

**2023–2024 MCC Governing Board
Regular Meeting
February 28, 2024 – 6:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

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

Board Members Absent: Ari Ghasemian; Sophia Bruno

MCC Staff Present: Betsy May-Salazar, Executive Director; Holly Novak, Executive Assistant; Matthew Hockensmith, Comptroller; Jennifer Garrett, Technical Director

Guests: Deb Bissen (MPA); Jim Lawless (Friends of MCC; MCA)

CONVENE MEETING

Chair Rasheq Rahman convened a Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of McLean Community Center on February 28, 2024, at 6:35 p.m. He announced that the meeting was being audio-recorded. The agenda was adopted by acclamation.

APPROVE MINUTES

The first order of business was reviewing Minutes of January 24, 2024, Regular Meeting. No changes were requested; the Minutes were accepted as written.

MOTION: To approve Minutes of January 24, 2024, Regular Meeting.

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

Ari Ghasemian and Sophia Bruno were absent.

CHAIR’S REPORT **remarks by Chair Rahman focusing on key events*

*Lunar New Year festival was very successful. This innovative program featured excellent community engagement.

*Governing Board election season is underway. If people have questions, please refer them to Holly Novak. Chair Rahman and Executive Director May-Salazar will be present at Candidate Orientation on Saturday, March 16. This annual orientation for adult and youth candidates will explain campaigning opportunities and protocols.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT **remarks by Executive Director May-Salazar highlighting robust schedule of MCC events*

***first ever Lunar New Year Festival** (envisioned and led by Danielle Van Hook, Director of Youth Theatre Programs) Danielle has an outstanding ability to make connections in programs and envision ways to expand the experience of our visitors – creating multiple touch points. Nai-Ni Dance Company worked with local young dancers from Herndon to incorporate them into the program. Community input was gathered from: local Chinese artists; vendors; Chinese embassy; Chinese Music Society of Greater Washington. Event features: fan dance and ribbon dance workshops, Chinese paper cutting, calligraphy and lantern making, Mah Jong, food samples; story time with FCPL, who curated a selection of books and also were on site to register patrons for library cards and lend books that related to Lunar New Year. A large Lunar New Year dragon was hoisted and carried excitedly through MCC hallways! Cognizant that she was programming outside of her own culture and experience, Danielle intentionally received guidance from those of Chinese ancestry (appropriate crafts, activities and artisans) to create a truly meaningful experience. Attendance: approx. 450 at festival; 280 attended Nai-Ni Chen evening dance performance **This was a true example of community engagement on many levels. We look forward to next year offering more events following this model.**

****“Perspectives” speaker series program on Sunday, Feb. 25,** presented in partnership with Fairfax County Public

Libraries in recognition of Black History Month: Carlotta LaNier spoke to a large audience about her experience as one of the “Little Rock Nine” who helped lead the nation to school integration. Her powerful, thought-provoking keynote address was followed by a book signing for her new book: *A Mighty Long Way: My Journey to Justice at Little Rock Central High School*. It was very moving to hear her recollections of that time and what it was like as a youth.

***Youth Ambassadors:** We want to recognize **Eleanor Ague** and **Sophia Bruno** for their leadership of the Youth Ambassadors! Recently the Youth Ambassadors convened as a focus group for Safe Community Coalition to help inform SCC’s programming about fentanyl danger issues. SCC found it to be an open conversation with a group of teens who were sharing in a meaningful way about how to best approach doing programs for the community (for both youth and adults). **This is an excellent model for community groups to have access to a teen cohort as a resource for decision-making.**

***ADA renovation project at OFC is underway!** The county is engaging with the original engineering firm, SWSG, for an updated quote to refresh the original proposal to include the front entrance door in the scope, as well as an independent ADA consultant to review the entire project to make sure we are doing everything needed under ADA regulations. It’s encouraging to be moving forward effectively on this important project.

***Replacement of OFC vans!** We are delighted to announce progress on replacement of the OFC vans which are both approx. 20 years old. It has been a many-year request to purchase new vans. A meeting today moved the process forward.

***Summer camp registration opened and public response is robust.** As of today, Camp McLean is 2/3 full. Five camps are completely sold-out. OFC camp is about 2/3 full. MCC math and science camps are sold-out and have waitlists. A new camp concept is “nature-based” – 8 kids so far, so it should be able to proceed. We may reduce the number of chess camps (not yet at minimum capacity).

***meaningful engagement of Board members at MCC events.** We thank Gov. Board members for participating in recent events as part of our “Be Visible” strategic goal - Lisa, Rasheq, Kristina, Kathleen and Anna. Please refer to the “Be Visible” list of upcoming events for continued opportunities to participate and communicate with Holly Novak or Executive Director May-Salazar if interested. We also appreciate your help with upcoming events, as scheduled:

- Rasheq** for representing MCC at the MCA “I Love McLean” event this Saturday, March 2, as well as representing Elections and Nominations committee at the Governing Board candidate orientation on March 16.
- Kristina** for representing MCC Governing board at the Macdonald Performing Arts Awards Program on April 17. Kristina is a concert pianist who competed and won this competition in 1993! It was a really impactful experience for Kristina in her instrumental performance career.
- upcoming opportunity:** “Saving Claire” falls prevention documentary film on March 27 at 11 a.m. (weekday; daytime), in partnership with Marymount University – this is an innovative new tool for fall prevention. This 30-minute film will be followed by Q&A with a panel of experts. One board member will serve as emcee and facilitate the Q&A portion of the event. Please inform Holly Novak or Betsy May-Salazar know if interested.

ELECTIONS & NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE **remarks by Vice-Chair Kristina Groennings*

Candidate Packets PICKED-UP as of today: 9 adult packets 4 Youth-Langley 2 Youth-McLean

*Security of candidate process: names of interested people are kept confidential (only accessible to Holly Novak, ENC Chair Kristina Groennings and Betsy May-Salazar)

Candidate petitions RETURNED/QUALIFIED to proceed: 1 Adult 1 Youth-Langley

DEADLINE for candidate petitions: Monday, March 11 at 5:00 p.m.

Marketing outreach efforts are ongoing. Please mention the opportunity to your friends & neighbors to encourage them to run. We have four open adult positions this year.

Candidate Orientation Saturday, March 16 2 – 4 p.m. McLean Room Rasheq Rahman & Betsy will facilitate.

Candidate presence/greeting opportunity: Spring Community Sale Sat., April 20 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. MCC parking lot

Candidate presence/greeting opportunity at McLean Day event:

YOUTH candidates - presence at tents on Friday Night Rides, May 17

ADULT candidates - presence at tents on Saturday, May 18

*People can vote for ALL candidates at both venues. Election logistics are well-planned and structured. Computer printout of the tax district will be requested from Fairfax County Dept. of Tax Administration.

We are doing advance planning and coordination with League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area. They will have a team of volunteers to staff the voting tent at both Friday Night Rides and Saturday McLean Day.

Transparency and public accountability is emphasized. Chain-of-custody videos will be taken of moving/transporting and securely storing the ballot boxes during Absentee Voting period as well as at McLean Day.

BOARD MEMBER PARTICIPATION: Assist with gathering materials for annotation of computer printouts to record incoming Absentee Ballots (Tuesday, May 14); overseeing the voting tent at McLean Day (Friday Night Rides – May 17; Saturday, May 18). Thank you for your support!

ACTION ITEM: Holly Novak will send a Sign-up Genius with options of time slots for board member participation.

FINANCE COMMITTEE **remarks by Treasurer Kathleen Cooney Porter and Comptroller Matthew Hockensmith*

Finance Committee met on February 13; Minutes were approved today and sent for your reference in preparation for tonight's meeting. A new monthly report has been designed for the staff as a way to see numbers and to keep up with how everything fits together and where we are in relation to the budget. It will be shared at the Finance Committee meetings and then will come up to the board out of those meetings. Questions from partner organizations would be referred to Finance Committee discussion (it will be visible to the public on our website as a pre-read). Comptroller Matthew Hockensmith presented the following synopsis of mid-year FY2024:

The county requires agencies to prepare a 6-month projection, with July 1 through December 31 being our first 6 months of FY2024. MCC is in good financial health. Highlights: Projected revenue is projected to increase \$217K over what was originally budgeted for. Most of those additional revenues are coming from real estate taxes, interest and additional rentals. We do have some projected dips in programming but those are offset by Operating expense savings – roughly \$158K in savings. This is partly because we projected additional costs due to inflation and some theater programs that were on our 'wish list' but because of having a full schedule already, we weren't able to offer. In the end, MCC is in very good financial health with revenue coming up and savings on some Operating expenses. Capital Improvement Projects are continuing to move forward: anything we do not complete this year (with a short theater window in August) we will move forward into next year for completion. **After six months into the fiscal year, the county is really just looking for any major declines in Revenue or increases in Operating costs – none of which we have. Per their recommendation, there will be no changes to MCC's budget in FY2024 at mid-year.**

***MCP playground construction:** Treasurer Cooney Porter mentioned that MCP renovation, which includes the playground is starting soon! They are projecting end of 2024 for completion, which is well before MCC 50th Anniversary events in 2025.

***new OFC vans:** We are moving ahead with replacement of two 12-passenger vans at OFC. There is a clear concern on the part of the staff, families and board members regarding the age, safety and worn-out condition of our current vans.

Justification for purchase decision:

- These vans serve a critical role in access for our key programs – specifically the After School program and break camps. Also used for staff transportation between venues for events – these vans are critical to MCC operations. With new vehicles we would like to explore expanding their use with the ever-growing SIA program as well.
- With support of Deputy County Executive Chris Leonard, we were able to secure a meeting with Fleet Utilization Management Committee – comprised of Fairfax County CFO, and Management & Budget, & Department of Motor Vehicles leadership staff. Betsy May-Salazar, Mike Fisher, and Joe McGovern participated in the meeting. They oversee a lot of vehicles and have a very strict formula that does not fit our situation: general guidelines require vehicle to reach 110,000 miles before replacement; expected life is 11 years. However, our vehicles are 20 years old and have only 77,000 miles. We have tried to justify the request annually as to why we need a new vehicle when it doesn't have the required mileage.
- MCC pays to the county a required allotment per month, per van; even after 20 years, that 'replacement fund' is not built-up sufficiently. Because MCC has a funding source by being in its own tax district, we can have a conversation about funding outside of the normal way that the county does for approval - because the need is great regardless of whether MCC is paying for them or the county. The vans meet the county criteria for replacement based on age but not on mileage and, because costs have escalated so greatly, the amount that has been set aside through our monthly contributions will cover 1 but not 2 vans.

The county has now agreed that we can move ahead and replace both vans now if MCC allocates the funds for the difference between what has been set aside and the total cost. The county will specify a Ford 12-passenger van with all current safety features, bucket seats with seatbelts, step-up (for seniors). MCC would remain a part of the county vehicle program and pay into the replacement fund, using county Motor Vehicles Dept. to service. There are two potential options for acquiring the vans – through the county procurement process, which could take up to 10 months, or from the commercial lot, which would be much quicker but would cost approximately \$10K more per vehicle.

RECOMMENDATION: Our recommendation is to get the two vans immediately from the commercial source. We are not changing the procedures, the policies, nor the agreement - as part of the county system, MCC will still pay into the county system monthly (an amount based on the value of the vehicle once we buy it), so that replacement fund will continue to grow. Current replacement funds will pay for approximately one of the two vehicles. All maintenance and service on the vans is done through Fairfax County. We can discuss whether we should do a 10-month wait (through the normal county process). But if we agree that we should move forward immediately and purchase off-the-lot (commercial), the county will still oversee procurement.

Thorough Q&A, leading toward a decision:

Question: I would think they would be more concerned about the safety of the vehicle than about the mileage?

From a mechanical standpoint, the vehicles do meet the county's safety standards. However, because of being 20 years old, the vans do not have current technology safety features (i.e. mirrors, rear-view camera, lane correct, front view camera). It's critical when driving kids around that you can see what's going on in traffic conditions. When Executive Director May-Salazar expressed these points, there was clear understanding and agreement by the county about getting new vans based on what is viewed as a need for better safety and the understanding that, based on our current usage, we would not hit the county requirements for mileage within the next several years.

Choose hybrid as an option: We considered whether a hybrid would be an option as MCC is emphasizing better fuel-efficiency. No hybrid vans are available. EV's are not recommended for this purpose because they don't go far enough to make it worthwhile.

Question: Why can they get them for so much less by having a longer time frame?

Because the county has a standing agreement in place: they can only order once a year (we are currently in the purchasing window). The county puts in all their orders for the year; it takes time and there is a defined cost. Fleet Utilization team shared that purchasing off the lot through a quick bid process is also an option, that would be quicker but would cost more it because it's not the Fairfax County government discounted negotiated rate.

Usage of OFC vans: We use these vans for the smaller trips (break trips). For larger camps and longer trips (or further distances), we charter a bus. To have two vans that fully function is important because the schools get out at the same time and the kids must be picked-up in two different locations simultaneously. After School program is doing very well and it will continue to grow. We definitely have a need for two vehicles for all that MCC is offering.

A larger size van would not work for our purposes: A 15-person van is 9-feet tall (able to stand up inside); however, it is much more difficult to drive and to find a place to park. So, it wouldn't really work for what we need.

Question: Was there any discussion about an accessible van design or fully accessible for disability?

The extent of our decision was to add a sidestep so seniors can get into it easier (SIA program); but it is not a lift for wheelchairs. SPARC doesn't use our MCC transportation – they have their own vehicle.

MOTION: To approve funding needed for the purchase of two 12-passenger vans from commercial source (if available) to expedite receipt.

Approved by a vote of nine: Rasheq Rahman; Lisa Mariam; Katie Gorka; Gloria Marrero Chambers; Matt Colsia; Eleanor Ague; Anna Bartosiewicz; Kathleen Cooney Porter; Kristina Groennings – all voting "AYE."
Ari Ghasemian and Sophia Bruno were absent.

OLD /NEW BUSINESS *Chair Rahman opened the floor to any topics of old or new business.

1. **Security on MCC property:** *I saw the signage outside. Has the security situation gotten better?*

Yes – we haven't had any more break-ins. Dolley Madison Library has had more break-ins during the day. All (except one) have been happening in the daytime.

Can we get cameras? We have done an assessment with Fairfax County Security; they are developing a proposal for additional cameras for MCC lot and a viewing screen at the front desk (which would be ideal). We do have some cameras in the hallways but to view them, you must go inside a closet. We would like a screen at the front desk for continuous monitoring. We would also like to be able to see the lower-level hall corridor at-a-glance.

Question: I think just putting signage out there saying 'we have surveillance' can be a deterrent.

We have been informed by the county that are not allowed to display such signage – unless we actually do have surveillance cameras. The signage out there now about being aware is helping. The library doesn't have such signs and break-ins are still happening over there. Our signs show that we are watching; but cameras would help. Once we have cameras, we can put up signs saying this area is under surveillance. But we cannot put up a sign saying that it's under surveillance if it's not.

Comments by Treasurer Kathleen Cooney Porter: Also, some lights in the parking lot are VDOT and we can't attach cameras to those (but we can attach cameras to the other lights). *Response from Executive Director:* We have replaced bulbs on MCC roof lighting that highlight the parking lot. There is also the issue of neighbors experiencing too much ambient light: the brown lights facing downward are thoughtfully designed to keep lighting centered on the space rather than brightening up the entire neighborhood nearby. The lighting is not bad out there, but cameras would help a lot. We don't have a price quote yet. When that comes, we can assess what we want to do.

2. **Youth Ambassadors:** *remarks by Eleanor Ague

We are working on our end of year event - floating ideas about a 'beach' theme. We want to make it distinct from middle school events at OFC so we can start attracting the high school demographic. It's a really great group of kids and a great environment for the under-classmen. We had some freshmen who contributed to the conversation. We had a good time with the Safe Community Coalition representative.

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

UPDATE - MCLEAN PROJECT FOR THE ARTS *remarks by Deb Bissen

We just opened today the Langley pyramid art show in the gallery and hallways – opening reception tomorrow at 4:30 p.m. It continues through March 11, followed by McLean pyramid exhibit. Officially, MPA is only open until 4 p.m. but we are considering leaving the door unlocked so that people in the evening can come to the gallery. After the youth art shows, we will have three solo artists exhibiting (two are from Baltimore).

During FCPS spring break, MPA will offer a camp through Abrakadoodle. Summer camps are filling up well. We have some art workshops coming up – cut paper to create pictures (for all levels and a fun way to experiment with art).

Open studios: Tuesdays and Saturdays – drop-in studios.

REQUEST (recommending a security camera up in the gallery): If there was a security camera in the gallery, we could offer more flexibility to have people see the exhibits. Having visibility through a security camera would be wonderful.

Comment by Executive Director May-Salazar: Once MCC makes the initial investment the that is something we could consider. The system we have now can't tie to the front desk, but the new camera system would have this capability.

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. Each person was allotted three minutes to speak.

There had been no advance requests to speak. No members of the public who were present chose to speak.

Written comments: Any individuals submitting written comments to be shown in these Minutes were pre-verified as being a Small District 1A-Dranesville resident.

No written comments were submitted in advance of this meeting, nor during the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

With all business matters concluded, Chair Rahman thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Holly Novak - Executive Assistant