



**2022-2023 MCC Governing Board
Regular Meeting
May 24, 2023 6:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

Board Members present: *in-person:* Barbara Zamora-Appel; Lisa Mariam; Sarah Tran; Bill Glikbarg
Anna Bartosiewicz; Melanie Sletten; Kristina Groennings; Charlotte Loving;
Shivani Saboo; Rasheq Rahman

Board Members absent: Ari Ghasemian

MCC Staff present: Betsy May-Salazar, Executive Director; Mike Fisher, General Programs Director;
Holly Novak, Executive Assistant; Jennifer Garrett, Technical Director

Guests: Kathleen Cooney Porter; Gloria Marrero Chambers; Katie Gorka; Eleanor Ague;
Camila Alfonso Meza (Supervisor Foust); Jim Lawless (Friends of MCC); Phyllis
Riley (MPA); Sowjanya O’Neill (MCA)

CONVENE MEETING

Chair Zamora-Appel convened the Governing Board of the McLean Community Center for a Regular Meeting on May 24, 2023 at 6:31 p.m. It was open to the public attending in-person and was audio-recorded; a courtesy verbal announcement about audio recording was stated by the Chair. No changes were requested to the agenda; it was adopted by acclamation.

APPROVE MINUTES

Minutes of April 26, 2023 Regular Meeting: No changes were requested to this document; it was accepted as written.

MOTION: To approve Minutes of April 26, 2023, Regular Meeting

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT **remarks by Executive Director Betsy May-Salazar*

***McLean Day:** I want to thank you all for your support of McLean Day and the election. It was very inspirational to see everything come to fruition. An enormous amount of work went into the event – by the staff, Governing Board, and community members. I was very proud to be a part of this team and staff – to see how diligently everyone worked and their commitment to excellence. I experienced the Governing Board election process for the first time. I am excited to be working with the new board; I had an orientation with the new board members tonight preceding this meeting.

***Summer concerts & camps:** Summer concerts in the park begin in June. We are shifting all spaces in all buildings to summer camp usage.

***SIA:** Multiple groups are participating in SIA - four different exercise options are scheduled for fall; games; lectures; cooking demonstrations; a really wonderful program is growing! I pay tribute to the staff who put it together and to the seniors who are enthusiastically participating and giving us feedback. Regarding staffing: we are hiring a 4-day a week person (which covers the program as it currently exists). It is a long-term consideration to convert position to a full-time merit position as the program develops. We also have weekly support from program managers Erin Bieger and Mike Fisher.

CHAIR’S REPORT **remarks by Board Chair Barbara Zamora-Appel*

Chair Zamora-Appel thanked the staff for their remarkable efforts to produce McLean Day. She also emphasized the importance of board members faithfully attending meetings, pointing out that several meetings this year had to be cancelled



due to lack of quorum. It's important to notify the Chair and Ms. Novak if unable to attend or need to connect virtually (so a link can be established). This board's collaborative work is accomplished through MOTIONS. Executive Director May-Salazar keeps a summary chart detailing decision-making over the past year in the form of MOTIONS by the Governing Board which have guided tasks and projects successfully moving forward.

Chair Zamora-Appel shared her individual perspective about ideas that have been raised in meetings throughout the year and encouraged board and staff to continue working on initiatives that have been started. She thanked the Youth board members for doing a phenomenal job this year in developing the Youth Ambassador program. Their voice will make a difference for students, by getting support from parents, from the board and the community. She thanked all colleagues on the board: having increased their aptitude in how to listen and understand where the community is coming from. She thanked MCC staff and expressed appreciation for Executive Director Betsy May-Salazar as being an excellent leader. Chair Zamora-Appel also congratulated the new incoming board members.

PROGRAMS & OUTREACH COMMITTEE **remarks by Chair Anna Bartosiewicz*

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, May 31 at 6:30 p.m. McLean Day de-brief: universal consensus was that it was great time! The weather cooperated – it rained at 7:30 p.m. and 99% of the breakdown was loaded on the truck already.

Specific remarks & recommendations about McLean Day:

- *Everyone was blown away by the amount of work, dedication and effort. It was very professional and a lot of fun!
- *Separating the small kid attractions and rides from the teens served both demographics well.
- *Appreciation for early hours of work and dedication: Melanie Sletten was there at 6:00 a.m. distributing radios; people were friendly, pleasant, prepared. Despite having little sleep over the past several days, MCC staff were polite, reasonable, and solidly in command.
- *Everything went well. The morning was gray, but sunny in afternoon. It was a really good time for people of all ages.
- *Individuals directing at the parking area and entrances were excellent; it was very well managed. Not so in years past (I couldn't get into the park). This year, the flow of people in-and-out was managed much better.
- *The ribbon cutting on Friday was a great positive kick-off to the event. We will enhance it next year and promote it more widely. Executive Director May-Salazar thanked Chair Zamora-Appel for presenting the idea of a ribbon-cutting. It was a fun and happy event - and good practice for MCC's 50th Anniversary. It was lovely to recognize Supervisor John Foust for his legacy of years of leadership in our district. Many community leaders were represented at the ribbon-cutting.
- * MCC branding should be more prominent. Bigger visibility – more explanation of what the candidates are doing at the tents and the Governing Board election: explaining what this is about. Many people don't know what MCC is. Candidates were wonderfully represented as you walked along the candidate row.
- *Meeting the candidates at the tents was enjoyable. Vice-Chair Rahman's daughter was able to work on a sign and take part. It is truly a community election – the residents run the process.
- *Training for the board is a good idea because questions from the candidates indicate that they will need such training.
- *Friday night rides were a big success for the youth. Many of my friends were going there!
- *The laser tag activity was questioned due to optics around guns. While the activity is laser tag and not shooting it will be explored if there is a different option regarding the type and look of the activity.
- *Better publicity on solving the parking problem. People were parked all over the neighborhood. We need more publicity about the availability of shuttles.
- *marketplace load-in (all the vendors are coming in): an amazing sight with the coordination of all those cars coming through. Volunteers helping were all young people (Scouts) – it was interesting to see the dynamic of those kids helping to unload vehicles at 6:00 a.m. The unloading aspect was amazing – the kids were rushing to help them.
- *Youth involvement: Because of staff efforts in the youth community, the engagement of the youth candidates was amazing. Our current youth board members also deserve a lot of credit in promoting the McLean Community Center. The Youth Ambassador program was a tool to help push out the message. Well done!

Governing Board election: Chair Bartosiewicz helped Ms. Novak with the ballots and assisted the League of Women Voters



as they validated residential printouts on Thursday, May 18 after Absentee Voting concluded. She reported that the amount of accountability that goes into the election process is astonishing. Thank you to the board members who assisted with the election. Every effort helps; we were able to interact with members of the public and be visible to everyone.

Status of annual survey: Development work continues diligently - to incorporate past survey results, input from the public hearing, and feedback from individual events. *Clarification by Mike Fisher:* We may use individual feedback to formulate questions in the latter survey in Fall 2023. We are still on-target to rollout in autumn.

Board engagement in upcoming events: McLean Day was a great example of the benefits of having the board members present. Help is needed for Independence Day fireworks on July 1; we need board member participation to pull off a great event. The list has a variety of movies, dance performances, blood drives, and summer concerts starting on 6/11.

L'Chaim Broadway compilation (The Alden Theatre): Feedback from the audience was amazing. The performance featured four Broadway singers and a band focusing on the Jewish legacy of Broadway. The singing was fantastic; but the history was so informative. It was great because many older people were present who connected with the material. A particularly meaningful survey comment mentioned that a man who had dementia was humming along with the songs.

YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT **remarks by Charlotte Loving and Sarah Tran*

“AP’s Out Party” at OFC: 112 attendees! Teams of students from McLean and Langley (teams of 6). It was really exciting and very successful. Thank you to Mike Fisher and Kyle Corwin – who made all the Instagram advertisements.

Some things can be improved on in the future:

1. Advertise earlier, including the fact that it will feature Chick-fil-A food!
2. Have Chick-fil-A food again! Chick-fil-A was a direct result of the Youth Ambassadors program– they texted everyone and the results came back that Chick-fil-A was the preferred food choice!
3. Inside OFC building needs better advertisement of where things are. If we work on getting people there, everyone will see what is available. Everyone loved it once inside!

Comments by Mike Fisher: Big kudos to Charlotte Loving and Sarah Tran for having the idea and putting the group together and keeping it cohesive. We’ve had 4-5 meetings of Youth Ambassadors; good participation throughout. All students are excited to be there. The “AP’s Out” event had little preregistration, and yet 112 students still showed up. This demonstrates that high schoolers are ‘at-the-door’ crowd. Several lessons were learned from this experience. We thank Charlotte Loving and Sarah Tran for their leadership and maintaining the positive atmosphere of supporting the students.

Meeting on June 5 with all Youth Ambassadors: discussing the event and the program as a whole, so we can package some recommendations to the new youth representatives on 2023-2024 Governing Board.

Any impressions about OFC building? How are we best using that? Hearing from our users will be very valuable.

1. Students are surprised about how much is available in the OFC building.
2. We anticipate much higher attendance next year.

CAPITAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE **remarks by Vice-Chair Rasheq Rahman; diagram was explained*

May 10 meeting was productive and extensive; focus was on the stormwater problem that has affected MCC building over the past several years. We were briefed by Paul Reynolds – a stormwater expert from Fairfax County. There was a big stormwater study (two issues: front side of building; back side of building) - yielding three options. Construction of a berm was less preferred because it would involve VDOT (being a big discussion) and would not address the main issue. A large conduit in the front of the building would not address the issue. Aspects most important: the pipe and inlet, the regrade, and creating a small wall that would be architecturally consistent with the building so that water can’t get up to the building. This part of project would be funded by the County.

Another project on the rear side of the building is about grading and replacing the sidewalk that is angled in the wrong



direction. It involves moving the sidewalk completely, re-grading it and replacing it. That would be MCC's cost. However, Fairfax County has done a comprehensive study; they would manage and oversee it. Everything on Ingleside Avenue (including pieces of the walls) would be Fairfax County's cost. On the rear side of the building, since it is not structural, that will be MCC's cost.

Regarding potential impact to MCC operations: this is all exterior work. We are not doing a big dig-up. It isn't anticipated to disrupt the activities in the building. The county is aware that we are a continuously operating center. We have two other entrances; also, the affected spaces are the least programmed areas of our entire campus. We should be able to work around it. There will be further review of the project by CFC and the entire board.

MOTION: To approve engaging with Stormwater Management, Fairfax County, to develop final plan for stormwater management project.

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

Ari Ghasemian was absent.

Jennifer Garrett explained background about proposed improvements to the Alden Theatre:

We used a theater consultant and county engineering firm to advise about adding A/V infrastructure – a necessity in today's environment. We were advised to have a broader scope to address needs beyond the physical theater - in the lobby and peripheral areas (rehearsal hall, etc.). This scope will not give us streaming capability, but we are building the pipeline to allow us to have capacity to have streaming in the future. It would give us the ability to add Wi-Fi and a screen in the theater. House lights are being replaced (original to 1975 construction) – to LED lights, including work lights. Due to economy and supply chain issues, our scope and bid-out was in Spring 2023. We are asking for additional funds to accommodate the increasing prices.

Question: Are the current lightbulbs the type that have been banned? Yes, the R-40's. LED lighting is cost effective and will benefit us in heat savings. It's a comfort issue; it also addresses MCC's sustainability goal. We previewed the proposed new fixtures to see what they do: they are color-changing - the ability to have lights on the audience tastefully. This multi-media capability is an investment in the future to attract high caliber talent. Many productions now involve special screens and lighting. Most artists appearing have A/V – rear screen projection, multi-projector videography. We will be capable of having this infrastructure. For our recent productions, it took a lot of preparation time to be able to host them. This upgrade is impressive and will save labor costs. The theater lights have already been converted to LED.

Vice-Chair Rahman thanked everyone for the continuing conversation. If it doesn't happen this summer, it will happen next year. We are restricted to doing major work such as this in summer.

MOTION: To approve mid-year funding items for The Alden Theatre including: Cat6 wiring design and installation and house lights installation totaling \$150,000.

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

Ari Ghasemian was absent.

FINANCE COMMITTEE; FY23 – APRIL FINANCIALS

**remarks by Treasurer Shivani Saboo*

Executive Director May-Salazar and Comptroller Karra are working on FY23 financial data and are in the process of developing a new financial statement that will be produced monthly for staff use and the Finance Committee. It will be a summary of income, expenses, variances. The document is ready but it makes most sense to introduce in the new fiscal year. We will introduce at the next Finance Committee meeting.

2023 GOVERNING BOARD ELECTION

**remarks by ENC Chair Shivani Saboo*



Thanks to Ms. Novak for doing an incredible job! On McLean Day, she was the last one here at MCC at 9:15 p.m. Congratulations to our five newly-elected individuals! We welcome you and are excited to work with you.

Executive Committee positions (Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary): anyone can run, including the newly-elected people. That election will be voted on at our June 7 meeting. Before that, we need to make sure at least one person is running for each position. Please e-mail to ENC Chair Saboo by June 1 if you are interested in an officer position. For June 7, people are asked to make a statement aloud (paragraph). By June 2, Chair Saboo will inform everyone of who is running, which gives a time frame of one week to consider the landscape.

50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE **remarks by Chair Lisa Mariam*

The committee did not meet last month. NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, May 31 at 5:30 p.m.

MCC's 50th Anniversary is in 2025 – we will celebrate it in the entire calendar year. There has been some engagement to determine programming priorities. Staff has been working on developing those ideas and the budgets. We will also design MCC's regular programming to be special throughout the anniversary year. 2025 will be the 110th McLean Day – that is a good connection to MCC's significant anniversary. This committee continues to welcome new participants from the community. And we always welcome new ideas!

REPORT FROM MCLEAN PROJECT FOR THE ARTS **remarks by Phyllis Riley, MPA Operations and Events Manager*

Gallery exhibit until June 12 (three solo artists); Thursday, June 8 – the artists will speak about their work. Summer Arts June 27 – August 12. Classes are beginning to fill up. Over the last few months, we have tried to match some of our gallery openings to The Alden Theatre shows: it has been very well attended and well-received. MCC has done a wonderful effort to promote that. Emerson Gallery: extended hours on Saturday evening, June 3: 6:30 to 9 p.m.; Sunday, June 4 1:30 – 4 p.m. Regular gallery hours: M – Sat 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. ArtReach: YTD – we have crossed beyond a total of 540 Title I schools having children visiting MPA Emerson Gallery. Over 150 students have seen the current interesting exhibit of refurbished old industrial boxes (machinery and motion). The children are very excited about it!

Executive Director May-Salazar commented that she has been working closely with Lori Carbonneau since beginning her tenure at MCC in January 2023. We really appreciate MPA adapting to open their doors during MCC events. We've had examples of participants in other classes coming upstairs to the gallery during an Alden performance.

OLD /NEW BUSINESS

Treasurer Saboo took her grandmother to the SIA potluck on the last Friday of the month. While there, she talked to participants and they absolutely love the program. They are happy to be there. A lady e-mailed her afterward and also thanked Carrie Conley for taking their input. Treasurer Saboo expressed gratitude for this program: it is really well-done.

Melanie Sletten expressed appreciation to Barbara Zamora-Appel for her leadership as Governing Board Chair.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

In-person comments: Chair Zamora-Appel invited the public to introduce themselves and give verbal remarks if they wished. Anyone who had requested in advance to speak would do so having been pre-verified as being a Small District 1A-Dranesville resident. Each person would be allotted three minutes for their comments.

No one requested to speak. There were no advance requests to speak.

Written comments: No written comments were submitted in advance of this meeting.

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

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