

**2023-2024 MCC Governing Board
Regular Meeting
December 6, 2023 – 7:15 p.m.**

MINUTES

Board Members Present: *in-person:* Anna Bartosiewicz; Lisa Mariam; Rasheq Rahman; Eleanor Ague; Sophia Bruno; Katie Gorka; Gloria Marrero Chambers; Kristina Groennings; Kathleen Cooney Porter; Matt Colsia

Board Members Absent: Ari Ghasemian

MCC Staff Present: Betsy May-Salazar, Executive Director; Holly Novak, Executive Assistant; Mike Fisher, General Programs Director; Matthew Hockensmith, Comptroller

Guests: Deb Bissen (MPA); Kevin Smith (Division Manager, Energy Programs – Fairfax County Government); Glenn Yarborough (Friends of MCC)

CONVENE MEETING

Chair Rasheq Rahman convened a Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of McLean Community Center on December 6, 2023, at 7:15 p.m. He announced that the meeting was being audio-recorded. The agenda was adopted by acclamation.

APPROVE MINUTES

Minutes of October 25, 2023, Regular Meeting were reviewed. No changes were requested; accepted as written.

MOTION: To approve Minutes of October 25, 2023, Regular Meeting.

Approved by a vote of ten: Rasheq Rahman; Lisa Mariam; Sophia Bruno; Katie Gorka; Gloria Marrero Chambers; Matt Colsia; Eleanor Ague; Anna Bartosiewicz; Kristina Groennings; Kathleen Cooney Porter – all voting “AYE.”

Ari Ghasemian was absent.

GUEST PRESENTATION: ENERGY STUDY

Kevin Smith – Division Manager, Energy Programs, Fairfax County Government, presented an overview of the county’s program that will lead MCC through an energy study – as foundational for our efforts in sustainability and environmental stewardship. As a strategic objective, the energy study of MCC facility will identify projects to consider acting on.

I’m the lead for the ESCO program for the county (Energy Services Company) which oversees a contract with CNTA. CNTA is a full service, turn-key design/build contractor that takes energy projects from: the initial interview/audit phase, through scoping and final design; and then they build it (do all contracting -collecting bids from subcontractors); manage the construction project. Another great thing: our standard contract is a 20-year performance contract; therefore, all energy savings calculations done up-front, CNTA guarantees that amount of energy savings at your facility each year for 20 years. If they don’t hit those target savings, CNTA pays for the difference. It’s truly a full-service company.

Progress throughout Fairfax County: Having had CNTA under contract since 2020, we are in Year 3 of groups of buildings where we are doing energy projects. We’ve had very good success at several parks/rec centers. Cub Run and South Run just won an award from Virginia Energy Efficiency Council – both hit 50% energy savings. We are also about to start construction for a project at Reston CC (which would be similar to MCC in terms of the project scope, execution & management). Reston CC project includes: solar; some boiler replacements; other HVAC upgrades; an EV charging station (RCC plans to potentially buy an electric vehicle). Negotiations are underway for signing the contract to get going.

Discussion/ Q & A: Can you explain how the energy study process will work?

Our master contract with CNTA defines the distinct project phases in an energy audit (the county groups several buildings together). Another audit phase is coming up starting in late Winter/early Spring 2024. MCC could be one of a few county buildings CNTA is looking at. It’s a 90-day window from the site visit to the point where they submit to us a report.

PROCESS: 1. We will reach out to MCC to arrange an introductory kick-off meeting to meet the project manager (engineer at CNTA). They will view your utility bills (Kevin Smith's office can provide); any drawings or building specs or other data, to get a context for the building. 2. Site visit: taking a holistic approach, they look for energy upgrade opportunities (HVAC, lighting, electrical transformers (these can be a big energy drain if they are older and not working as efficiently as they once did), envelope (ceilings, weather stripping around doors and windows); looking at the major equipment (electrical room; mechanical room); roof to assess solar potential. 3. conversations with MCC building maintenance & facilities staff to get a sense of any major nagging issues happening - to help CNTA target areas to look at in terms of energy & equipment upgrades. 4. After the site visit, they will develop a list of energy conservation measures (ECM's) – upgrading lighting to LED's; replacing a boiler to high-efficiency boiler or heat pump. They will calculate the potential energy savings and estimate a cost so you have a simple payback for each measure. 5. They will compile all those measures into a report with more background information and recommendations. Report is submitted to Fairfax County Energy Programs Division staff.

With that energy audit report would we have a list of potential items and a price tag? Are these rolled into something where the cost of the changes are paid for by the savings? Or does MCC pay upfront for any recommended changes that would be made?

That's a good point. A lot of organizations choose to finance ESCO performance contracts through their energy savings. So far, on all our projects, the county has paid for the entire project upfront, so we haven't had to do any kind of financing.

I'm concerned about the ESCO contract having very specific requirements, such as: keeping temperature at certain degrees, which can be somewhat uncomfortable. Do we have flexibility in terms of how MCC designs those requirements?

Yes, I actually had the exact same conversation with Reston Community Center two days ago: CNTA will provide recommendations for set-points and equipment schedules, but you all will drive what those actually are. We know certain spaces have special requirements and personal preferences; also keeping in mind actual building usage schedule. It will be expressed in the contract, but it's not that the contract will force MCC to keep those set points. If MCC wants to make changes, you could communicate with CNTA. If it is significant for areas of the building changing by enough degrees of set point that it really has a big impact on the energy savings, then CNTA, as part of the contract, would adjust their energy savings guarantee down so that they are not 'penalized' for an operational change. CNTA is very flexible; they are not here to change how you operate your building in terms of what the occupants feel and experience (making it too cold or too hot). A lot of the energy savings occur behind-the-scenes: simply by upgrading equipment you will get energy efficiency improvement and savings – whether you air condition a space to 60 degrees or 75 degrees. Much involves the equipment control aspect: in the space, the occupant really can't tell the difference (feels like 70-72-75 degrees) but you are still saving energy on the back end in how that equipment is controlled.

Summary by Executive Director May-Salazar: What stands out are the three major pieces: 1. study of the building; 2. solar conversation (whether or not that is reasonable and potential now, or that we flag to do later once the roof is replaced, if that is in our schedule). 3. EV charging stations. Because MCC is funded through our own tax district, the costs for anything we do in the building would be something we would absorb. However, EV charging stations is a county-wide project and if MCC is deemed a logical location based on this study, that would be something Fairfax County would fund and take on. This energy study is only for MCC facility – not OFC (which has many different variables). If it goes well here, we can consider it in the future with the other variables relating to OFC. It might be worthwhile for purposes of identifying do-able, inexpensive options to create some energy-saving measurables at OFC.

Response from Mr. Smith: The strong preference is to make EV charging available to the community as part of our government service. Typically, for county buildings not in special tax districts, we would not include EV charging stations in an ESCO project because they actually add energy. However, CNTA will be able to isolate that energy so it's not factored into the energy savings. Another county vendor, "National Car Charging," is used for other sites but their scope is just to install the actual ChargePoint charger and then connect it to the county's network. CNTA would do the electrical infrastructure aspect – running conduit underground to get power out to the charging stations and then connecting the conduit back to electrical panels in the building. You would have the option to choose any EV charging vendor; but it is preferable to use ChargePoint because the majority of other county buildings have that, and it would be standardized.

There were no further questions. Board members thanked Mr. Smith for his presentation and his time spent participating in this meeting.

CHAIR'S REPORT **remarks by Chair Rahman*

Lots going on... and now it is already the beginning of the holiday season! In looking at the “Be Visible” event list, please note there are many activities coming up, including, Winter Block Party in early January and significant events for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Recognition. This fall we have been busy with the budget process and sustainability initiatives – which are going well. Starting in January 2024, the election season for the next Governing Board begins. ENC will start to ramp up in January and going forward. Some committees which were very active in autumn (Finance Committee) focusing on the budget will meet again in February. But basically, the focus very soon is going to be on ENC and Programs & Outreach Committee. Thank you all for your service since the beginning of June 2023 – we are halfway through this board year, and we look forward to what we will do together in 2024!

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

It has been terrific to see so many Gov. Board members represented at various activities and mingling with the participants!

- The end of October included the enormously popular Festival of Frights and Trunk or Treat – it attracted 1,500 party goers and 11 volunteers – with a range of trunks decked out in outlandish themes including Alice in Wonderland, Barbie, Back to the Future (with an actual tricked-out DeLorean!), among others.
- Also, in time for Halloween our dance partner, AIM, worked with our cadre of dance students and filmed a phenomenal zombie Halloween video outside on our lawn, complete with full costume and fog effects. It was a joy to watch the production. **ACTION ITEM:** We have videos of recent programs and we will send out links.
- In early November in Alden Theatre, we received rave reviews for **When you Wish Upon a Star: a Jazz Tribute to 100 Years of Disney**. More than 300 people attended. A few survey comments include:
 - “Borderline genius musicians playing beloved music, was wonderful”
 - “The atmosphere of the whole facility is always relaxing. The staff are beyond courteous.”
 - “It was the best show I have ever seen at MCC. Please have them back.”
- Our Seniors in Action (SIA) program is going strong with a regular rhythm of programs that are being well received by the participants. They are planning a potluck breakfast this Friday and a holiday concert by our very own Deion Rouhlac next Friday, 12/15.
- We have had two spectacular special event weekends: McLean Antiques Show and Sale in mid-November – reaching over 1,100 attendees, and this past weekend – the McLean Holiday Art and Crafts Show. We don’t have the official count yet, but it was a wonderful event – kicked off with a new “Muffins and Mimosas” VIP morning on Friday. I had the opportunity to visit with many vendors over all three days and they were universally so happy to be a part of the event, which was very high caliber. They also made it a point to tell me about the professionalism and kindness of MCC staff over many years, remarking about the courtesy of the staff who were here to support all the vendors.
- On Monday, Dec. 4, registration began for Winter and Spring classes. Registration is going very strong with several classes already at capacity. Some dance classes, kid fitness, and cheer classes fill up fast, also “Music Together”, chess, adult cooking classes. We had extra people answering phones all day at the front desk on Monday!

Here are several examples of how MCC events facilitate a wider reach out into the community:

1. Following Harvest Happenings – staff donated our hay bales, pumpkins, cornstalks and mums to Hands-On Harvests, a local 501(c)3. With this donation they were able to create a festive pumpkin patch at the opening of their first public demonstration garden in the new Eileen Garner civic space in Annandale. They created a pumpkin patch and pumpkins were able to go home with people – they were really delighted! In addition, the hay was used to insulate and mulch their winter garden where they grow cold-weather vegetables and herbs that support local food pantries. HOH publicly thanked MCC on a signage at the event and in their literature. They also sent a lovely thank you letter to the staff of MCC outlining how much that contribution accomplished for their organization. We are doing a one-time event, but all of our materials were used again to make another community’s event logistics possible.
2. The McLean Antiques Show ticket proceeds are used to support MCC’s McDonald Scholarship Fund which awards annual arts scholarships to local teens.
3. The McLean Holiday Art and Crafts Show is organized in conjunction with Northern Virginia Handcrafters Guild, a 501(c)3 organization. The Guild is entirely volunteer-run and they do an enormous job. The proceeds from the ticket sales and booth fees all go back to supporting the local artists.

These are all ways MCC’s impact is reaching significantly further than our single events.

Holiday programming: We have now moved full swing into our holiday programming with Frosty Follies dance performances last night and tonight – it's a huge deal, which is clearly evident by the bustle outside of this room! We follow-up these performances with Gingerbread Decorating, Milk and Cookies with Santa, and "It's a Jazzy Christmas" performance in Alden Theatre, in quick succession over the next few days.

Also, a final reminder that the deadline to sign up to participate in OFC "Light Up McLean Holiday House Decorating Contest" is this Friday, December 8. Please help get the word out to your neighbors who decorate their homes – that they might want to enter the competition! And for those who don't want to participate as a contestant, everyone in the tax district can participate in the voting. A map is produced of the route to view the decorated homes and community voting takes place Dec 18 – Jan 2. I would love to build this up into a McLean tradition where the whole community looks forward to it every year! Please help us promote this contest to potential participants and to the community to vote on the entries.

REMINDER: Please reference the "Be Visible" list of upcoming events for continued opportunities to participate as many programs are starting up for our Winter/Spring program season.

YOUTH AMBASSADORS **remarks by Governing Board youth members, Sophia Bruno and Eleanor Ague*

We had about 20 applicants between Langley H.S. and McLean H.S. We chose 5 from each school. We tried to diversify the grade level and gender, looking at who has a social media following, and their experiences. We will get the selection news to them by the end of the year and then will have an orientation meeting in January to actually start getting some feedback from the Youth Ambassadors. We have a lot of really great teens involved and we are excited!

Youth Ambassadors program was started last year by youth board members Sarah Tran and Charlotte Loving. Last year they had 4 teens each from McLean and Langley H.S. to give feedback for MCC programs and also to help plan an end-of-year party for teens. Youth Ambassadors function as a liaison between the local schools and MCC Governing Board.

GOALS: Our goals in initiating the Youth Ambassador project are:

1. Getting feedback from the teens. We've always recognized that is one area where MCC could have more programming, so we want those ideas. Last year, it was used as a focus group to learn: What do the teens want? Every MCC programmer took a turn in a meeting to have conversation, asking questions > so we could try to expand upon new ideas.
2. supporting MCC with their own individual social medias and promoting various initiatives that MCC is emphasizing
3. end-of-year event at OFC which was a party after AP's.

ACTION ITEM: *(suggestion from a board member)* I think it would be super fun to meet them, because we didn't meet them last year! They are supposed to be an extension of us, so it would be nice to include the Youth Ambassadors in a future board meeting.

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

November 8 meeting revolved around three topics; here are the highlights:

1. McLean Day; 2. MCC's participation in community events; 3. progress report on the Customer Feedback Survey.

McLean Day: We heard about some ideas for extending new offerings (field games; beer garden); some discussion about changing the location for the stage and involving high-quality, professional musical acts.

MCC's participation in community events: Downtown block party; holiday parade; discussion of the idea of a 'holiday market.' Some discussion about planning for a holiday parade (location; timing; potential participants).

Progress report on Customer Feedback Survey: *Comment by Executive Director May-Salazar:* We recently sent an e-mail to all of you with a template for all board members to push the survey out: customize the message as you want and send it to your personal circles. We are trying to encourage more people to respond. Soon we send survey to our entire ACTIVE database of anyone who has registered for a class. We have not done that yet (later in our scope). We repositioned the lobby kiosk with better signage > to encourage people to use that. We are approaching it from many angles and trying to get people to participate.

Comment from Chair Bartosiewicz: I think it's key to also emphasize 'board engagement' such as at MPA ArtFest. It's fun to chase people with a tablet and interact with them! It's a great way to put a face to the survey – so people are not just filling out a survey. *Mike Fisher said:* You are all welcome at our events to circulate around to people with iPads.

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

Much was covered at Nov. 8 meeting; and we have excellent summary notes taken by Ms. Novak! We received an overview

of all 50th Anniversary events that are in the planning stages. Work is beginning on the video soon (next month); and there is progress on the online timeline. Also, plans continue for the community picnic, which is the signature event. We've been making some progress in doing some research on two public art projects (here on MCC grounds; mural at OFC). Historical lecture by Carole Herrick + video preview night – with a reception. We had some discussion about how committee members can be involved and provide feedback as we are planning all these various activities (that is being worked out). Everything is progressing well and it will be a fabulous 50th Anniversary celebration!

OLD /NEW BUSINESS

Chair Rahman opened the floor to any matters of old or new business to be discussed.

Matt Colsia presented information about a new initiative for youth health - drug overdose prevention and drawing attention to fentanyl overdoses. Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration has started a new campaign called "Fent Alert." This challenge is designed to engage and empower youth (ages 14-18) to raise awareness of the dangers of fentanyl pills – with the ultimate goal of reducing teen overdose deaths. The urgency of this initiative hits close to home (recent local tragedies): one teen death Thanksgiving week and also one at Justice High School on Monday. This impacts students at Longfellow, McLean High, Marshall High, Justice High: it is real loss and trauma in our community. The Fent Alert Challenge offers youth a chance to develop strategies to educate themselves and their peers about these dangers. It's a competition: \$80K is given away as \$5K prizes to teens; also 25 individual \$2K awards. Most importantly, it's an opportunity for youth to be part of the solution.

MCC and OFC could play a pivotal role by encouraging and supporting local youth to participate in this challenge. In so doing, we can foster dialog in our youth about drug awareness. As communitarians, we understand the value of a strong, resilient community. By leading this initiative, we are spreading awareness and empowering youth for their own safety and that of their peers. Our goal should be to set the benchmark for other communities in Fairfax County and Virginia. By collaborating with organizations like MCA, FCPS, BOS, we can amplify this impact.

*Strategic advantage: OFC's proximity to Starbucks draws a lot of high school students. It's a great place for signs and Matt Colsia could be out there 'beating the stump' (field work) to get this campaign advertised.

NEXT STEPS: Matt Colsia proposed that we figure out which committee (Programs & Outreach Committee; or perhaps start a separate *ad hoc* committee) that will discuss strategies to promote this challenge and get into the schools, and to ensure that efforts are aligned with the broader community objectives. We welcome other thoughts or ideas to start to encourage this effort. It's a huge problem because it's super cheap and it's very easy to mis-identify Fentanyl for some other drug. Only a small amount is extremely powerful and can cause an overdose immediately. Thanks for listening and considering this. Matt Colsia hopes this could be something for the Youth Ambassadors to focus on. The Fent Alert challenge runs through end of February 2024, so there is plenty of time to build up some strategies, social media campaigns, and educational materials. This campaign is spreading resiliency to the community.

Question: Is this a U.S. Government. program? It is run by SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) a government agency.

Have you looked into whether any of the schools are doing this campaign? Matt sent a note to Dr. Reid (Superintendent of FCPS) but has not heard back yet; he will try to reach out to her again to involve FCPS, especially high schools and middle schools.

Clarification by Mike Fisher, General Programs Director:

1. This sounds like something that is ideal to work with Safe Community Coalition. Engaging with them would be a strong idea as a next step.
2. Is this an annual campaign – or is this a one-time initiative?

Matt Colsia is new to learning about this, but there are other campaigns offered by the same organization (impaired driving... other issues). Conference at National Harbor in January 2024 has attendance fee, but "Prevention Day" is FREE for anyone ages 14 and above who registers. Attendees will receive some materials and hear good speakers on this subject.

Summary: Chair Rahman asked Executive Director May-Salazar to consider this and perhaps think about possible next steps. Executive Director May-Salazar said that coordination with Safe Community Coalition makes a lot of sense. SCC has very strong connections into the schools, so if it's something they are already working on or are aware of, that would be a good touchpoint for us. Deb Bissen mentioned that a board member of MPA is very involved in Safe Community Coalition (Kitty Gonzalez) and could be a useful contact.

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

UPDATE - MCLEAN PROJECT FOR THE ARTS

**remarks by Deb Bissen*

Two new exhibitions are opening tomorrow night: “Moving Beyond Beauty: Reverence and Reclamation” (environmental-themed show with five artists). Atrium Gallery has an exhibit: “To March is to Love: Weavings by Janel Leppin.” Kids will find that exhibition really appealing – it’s bright, colorful weavings she has done with recycled fabrics (which a lot of kids are interested in as they go to thrift stores). There will be an opening reception at 7 p.m. tomorrow night (free to the public). Two upcoming events: Artist Talk on a weekend in January and “Tea & Talk” event in February. We would love to welcome you all view the gallery. If MCC Governing Board would like to do a special tour in advance of the January 24 board meeting, we would be happy to arrange that. Perhaps our curator or Arts Reach Director can spend a few minutes talking with you about the exhibits.

Registration for art classes – we are excited to offer pottery for the first time in DuVal Studio. It is hand-building (it will be kiln-baked off-site). We’re hoping it will be popular with kids. It is done in after-school programming; the teacher has a lot of experience. And it is something MPA hasn’t had the opportunity to offer, so we’re really excited about it. MPA art classes are a great idea for a Christmas gift for friends or family... or for yourself!

Our recent weekend event at The Signet was a positive way to merge our artist community with our local supporters. Artists that have a long history with MPA felt very welcomed and appreciated. It gave them a chance to meet some of the supporters who help MPA raise the funds that make all the exhibitions possible. MPA hopes to repeat it next year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

In-person comments: Chair Rahman invited the public to introduce themselves and give verbal remarks if they wished. They must first state aloud their residential address to verify that they are a Small District 1A-Dranesville resident. Any individuals who requested in advance to speak were pre-verified as being a Small District 1A-Dranesville resident. Each person was allotted three minutes to speak.

There had been no advance requests to speak. No one in attendance requested to speak.

Written comments:

No written comments were submitted in advance of this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjournment the following general announcements were made:

1. Two committee meetings coming are up on Monday, December 11: CFC and ENC. All board members are welcome to attend. It’s a learning experience. Each committee needs quorum in-person to convene.
2. Executive Director May-Salazar commented that for those who aren’t on those committees, there is an option to attend a holiday party at Supervisor Foust’s office on Monday, December 11 at 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. The invitation is extended to all MCC Governing Board members.
3. Thank you all for coming and participating in the holiday gathering tonight! It was fun being together and we all enjoyed awesome food! There is still a lot left over if we want to re-convene over in Community Hall C! *(laughter)*
Thank you to Holly Novak for all her hard work on arranging & facilitating this holiday gathering! *(applause)*

Chair Rahman announced that all business matters were now concluded and adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Holly Novak - Executive Assistant