

**2022-2023 MCC Governing Board  
Elections & Nominations Committee  
April 24, 2023 – 6:30 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**Committee Members Present:** *in-person:* Shivani Saboo, Chair; Kristina Groennings; Sarah Tran

**Committee Members Absent:** Ari Ghasemian

**Other Board Members Present:** Barbara Zamora-Appel

**MCC Staff Present:** Betsy May-Salazar, Executive Director; Holly Novak, Executive Assistant

**Guests:** None.

**CONVENE MEETING**

Governing Board Treasurer Saboo convened a meeting of Elections & Nominations Committee of the Governing Board of the McLean Community Center on April 24, 2023, at 5:35 p.m. She announced that the meeting was being audio recorded. No changes were requested to the Agenda; it was adopted by acclamation.

**PROGRESS TO-DATE: BALLOTS REQUESTED**

“Thank You” to Holly Novak and Ethan Koffsky for keeping track of the weekly tallies. It has been very helpful to see the division of the statistics on outgoing ballots:



As seen above, many more Absentee ballot requests came in from the online method, especially by youth (a significant difference). Comparison to previous years: Last year at this time, 1,068 absentee voting ballots had been requested. Last year was a huge anomaly – overall 2,381 ballots were cast vs. in the prior years: 501... 570... 583... in the adult category. We seem to be tracking ahead of other years. Also, last year there were several adult candidates (highly competitive) whereas this year, not as much overt competition.

Setting a date for early stoppage of responding to online/phone requests (to avoid mailing delays):

It was agreed that May 10 should be our preset cut-off date to ensure ballots can be received by mail prior to absentee ballot voting cutoff of May 17 – and clearly advise people that after that date they must pick up Absentee ballots by coming in-person to MCC. Previous similar language used on MCC website last year was proposed for this year's update:

**Please Note: Wednesday, May 10 is the last day absentee ballots will be mailed out to district residents** to ensure they are delivered and can be returned to MCC by the deadline of 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 17. **Remaining options:** District residents can still come into the center during operating hours to vote by absentee ballot up until the 5 p.m. May 17 deadline; or residents can vote in person at the McLean Day festival at Lewinsville Park on Saturday, May 20, from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This notice would be posted immediately to inform the public of the upcoming deadline to request ballots by mail. On May 10, Sabrina Anwah will remove the online request form from the MCC website.

ACTION ITEM: The proposed language written by PIO Sabrina Anwah is approved. Holly Novak will give direction to proceed to put notice on MCC website tomorrow (April 25).  
On May 10, Sabrina Anwah will remove the online request form from MCC website.

#### ANNOTATING RESIDENTIAL PRINTOUTS

Thursday, May 18 - League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area will be at MCC to annotate residential printouts of all incoming Absentee Ballot Affidavits received. Comptroller Karra did a great job arranging the printouts (2 sets – for adult voting table and youth voting table at McLean Day). Residential printouts are organized by street name and by sequential numerical order of house numbers on each street.

Holly Novak will be present with LWV to assist with any 'outliers' (Affidavits that they can't find in the printout) - taking an extra step of research on Fairfax Co. property tax records – to document the validity of that vote if it is from a tax district resident. ENC members are welcome to attend on May 18. It's interesting; the League of Women Voters works very diligently and methodically.

Chain-of-custody security videos: Holly Novak will use Fairfax County iPhone to take a video clip of each step as the ballot box is closed at 5 p.m. on May 17 and moved to Community Hall for overnight storage; unloading by LWV work team on May 18. This demonstrates ballot security. 13 such videos taken last year document exhaustive, careful chain-of-custody steps.

Heightened public interest: Although curious about election logistics, the public is not allowed to observe vote-counting by the League of Women Voters. Chain-of-custody videos will be available to the public afterward. Members of the public requested to see the vote-counting process last year (even offering to help count). There was a VFOIA request last year to view the process steps. The public's best role is to encourage people to vote.

**CANDIDATES** MCC has hosted two occasions for meeting the candidates:

1. Meet-and-Greet for adult candidates – Saturday, April 8 – during Springfest. Lightly attended. Candidates appeared to have good conversations with those they interacted with.
2. Open Game Night at OFC for youth candidates – Wednesday, April 12. A small number of kids came to talk to the candidates. There were adults present who also made a point of talking to the teens as they were enjoying games – positive, intergenerational conversations.

**We should consider revisiting which events are available during that limited timeframe when candidates are actively campaigning. SpringFest may not be the best event in the future. Perhaps the Parking Lot Sale**

**would be more natural - where people are wandering and may spend more time talking to candidates.**

The preference of staff is to return to the indoor parking garage near Giant; however, the ownership/manager of that building changed and we are no longer able to hold the event there. The staff would really like to get back into a covered garage venue that doesn't have the weather issue.

3. Seniors in Action potluck (Friday, April 28): Event was listed in the original materials provided to candidates – have not yet followed up with details. Committee members were asked if they would like to proceed with event.

*In favor of communicating SIA potluck as an adult candidate meet-and-greet opportunity:*

Chair Saboo says we should offer this opportunity to the adult candidates as there are a lot of people attending who will be voting. Agreed we should send out a casual reminder announcement tomorrow morning as “optional” to attend. Discussion took place regarding whether candidates would be given the opportunity to speak or it would be more casual interaction. Event provides opportunity for the adult candidates to gain a perspective of this aspect of MCC's quality programming for seniors.

ACTION ITEM: We will send an announcement out to the adult candidates tomorrow (4/25).

### **MCLEAN DAY LOGISTICS**

Candidate tents at McLean Day: in the area along the walkway leading into the park, toward the Voting Tent. A random drawing will determine placement order of the 15 candidates' tents: the public attending 4/26 board meeting will observe this process, which is wise.

ACTION ITEM: We will decide this random drawing at the Governing Board meeting on Wednesday.

Board member assistance along candidate row: Last year two board members signed up for each 2-hour segment during the day. Responsibilities: to walk around making sure things are O.K. and check-in with candidates; also making sure things are O.K. in the Voting Tent. 2- hour timeslots are ideal; Sign-up Genius is a good method.

Positive interaction with the public: Sometimes a member of the public has questions – they may not be from McLean and are inquiring about voting. It's best for a board member to answer those questions, taking the opportunity to provide meaningful information and interact with the public.

ACTION ITEM: Holly Novak will send out a Sign-up Genius for board members to participate in designated time slots throughout the day as a visible presence along Candidate Tent Row.

### **DISCUSSION: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINATING PROCESS**

Some currently serving board members are already considering officer positions for 2023-2024. It is also open to the new board members who are elected.

Process: anyone interested in running for an officer position would e-mail and write a small blurb of why they want to run. We make sure to have at least one person running for each position ahead of that first convened meeting where the actual election happens (June 7). Executive Director May-Salazar will share the opportunity with the newly-elected board members at their orientation meeting.

May 24, 2023 meeting: We will discuss the officer election process (which is immediately after the election results on McLean Day). By June 7, we also need any new people to clearly express their interest. Following same method as last year, the newly-elected people will learn about it in late May and at the meeting on June 7, the actual vote will be taken for each officer position. Each person running has one minute to give a short speech about why they want this position, and the vote is then taken.

Background: Two years ago, the ENC chair wanted to make a change to have the current/old board elect the new officers for the incoming term. However, it was never made official by the full board; several board members never

agreed with that change. Last year, the ENC Chair decided to revert back to how it had always been done: the new incoming board voting for the new slate of officers for their fresh term as it began. We believe this is the best way. It doesn't make sense to have an old board vote for the new executive committee of an incoming board.

#### **OLD /NEW BUSINESS**

Chair Saboo asked if there were any other topics for discussion this evening.

Board Chair Zamora-Appel thanked Sabrina Anwah, Betsy May-Salazar and Holly Novak for putting the election as first priority, high visibility on the website. This addresses a question from a person in the community and it was fixed immediately on Friday, 4/21. The website now looks great!

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Nothing else was mentioned as a further topic for discussion; and with no further business, Chair Saboo adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Holly Novak - Executive Assistant