

**2023-2024 MCC Governing Board
Regular Meeting
May 22, 2024 – 6:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Anna Bartosiewicz; Lisa Mariam; Rasheq Rahman; Eleanor Ague; Katie Gorka; Kristina Groennings; Matt Colsia

Board Members Absent: Kathleen Cooney Porter; Sophia Bruno; Gloria Marrero Chambers
***Ari Ghasemian resigned, effective 3/31/24**

MCC Staff Present: Betsy May-Salazar, Executive Director; Holly Novak, Executive Assistant; Sabrina Anwah, PIO; Mike Fisher, Programs Director; Sarah Schallern Treff Performing Arts Director

Guests: Deb Bissen (MPA); Ron Keesing; Peter Pin; Sonya Thott; Sameer Huque

CONVENE MEETING

Chair Rasheq Rahman convened a Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of McLean Community Center on May 22, 2024, at 6:36 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 April 17, 2024 Regular Meeting. No changes were requested; the Minutes were accepted as written.

MOTION: To approve Minutes of April 17, 2024, Regular Meeting.

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

CHAIR’S REPORT: YEAR-END SUMMARY **remarks by Chair Rahman*

Welcome to three newly elected board members attending tonight! We look forward to seeing you at the table soon. Based on the results of this past weekend’s election, Doug Jeffery, Michael Monroe and Peter Pin will serve for three years; Ron Keesing will join us for a 1-year term. Sonya Thott was elected to represent Langley High School and Aaron Stark will represent McLean High School youth.

Acknowledgements & expressing thanks - Wow, nearly 50 meetings later, today I am here to give a final report as a board member and as the 2023-2024 Governing Board Chair. I also want to express some “Thank you’s.” As the final meeting of the current board, this Chair's Report is by design a farewell. But I am not the only one whose service draws to a close here:
***Our two youth board members, Eleanor Ague and Sophia Bruno** have not only provided their perspectives on key board matters throughout the past year, but have ably led our Youth Ambassador initiative. They also successfully shepherded MCC's first ever Friday Night youth voting which significantly increased youth turnout for our Governing Board election.
***Matt Colsia**, who stepped up to join the board last summer after a quick phone call from me, has connected MCC to several community initiatives while also advising on security opportunities.
***And finally**, my dear friend and fellow traveler on the three-year journey of Governing Board service, **Lisa Mariam**. Lisa and I first met over a Zoom session at our candidate orientation during the COVID-19 crises. As our work as board members became challenging during the early part of our term, Lisa was always a trusted advisor, especially as we worked with other board members, our staff and the community to shepherd the MCC Strategic Plan to completion. Over her term as a board member, Lisa has led the 50th Anniversary Committee, bringing her deep talents in arts and community

leadership to lead a diverse group of current and past board members and McLean community organization representatives to imagine and execute a plan. Let's pause and give all our departing board members a round of applause! (*APPLAUSE!*)

*I also wish to thank MCC **Executive Director Betsy May-Salazar** for her leadership and our partnership this past year. Our work as board members is only successful and impactful if we can partner with executives who listen and learn with us. A highlight of my week is my lunch time conversation with Betsy and Vice-Chair Kristina Groennings where we discuss the upcoming board and committee meetings and progress on several initiatives. These conversations help us feel prepared when going into the board meeting. I also have fond memories of Betsy's pure joy in attending MCC events this past year, including a few weeks back at a truly bizarre and yet heart-warming rendition of "Alice in Wonderland" at The Alden.

Finally, I would be remiss as a board member and chair if I didn't thank **Holly Novak** for all that she's done for me and our board during my three years. Holly's tireless efforts make our small experiment in participatory democracy and citizen-led governance called the McLean Community Center Governing Board work. I have had Holly on speed dial these past three years as I have Zoomed in from California for board meetings and tag-teamed with her on elections including the most recent board election where, as a temporary ENC Chair, I joined the League of Women Voters as a vote counter (sidenote: Those ladies are fire, don't mess with them or their process!) Holly has been there for us through thick and thin and I'm grateful that I had her as administrative support.

There are many more staff members to thank without which I would not have been able to serve. **Technical Director Jennifer Garrett and Special Events Manager Catherine Nesbitt** for all the events when I was asked to do an introduction for speaker or performance or the 4th of July and who taught me about the behind-the-scenes action at The Alden and in our major events like the Independence Day celebration and McLean Day. **Mike Fisher, Sarah Schallern Treff, Erin Bieger, Andrew Carter** and the program staff at both the MCC and OFC. **Matt Hockensmith** and previously Ashok Karra, who helped me navigate the budget process year-in-year out so we as a board could understand both yearly changes and emergency expenditures alike. Finally, **Sabrina Anwah and Kyle Corwin** who tell MCC stories to our local patrons and around the world. My Instagram feed is blessed by the amazing content you all produce and while I may no longer serve, I'll definitely keep following the Center and Old Firehouse vicariously through social media. Thank you all for your support these past three years!

Accomplishments: Moving beyond acknowledgements, I ask that those in the room permit an old board member a few moments to reflect on what was accomplished these past three years:

1. Most importantly, the MCC survived and emerged stronger following the pandemic. I remember early days in my tenure when we sat 6-feet apart wearing masks straining to hear each other speak as we engaged with our fellow board members and the public on a number of challenging topics.
2. During this period, our board engaged in deep reflection first through a campaign I was fortunate to work on to incorporate an amphitheater in McLean Central Park which will enable the MCC and others to provide even more programming in our newly revitalized park.
3. During this time, we also began the process of developing our MCC Strategic Plan, the summary of which is in our monthly packages. By listening to our neighbors both in public forums and an extensive survey, we reaffirmed MCC's mission and core values while identifying key metrics to guide our future progress.
4. Speaking of future thinking, I was fortunate to put my "tech support hat" on and partner with the board to get all board members Fairfax County email addresses which both afford us modern email infrastructure that is backed up in the cloud and help us retain records of our board business that is key as elected public servants.
5. Serving as Vice-Chair in my 2nd year and engaging directly with several executive directors and other experienced board members, together we focused on operationalizing some of the key concepts of the strategic plan including a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access statement reaffirming our commitment to be a center for all of McLean's residents and its global community. We also established a "Code of Conduct" to make the MCC a safer place for all.
6. A resurgence in activities at MCC and the OFC including numerous Block Parties where I ate too many goodies and my kids let their imaginations run wild both on the video game screen and in numerous arts initiatives. The energy and pride that I felt attending and sometimes introducing those events was invigorating and reaffirmed my desire to continue contributing as a board member.
7. This past year as Chair, I realized that the best legacy is a functioning organization and I decided not to run again so that new leaders might have space to partner with continuing board members and our talented staff to contribute to the work of the board.

'Unfinished' business: 1. During my second year, I was introduced to the Moms of McLean and their quest to **raise funds to build a playground worthy of the MCP restoration project**. I knew I wanted to help them but didn't see a path to until then Supervisor Foust called Betsy and me in to discuss some projects he wanted to support in his final days in office. I had been working with Evan Braff, our Interim Executive Director for several months on getting Supervisor Foust's support for a **renovation of the Old Firehouse that would make it fully ADA compliant**. He called Betsy and me in to confirm the details of a \$500,000 co-investment between Fairfax County and MCC. That was the boost we needed! We are now in the process of developing final designs for a renovation that will enhance the experience for patrons of all abilities from the moment they enter the front door throughout the Old Firehouse all the way to ADA compliant bathrooms.

Encouragement for newly-elected board members and those continuing on:

1. **Own your board experience.** Attend events, be an ambassador for the MCC in your neighborhoods, tell Betsy when the MCC experience can be improved. Whether you take on extra duties as a member of the Executive Committee... or lead initiatives as a committee Chair... or simply participate as a board member... know that both your experience as a board member and the work of the Center benefits most when you are fully committed. Also, our committee process is designed so that questions can be researched at committee level and then brought to the full board for discussion.

2. **Find unique opportunities to serve.** There is no governance or technology subcommittee, so work with the Chair to propose new ideas. If a letter is needed to move an initiative forward, raise your hand and write it. I've done both and they have been some of my most cherished efforts during these past three years. Just make sure you are only working with one other board member because, as we like to say, "three board members is not only a crowd, it's a meeting" which requires meeting Minutes that only Holly Novak can produce!

3. **Have fun!** We are an elected board that can deal with weighty issues from time to time. Through this service, you will make connections. Some of the best experiences I've had is where I've been able to create an environment of fun for others, especially our younger audiences. As you serve, keep this in mind when making decisions: Does a decision I make promote maximum, safe fun for all those it affects? If the answer is: "Yes"... it's probably the right one.

Thank you all! This has been one of the best experiences of my lifetime. I look forward to engaging with you in the future as a member of the public on the other side of these tables.

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

Thanks to Rasheq for his three years of service to the MCC and for his governance as Chair over this past year. Personally, I would like to thank him for his steadfast leadership, and sound guidance during my first year as Executive Director. His strategic vision, planning and forethought was evident in his effective, well-run Governing Board meetings which allowed us to focus on big strategic priorities.

2024 Distinguished Volunteer Service Award Nomination with the Virginia Recreation & Park Society 2024

Appreciating his commitment to MCC and serving the community, Rasheq Rahman has been nominated by MCC staff to be considered for the Virginia Parks & Recreation Society (VRPS) 2024 Distinguished Volunteer Service Award. Finalists in the award selection process will be announced at the VRPS Annual Conference held in Norfolk, September 14-17, 2024. A 1000-word nomination was submitted describing Rasheq's forward-thinking efforts on developing MCC's Strategic Plan, DEIA advocacy, and improving MCC's energy efficiency through an energy assessment of our facilities in coordination with Fairfax County. His substantive contributions as a highly capable leader are summarized as follows:

Rasheq Rahman has served for three years on the McLean Community Center's (MCC) Governing Board, a resident-elected, all-volunteer group of 11 people that sets policies and provides oversight for MCC's programs and facilities. MCC, an agency of Fairfax County Government, is funded by residents of Small District 1A-Dranesville. Rahman has proven himself to be a steadfast leader ensuring that MCC is well-resourced to serve all district residents, including those who are new and those with special needs. As MCC approaches its 50th Anniversary in 2025, Rahman consistently emphasizes the importance of future vision-casting in board meetings and public communication.

Congratulations to our new board members: Doug Jeffery – who is a new dad as of today! Ron Keesing; Michael Monroe; Peter Pin. Teens: Aaron Stark & Sonya Thott

McLean Day Overview THANK YOU to everyone for helping the staff and providing excellent support. It was interesting to experience the event in the rain. Friday Night attendance was crazy – with many folks trying to beat the rain forecast for Saturday. This brought new issues as well as new successes and new things for us to consider. Fright Night Rides always has a concentrated attendance by teens and is 'rides-focused.' We attempted some new things. On Friday

night we added the teen candidates and the Governing Board election voting booth being open for voting for adults and youth. We added field games to further serve the teen audience. On Saturday we added a Beer garden (we have new ideas of how to position it and promote it): people didn't want to sit in it in the rain. New location of the stage and high-caliber contracted performing artists.

We constantly refine and evaluate what we do. Next year we will try to create queuing lines for the carnival rides (the vendor demonstrated how they can queue the lines to reduce frustration & crowding).

Governing Board election generated great interest from the teen voters and candidates. 89 votes by teens on Friday Night Rides (only 41 came in prior). It was exciting to see such enthusiasm and exhibiting another point of what McLean Day event is all about >> the annual MCC Governing Board election. Thank you to the teen board members for that idea!

MCC Revenue: 2022 = \$14,997 2023 = \$23,737 2024 = \$18,040

Guarantee: 2022/23 \$37,500 2024 \$40,000. MCC receives 25% of ticket revenue over guarantee.

We have a minimum and then MCC gets 25% of the revenue over that minimum. We think people attended on Friday night because of better weather conditions. The online sales increased. We did very well for a rainy weekend.

Upcoming Board Meetings The final meeting of 2023-2024 Governing Board and first convened meeting of 2024-2025 Governing Board will be held on June 5 at 6:30 p.m. We will recognize our outgoing board members. Supervisor Jimmy Bierman will swear-in the newly constituted 2024-2025 Governing Board. We will elect Executive Committee positions, review committee structure and hold an orientation for all board members.

Upcoming Programs:

Mama I'm a Big Girl Now – three leading ladies of “Hairspray”

(Marissa Jaret Winokur, Laura Bell Bundy and Kerry Butler) Saturday June 8 7:00 p.m.

Sunday Summer Concerts On the Porch! June 16 – July 28 4:00 p.m.

While McLean Central Park undergoes a makeover, we'll present our free outdoor concerts on the porch of the historic house at Lewinsville Park! Now we can enjoy this new venue and reach potential new audiences. Friendly concerts for the whole family, including:

children's musicians - **DMV Fam-Jam Allstars** ('Where the beat's in the pocket and the rhythm's in your soul!'),

folk and children's music from around the globe with **Elena Moon Park & Friends**,

high-energy a cappella with **Backtrack Vocals**; smooth jazz with **Lil' Maceo**

Billy Coulter Trio - straddling the line between roots rock and power pop

Staff favorite **Justin Trawick** with Americana/roots music

At these concerts we can promote the ongoing renovation of McLean Central Park and the relaunch of the concerts in the newly renovated McLean Central Park next year as part of MCC's 50th Anniversary.

Independence Day Fireworks Celebration Saturday June 29 6:30 – 10:30 p.m. at Langley High School

Summer Camps begin mid-June with: Camp McLean for 3 – 10 year olds at Chesterbrook Elementary; week-long Specialty Camps for varying ages at the MCC; OFC Summer Camp Trips for rising 5th – 9th graders operating out of OFC.

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

Because this committee involves community members, Lisa Mariam and Matt Colsia may continue to participate if they wish.

*We had a productive meeting hearing more details about the signature event: Community Celebration. It will be thematically organized according to decades. Activities will be throughout MCC building, activating all the spaces inside, as well as use of outdoor areas, BBQ catering, signature drinks. There is much enthusiasm by the staff and committee for this plan.

*Two public art projects: 1. Mural at OFC 2. Sculpture on MCC grounds. Call-out for artists will be in June.

*Progress on the video: some of you may have been contacted for interviews by the videographer. We are in good shape on all these details and it's exciting!

ELECTIONS & NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE **remarks by Board Chair Rasheq Rahman*

2024 Governing Board Election results: Congratulations to the newly-elected individuals!

1,103 total ballots were submitted by adults 134 ballots were submitted by youth

It's interesting to note that the majority of votes come in early during the Absentee Voting period: 1,130 adult ballots Absentee Voting ballots were requested; 819 were submitted. We would have had many more people voting at McLean Day had it not rained.

For the teens, it was more significant having voting at Friday Night Rides – it made a huge difference in the turnout of youth voters. The process went very smoothly. While adding voting at Friday Night Rides was a heavy lift, we will ask the League of Women Voters about working again in that configuration for the 2025 Governing Board election.

Vote-counting was efficiently completed by 9 p.m. on Saturday night, May 18. Rasheq Rahman (as temporary ENC Chair) and Anna Bartosiewicz assisted the League of Women Voters with the vote-counting process, under their direction.

Call for Candidates – Executive Committee positions on 2024-2025 Governing Board

Individual statements of interest submitted thus far were read aloud:

CHAIR

Katie Gorka Katie has served on the MCC board for one year, on both the Elections and Nominations Committee and the Programs Committee. She has had a 35-year career in the non-profit and government sectors. She has worked at large cultural institutions (The Asia Society, NYC), she ran a festival of Central and Eastern Film at the New School for Social Research (NYC), and she has written several books. She has lived in McLean since 2008. She is interested in running for chair because she wants to support the McLean Community Center in its mission as a vital resource and as a builder of community.

Kristina Groennings Kristina grew up less than a mile from the MCC. It was a place where her family went for classes and concerts. It was a place where she could explore and develop her skills as a budding concert pianist. She remembers being on the stage at the Macdonald Competition as a teenager – nervous, but excited, that she was performing in front of her community. A couple of years ago, she decided to run for the Board so that she could give back to the Center that had given a lot to her. In her first year on the Board, she served as Secretary. This past year, she served as Vice-Chair. She was also Chair of the Capital Facilities, and the Elections & Nominations committees. She has advised on key decisions for the MCC. And, she has become more knowledgeable than she ever thought she would about material issues, like the life of theater equipment, and storm water drainage! As a lawyer of almost 20 years, it has been her job to advise companies in an informed, well-reasoned manner. She has had significant exposure, including at PBS, to contributing to board organization and success. It would be a privilege to bring all of this background and experience to the position of Chair.

VICE-CHAIR Anna Bartosiewicz In her third year on the MCC Board, Anna wishes to run for the position of Vice-Chair. During her first two years she has been an active participant in the vital work of the current Board and has served as Chair of the Programs & Outreach Committee. In the role as Vice-Chair she looks forward to supporting the incoming Chair, as well as MCC's leadership and staff. During the past two years she has come to appreciate the importance of clear communication and mutual support between the MCC Board and MCC leadership and staff. She places great value on our open and professional working relationship, and will continue to work hard for a collaborative work environment.

TREASURER Kathleen Cooney Porter

[Kathleen is traveling overseas and will submit her statement prior to June 5 board meeting].

SECRETARY

[no one has stepped forward for this position]

PROCESS for electing Executive Committee: The election will be held at the first convened meeting of 2024-2025 Governing Board on Wednesday, June 5. Anna Bartosiewicz will be appointed to convene the meeting and put forward the agenda for approval. Anna will conduct the process of electing the Board Chair and then that new Chair will lead the process to elect the other officer positions. Deadline is today, so if anyone has a statement ready now, they may speak. In the case where no one has come forward, Chair Rasheq Rahman will reach out to try to find someone who is interested. We must submit the list to everyone at least six days before the June 5 meeting. Feel free to reach out to Rasheq or Betsy if you are interested in Secretary or other positions. At June 5 meeting, what is determined as the final list are the only people who are eligible to run; we will not add any names from the floor. Every candidate will be given two minutes to speak. The positions will be voted on respectively: Chair; Vice-Chair; Secretary; Treasurer. Even if a position is not contested, it must still be voted on and approved by the board to install that individual.

ELIGIBILITY: In addition to all current board members who submitted a personal statement of interest, those newly elected at McLean Day are also eligible to run for Executive Committee positions.

Description of Executive Committee (officer) positions:

Chair The Chair shall preside over all meetings, represent the Board at official functions and ceremonial events, and perform such other duties as normally are inherent in similar positions. (Such as carrying out the election of the remaining board officers and making committee assignments with the consent of the Board.) The Board Chair is tasked with coordinating and conducting the Executive Director's annual performance appraisal. As consistent with Fairfax County policy, the Board Chair coordinates with Fairfax County HR Analyst using the county's performance evaluation forms. Check with Deputy County Executive to obtain current HR contact information. If required, a mid-year review must take place in December. The annual review must be completed by June 30th.

Vice-Chair The Vice-Chair shall preside in the absence of the Chair and perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Board.

Secretary The Secretary shall be responsible for having the official Minutes of all regular and special meetings of the Board kept and shall have these Minutes preserved in a manner outlined by the Board. The Secretary shall also be responsible for the preparation of such correspondence as may be directed by the Chair of the Board, or as is normally performed by persons in similar positions. Holly Novak (MCC staff) provides administrative support for this clerk function.

Treasurer The Treasurer shall act as the chief financial officer of the Board. The Treasurer chairs the Finance Committee, which reviews the overall budget, recommends adjustments to the budget during a fiscal year, recommends policy changes and makes its proposals to the full Board for approval.

UPDATE: MCLEAN PROJECT FOR THE ARTS **remarks by Deb Bissen; a printed brochure was distributed*

Spring Solo Exhibitions – through Saturday, June 15

Two upcoming public events: Saturday, June 1 at 11 a.m. Artist talk

Tuesday, June 4 “Tea & Talk” formal tour of the exhibitions, with Artistic Director Nancy Sausser

MPA is open Mondays – Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. We hope you will stop by some time!

***broader reach into the community** Through ArtReach program, MPA tries to extend the reach of these exhibitions. Because it has been difficult this year to get schools to schedule field trips, we're going out instead. MPA had a great visit last week with SPARC participants who meet at OFC – it has been great to get that relationship going again. Sharon (ArtReach coordinator) has also visited Longfellow Middle School art department and McLean H.S. Special Ed. students – excellent community interactions. MPA hosted a Boy Scout Troop and ServiceSource (serving people with disabilities of different ages) visiting the gallery. An afterschool program from a lower income community in Fairfax Co. will be coming for a tour.

***ongoing coordination with MCC staff** In an ongoing effort to better coordinate programs with MCC, MPA has re-scheduled the exhibitions to make sure the gallery is open when MCC has large events, including the upcoming Antique Show and Craft Show. MPA has started a regular monthly meeting with Executive Director Betsy May-Salazar and other MCC staff to collaborate - seeing if there are ways we can come together better and offer programming that is of more benefit to the community.

***Summer Art camps** – there is still some availability; we've had some cancellations. A workshop will be offered for the first time this summer for students and young adults who are interested in studying art - about how to put together a portfolio of their artwork for applying to colleges.

***Welcome and offer to tour the gallery** We are happy to be part of MCC – welcome to all new board members! MPA has offered special tours of the gallery before an MCC Governing Board meeting, so we would like to repeat that in the fall and we look forward to it.

***downtown McLean development & MPA:** MPA is looking at the possibility of having a second location in addition to programming offered here at MCC >> to have more exhibition space and more education space to offer additional classes for the community (such as pottery wheels – which MPA doesn't have space to do here). MPA got approval on part of the zoning questions; this was a positive step. Now in the process of early planning on a capital campaign and designing what that looks like in terms of the amount of money to raise. MPA is excited about this emerging opportunity.

OLD /NEW BUSINESS

Chair Rahman opened the floor to any topics of old or new business.

1. Annual review of Executive Director:

The Board Chair is responsible for the Executive Director's yearly review. This is a similar HR feedback form that the board worked on last year. If current board members can please provide feedback before the June 5 meeting, Chair Rahman will coordinate everything and submit it to HR a few days thereafter.

2. Follow-up about security: requesting an update on whether more auto theft break-ins have occurred here

Clarification by Executive Director May-Salazar: We've had none since the last board meeting. There was an arrest elsewhere in the county (Perhaps it was connected? The incidents here did end simultaneously upon that arrest.) We received a redesign from the contractor about adding cameras. As their plan was different from what the county advisor had done initially, the proposal has gone back to the county for review. Then we will bring it forward here to decide what to do. Based on recommended location of security cameras, there will be fewer cameras but they will have a broader reach.

Discussion: Concern was expressed that the cautionary security alert signs convey a 'tone' unbecoming MCC.

Clarification by Executive Director May-Salazar: We don't think so – it's accurate and important. We really want people to lock their cars and not leave their purses in view. FCPD suggested those signs because of these incidents. Interestingly, every break-in situation had visible things sitting in their car. A sense of dismay was expressed by the victims: Why didn't you tell me there was an issue? We assume that most people are practical and keep everything locked away; however, apparently not. Our intent is that once we put cameras up, then we can display signage about being "... under video surveillance". Executive Director May-Salazar will discuss this with staff, but we would not want to remove those signs prematurely and then have another break-in incident occurring.

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

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 would be allotted three minutes to speak.

There had been no advance requests to speak.

No members of the public who were present tonight 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

Chair Rahman stated that all business matters were now concluded. He thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Holly Novak - Executive Assistant