people present. That hasn't happened with the 50th Anniversary committee. I've actually been to every meeting and we have not been able to have quorum. So, that means that we cannot have official meeting Minutes; we cannot make official decisions. I highly encourage you to please look at all the forward dates. All the committee dates are published; and it is updated if it changes, by reminder from Ms. Novak. I know there is a lot. And I know this is the second 'ask': Please do make an effort to attend those committee meetings. If you cannot, then reach out to the committee chair so they can either move the meeting to another time or work with you in a way that you will be able to attend. But we cannot move forward unless that happens.

Comment by Vice-Chair Rahman: And on that point, we do have options for virtual participation. So, of those four people, if two were virtual and two were present, does that not satisfy the requirement?

Comment by Ms. Novak: “Remote Participation” policy guidelines. There is a limit to how often you can do that.

Comment by Acting Executive Director Braff: I think he is asking – What is a quorum for a committee meeting? Four folks from the board – is a quorum 50/50... or can only one person participate from home? If there are only four board members on the committee, do you have to have three people present in-person to convene? YES.

Comment by Ms. Novak: The way it works – quorum still must be in-person [for a committee meeting]. That’s why we push out all the dates way ahead, so you can plan. If you must participate remotely, you can – but there is a limit per individual.

PROGRAMS & OUTREACH COMMITTEE *Chair Bartosiewicz gave a summary of the committee’s work in calendar year 2022.

There are good, robust discussions! A couple of interesting concepts were introduced: 1. there was discussion during the committee meeting about collaboration with Better Block – we got some great input from staff members who participated. Thank you again to all the MCC staff who participated; it is really useful to have your input.

2. A guest at the meeting talked briefly about cell phone usage (high-level preliminary, informative presentation) and how it can be used to track participation at MCC events and gather demographic information about attendees. We had a great PowerPoint presentation from Mike Fisher about upcoming programs. A couple of months ago we looked at an Excel spreadsheet which is now a PowerPoint format. **Basically, it is a more detailed run-through on how information is gathered for ideas for upcoming events; how that data is collected and analyzed; endline- how it is being used; what decisions are made based on that for potential new programming.** The staff will present some of those ideas to the board at the next upcoming meeting in January 2023.

Clarification by Acting Executive Director Braff: For the January 2023 meeting, we will be doing a presentation on:

1. Youth programming.
2. Starting to talk about the customer survey we want to have about activities & programs.
3. proposal about how we can do a “First Friday Night” event in downtown McLean.

In my mind, if we can get this new survey in place and the planning for the “First Friday Night” that would be a big thing for your Programs & Outreach Committee.

Comments by Chair Bartosiewicz: There was an update about the new MCC website and working out bugs. Ongoing fixes are being implemented; that should be going smoothly. Request: please check on meeting audio recordings. Registration for Winter/Spring session has begun. Program guide will be coming out soon (some physical copies will be available at MCC).

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Governing Board Chair invited any individuals wishing to **express verbal public comments** to do so now. Three minutes was allotted for each person, provided they first stated aloud their residential address so MCC staff could verify them as being a tax district resident.

Deb Bissen (MPA)

On the forthcoming customer survey in the community and the topic of youth programming. I’m just curious: Would it be possible to include a question about youth visual arts programming? We don’t offer any classes for that age group and we’d like to do something is of interest.

Yes – we can coordinate that. Acting Executive Director Braff agreed that this question should be incorporated into the Customer Survey.

Incoming written public comments received in the weeks since the last Governing Board meeting on October 26, 2022, are shown below. These comments were verified by MCC staff as coming from a Small District 1A-Dranesville resident.

1. Bonnie Myshrall

From: Bonnie Myshrall <bkarthur@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 11:39 AM

To: Beyer, Carolyn <Carolyn.Beyer@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Foust, John W. <John.Foust@fairfaxcounty.gov>; McGovern,



Joseph <Joe.McGovern@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Braff, Evan L. <Evan.Braff@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Sletten, Melanie <Melanie.Sletten@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Mariam, Lisa <Lisa.Mariam@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Glikbarg, William <William.Glikbarg@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Bartosiewicz, Anna <Anna.Bartosiewicz@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Saboo, Shivani <Shivani.Saboo@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Groennings, Kristina <Kristina.Groennings@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Rahman, Rasheq <Rasheq.Rahman@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Zamora-Appel, Barbara <Barbara.Zamora-Appel@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Heather Zwicker <heather@fairfaxtimes.com>
Subject: Re: Security Issue at McLean Community Center

To Supervisor Foust, Officer Beyer, McLean Community Center Board, Executive Director, and Facilities Manager,

I want to follow up on this issue that I raised a month ago and still has not been resolved. I spoke with Evan, who indicated they were working towards implementing policies and procedures that could empower the community center staff to get this resolved, but that has yet to happen. I did speak in person with two staff members who told me that this man is harmless, but they also confirmed that he gets agitated and aggressive when he is asked to leave. This is not okay. We have young children in the building. As I said before, if the man cannot be removed from the area, then one of two things absolutely must happen: **(1) extra security hired to protect the children;** and **(2) parents MUST be notified that this is happening.** I continue to be alarmed that there is a potential threat to minor children, yet parents are kept in the dark. You should ask your legal counsel how those waivers will hold up when you're not sharing information about potential risks.

So many parents still think this is the nice safe community center of pre-Covid days. They are dropping off their young minor children, more often than not, without even walking them in.

Over the last month, I have heard from numerous parents who are concerned and even more members of the staff at MCC who are not comfortable with this man. Several have reported he is aggressive. Although Evan and the facilities manager deny their staff is uncomfortable, they are sharing that with me and other parents. Action needs to be taken before a child is hurt, and adults and children who use the community center should have the right to feel safe. There are other county resources that should be made available to this man. I am happy to help support him and encourage others to do the same. I am not suggesting we abandon him, but the community center, as currently operating, is not equipped to handle someone with his apparent issues.

Either hire security and/or let parents know. People need to know the community center is not as safe as it once was.

I am copying Heather Zwicker of the Fairfax Times. If the MCC will not alert parents, I am hopeful the press will.

Thank you,
Bonnie Myshrall

On Fri, Sep 30, 2022 at 8:45 AM Bonnie Myshrall <bkarthur@gmail.com> wrote:

To Supervisor Foust, Officer Beyer, McLean Community Center Board, Executive Director, and Facilities Manager,

I am a parent of a minor child who takes classes at the McLean Community Center. She has been doing various classes there for over 10 years. I have always felt that the community center was a safe place for her to be, and as she's gotten older, I just drop her off and pick her up, not feeling the need to walk her in or wait for her. Until now. Over the summer, while she was at a MCC camp, I heard after the fact that there were homeless people in the vicinity of where she had been. I also heard that with the departure of the last executive director, this problem would no longer be an issue. I was wrong.

Last night, I walked in to watch the end of a dance class and noticed a man sleeping across the hall from where the children were taking their class (photo attached). I learned that this particular individual is often at MCC, has been confrontational, and likely has some mental health issues. While I strongly believe we as a community should help people in need, the McLean Community Center is not the place to fill that need. It neither has the resources or staff to help someone in this position, and it does not have the security necessary to protect the minor children that are using the Community Center for the very reason the MCC was founded and funded by our tax



dollars. Nor should the staff of the community center be expected to do their jobs and provide that security or be subjected to the hostility and instability of someone with potential mental health issues.

I am writing to ask that you: (1) commit to additional security or put in place policies to have the problem resolved; and (2) immediately notify other families that this is happening. I am alarmed that there is a potential threat to our minor children and no one saw fit to communicate this to parents.

Again, we all want to help support people in need, and I support organizations whose missions are to help people like this gentleman, but that is NOT the charter or mission of the Community Center, and the MCC and Fairfax County need to prioritize the safety of our children and staff at the community center.

Please let me know your plans to address this issue, and thank you all for your service to our community.

Sincerely,
Bonnie Myshrall
McLean, VA

2. Julie Rice

From: J <julieawilliams@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 11:13 AM

To: Foust, John W. <John.Foust@fairfaxcounty.gov>; McGovern, Joseph <Joe.McGovern@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Braff, Evan L. <Evan.Braff@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Sletten, Melanie <Melanie.Sletten@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Mariam, Lisa <Lisa.Mariam@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Glikbarg, William <William.Glikbarg@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Bartosiewicz, Anna <Anna.Bartosiewicz@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Saboo, Shivani <Shivani.Saboo@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Groennings, Kristina <Kristina.Groennings@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Rahman, Rasheq <Rasheq.Rahman@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Zamora-Appel, Barbara <Barbara.Zamora-Appel@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Beyer, Carolyn <Carolyn.Beyer@fairfaxcounty.gov>

Subject: Security Issue at McLean Community Center

To Supervisor Foust, Officer Beyer, McLean Community Center Board, Executive Director, and Facilities Manager,

I am the parent of two young girls - ages 7 & 9 and we have taken dance at the McLean Community Center for over eight years. Over the past two years we have noticed an increase in homeless people sleeping in the back of the community center right by where all the dancers are - at one point there were four of them there all the time. Like the other parents I agree this is not the place and hope our community can help them in other ways. One of the men who is there weekly often coughs a lot and is asleep a lot. Not only do I feel alarm for all the young kids taking class but also for the amazing woman who runs the studio - she is just a young woman herself. I also don't feel that safe while I sit there all class with him near by. I do not think many parents are aware of this and many drop of their kids. I see it as something that could turn into a very unsafe environment. In today's world I think we need to be as proactive as possible to help those and to keep our young children safe (I would say the average age is SEVEN for the dance school). PLEASE HELP US!

I am writing to ask that you: (1) commit to additional security or put in place policies to have the problem resolved; and (2) immediately notify other families that this is happening. I am alarmed that there is a potential threat to our minor children and no one saw fit to communicate this to parents.

Again, we all want to help support people in need, and I support organizations whose missions are to help people like this gentleman, but that is NOT the charter or mission of the Community Center, and the MCC and Fairfax County need to prioritize the safety of our children and staff at the community center.

Please let me know your plans to address this issue, and thank you all for your service to our community.

Thank you,
Julie Rice

3. **Bonnie Myshrall (her reply to Supervisor Foust's response)**

From: Bonnie Myshrall <bkarthur@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, November 7, 2022 9:10 PM

To: Foust, John W. <John.Foust@fairfaxcounty.gov>

Cc: Edmondson, Jane P. <Jane.Edmondson@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Braff, Evan L.

<Evan.Braff@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Alfonzo Meza, Camila <Camila.AlfonzoMeza@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Zamora-

Appel, Barbara <Barbara.Zamora-Appel@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Abu-El-Hawa, Amir <[\[Hawa@fairfaxcounty.gov\]\(mailto:Hawa@fairfaxcounty.gov\)>; Heather Zwicker <\[heather@fairfaxtimes.com\]\(mailto:heather@fairfaxtimes.com\)>](mailto:Amir.Abu-El-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Subject: Re: Security Issue at McLean Community Center

Thank you for your response, and I certainly understand the lack of authority to ask the man to leave. What the center can do, and must do, is alert parents who are dropping off their minor children without accompanying them into the building because they are unaware of this. Parents absolutely have the right to know that the center is currently a place where homeless people are residing and sleeping during the times when their children are in class. While there may not be authority to do anything with regards to the individual, there should either be increased security or notification to the community. I encourage you to speak with employees of the community center who have said that this individual gets hostile and agitated when disturbed. Children are at risk, and the least the community center should do is alert the families of those children being dropped off. You don't need a policy to do the right thing. Hiding information about children's safety is not the right thing.

On Mon, Nov 7, 2022 at 9:04 PM Foust, John W. <John.Foust@fairfaxcounty.gov> wrote:

Ms. Myshrall

Thank you for your emails regarding concerns about security at the McLean Community Center. I understand you have communicated about this matter with several people including Evan Braff, Acting Executive Director of the MCC. I suspect that Evan assured you that the safety of people who use the MCC is extremely important to him and to all members of the MCC staff.

After we received your emails, I asked my staff to address your concerns with Evan and Chris Leonard, the Deputy County Executive responsible for supporting the MCC. They explained that the MCC is a public space, and that all residents have a right to access such facilities if their conduct is acceptable. They also noted that when the MCC is open, staff is available to address any issues that patrons have. Although they understand your concerns, they feel strongly that staff and visitors at the MCC are safe, and that there is no need to add onsite security.

Regarding your concern about the gentleman who is at the MCC most days, and who is believed to be homeless, Evan informed me that he does not act in a manner that requires or justifies forcing him to vacate the building. I know that may not be consistent with your understanding based on discussions you have had with others. However, I have great confidence in Evan's judgment as well as his dedication to running a community center that is safe for all visitors. I am confident that if this gentleman was creating a dangerous condition, Evan would not allow it to go unaddressed.

I was advised that MCC staff is in the process of developing a formal code of conduct that will, if adopted by the Governing Board, set specific standards to regulate conduct at the MCC. I believe the Governing Board intends to discuss it at its December 7 meeting, which will take place at 6:30 p.m. at the MCC. If you want to comment on how the code of conduct might be used to address your concerns, or if you still believe the MCC should provide notice of your concerns to parents of kids who use the MCC, I believe you could raise those issues with the entire MCC Governing Board at that meeting.

It is very important to me and staff that you and all residents who use the MCC are safe, and that you believe you and your families are safe when you visit. I hope this response is helpful in that regard. Please let me know if you have any additional questions for me or for Evan and the MCC staff.



John
John W. Foust
Dranesville District Supervisor
McLean Governmental Center
1437 Balls Hill Road
McLean, VA 22101
PH: [703-356-0551](tel:703-356-0551)
FAX: [703-821-4275](tel:703-821-4275)

4. Bonnie Myshrall

From: Bonnie Myshrall <bkarthur@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 11:39 AM

To: Beyer, Carolyn <Carolyn.Beyer@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Foust, John W. <John.Foust@fairfaxcounty.gov>; McGovern, Joseph <Joe.McGovern@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Braff, Evan L. <Evan.Braff@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Sletten, Melanie <Melanie.Sletten@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Mariam, Lisa <Lisa.Mariam@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Glikbarg, William <William.Glikbarg@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Bartosiewicz, Anna <Anna.Bartosiewicz@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Saboo, Shivani <Shivani.Saboo@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Groennings, Kristina <Kristina.Groennings@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Rahman, Rasheq <Rasheq.Rahman@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Zamora-Appel, Barbara <Barbara.Zamora-Appel@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Heather Zwicker <heather@fairfaxtimes.com>

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To Supervisor Foust, Officer Beyer, McLean Community Center Board, Executive Director, and Facilities Manager,

I am a parent of a minor child who takes classes at the McLean Community Center. She has been doing various classes there for over 10 years. I have always felt that the community center was a safe place for her to be, and as she's gotten older, I just drop her off and pick her up, not feeling the need to walk her in or wait for her. Until now. Over the summer, while she was at a MCC camp, I heard after the fact that there were homeless people in the vicinity of where she had been. I also heard that with the departure of the last executive director, this problem would no longer be an issue. I was wrong.

Last night, I walked in to watch the end of a dance class and noticed a man sleeping across the hall from where the children were taking their class (photo attached). I learned that this particular individual is often at MCC, has been confrontational, and likely has some mental health issues. While I strongly believe we as a community should help people in need, the McLean Community Center is not the place to fill that need. It neither has the resources or staff to help someone in this position, and it does not have the security necessary to protect the minor children that are using the Community Center for the very reason the MCC was founded and funded by our tax dollars. Nor should the staff of the community center be expected to do their jobs and provide that security or be subjected to the hostility and instability of someone with potential mental health issues.

I am writing to ask that you: (1) commit to additional security or put in place policies to have the problem resolved; and (2) immediately notify other families that this is happening. I am alarmed that there is a potential threat to our minor children and no one saw fit to communicate this to parents.

Again, we all want to help support people in need, and I support organizations whose missions are to help people like this gentleman, but that is NOT the charter or mission of the Community Center, and the MCC and Fairfax County need to prioritize the safety of our children and staff at the community center.

Please let me know your plans to address this issue, and thank you all for your service to our community.

Sincerely,
Bonnie Myshrall
McLean, VA

5. Laurie Wallace

From: Laurie Wallace <wallace1216@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 27, 2022 10:47 PM
To: Conley, Caroline <Caroline.Conley@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Just a Note

Hello Carrie,
I hope you had a nice Thanksgiving.

Now that we are getting to the end of the Fall SIA programs, I wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed and benefited from them. You put together such a wonderful program with so many different classes. I enjoyed them all!

I had been after myself for months to get out and get some exercise with not a lot of success -- but I look forward to the weekly Chi Kung and SAIL exercise classes. They were designed for folks just like me and had the added benefit of focusing on fall prevention which is so helpful to those of us who are not as stable as we used to be.



And, of course, I have enjoyed learning Mah Jongg and participating in the cooking and demonstration classes. I just wish I had more time to sample some of the other offerings that you put together.

Thank you again, Carrie, and I look forward to seeing what you have in store for us during the Winter-Spring SIA program at MCC.

All my best,
Laurie Wallace

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chair Zamora-Appel thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted – Holly Novak, Executive Assistant