

**2023-2024 MCC Governing Board
Elections & Nominations Committee
October 11, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

Committee Members Present: *in-person:* Kristina Groennings, Chair; Katie Gorka; Eleanor Ague
Committee Members Absent: Ari Ghasemian
MCC Staff Present: Betsy May-Salazar, Executive Director
Guests: None

CONVENE MEETING

ENC Chair Kristina Groennings convened a meeting of Elections & Nominations Committee of the Governing Board of MCC on October 11, 2023, at 5:35 p.m. No changes were requested to the Agenda; it was adopted by acclamation.

WELCOME AND COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

Chair Groennings provided an overview of the committee's purpose and goals noting that the committee runs the process for the board elections including overseeing policies and procedures, any proposed changes, and any issues that arise around the election. The committee involvement ramps up as it gets closer to the elections. Today's goal is to review proposed amendments to policies and procedures.

REVIEW ENC POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Executive Director May-Salazar reviewed the proposed changes to the Policies and Procedures noting that changes being proposed reflect current practice. **Proposed amendments are shown in red font below.** All proposed amendments tie to the Section I. Absentee Voting:

I. Absentee Voting

3. Absentee ballots may be requested in person, by email, ~~or by~~ telephone **or online**. A voter who requests an absentee ballot may also request absentee ballots for other family members in the immediate household.
4. Absentee voting will take place at the MCC's Ingleside facility ~~and at the Old Firehouse Center,~~ or any other location designated by the Governing Board.
5. ~~Absentee voters shall complete and sign an Application for Absentee Ballot, which will include an affidavit to the effect that they are qualified to vote.~~

These changes will be brought forth in the December meeting to be adopted. The committee was encouraged to review the policies and procedures and bring forward any other recommendations or questions at the December meeting.

A discussion followed regarding various issues including:

- Ms. Gorka inquired about the process for picking up absentee ballots and it was confirmed that it is limited to members of one's household, however exceptions can be made for extenuating circumstances.
- Ms. Gorka inquired about the League of Women Voters's role in administering ballot counting for the election. Ms. May-Salazar confirmed the League of Women Voter's role, referring to a statement outlining the relationship:

- *The McLean Community Center (MCC) has utilized the services of the League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan organization, for more than a decade to administer ballot counting for the annual Governing Board election. The election is conducted following strict procedures to ensure accountability at every step, including verifying that ballots are cast only by residents of Dranesville District #1A, per county code. Services provided by the League of Women Voters include facilitating election processes for organizations like MCC around the country. Fairfax County groups have utilized these services numerous times.*
- Ballot Drop Off Options – discussion took place regarding pros and cons of having more than one location for absentee ballot drop off with the consensus that the security of having one location at MCC for absentee ballots outweighs the convenience of having more than one location. Further discussion took place around the premise that there is a strong benefit to having people need to come in person to MCC to pick up and drop off ballots so that they are familiar with the activities of the MCC.
- Discussion was introduced around the possibility of having Online Voting and the potential to increase community participation in voting. Ms. Ague commented on the difficulty of getting teen voters to come to the MCC or to McLean Day and that having online voting would have a big impact on increased participation. It was determined that MCC would get more information regarding the process that Reston uses for online voting with an idea of looking toward 2025-2026 election for considering a change.
- Ms. Ague proposed that in-person voting for teens be extended to the Friday rides night preceding McLean Day, as that is when most of the teens are present. MCC staff will discuss prior to the October board meeting and it will be added as an agenda item for the December ENC meeting for further discussion and consideration.

OLD /NEW BUSINESS

Chair Groennings opened the floor for any other topics to address this evening. Nothing else was mentioned as a further topic for discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Groennings adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Holly Novak - Executive Assistant