

**MCC Governing Board
Final 2023-2024 Regular Meeting
First 2024-2025 Regular
June 5, 2024 – 6:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

- 2023-2024 Board Members Present:** *in-person:* Anna Bartosiewicz; Lisa Mariam; Rasheq Rahman; Eleanor Ague; Katie Gorka; Kristina Groennings; Matt Colsia; Lisa Mariam; Kathleen Cooney Porter; Sophia Bruno; Gloria Marrero Chambers
- 2024-2025 Board Members Present:** Doug Jeffery; Michael Monroe; Peter Pin; Ron Keesing; Sonya Thott; Aaron Stark; Katie Gorka; Kathleen Cooney Porter; Gloria Marrero Chambers; Anna Bartosiewicz; Kristina Groennings
- 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; Joe McGovern, Facilities Director; Matt Hockensmith, Comptroller; Danielle Van Hook, Director of Youth Theater programs; Jennifer Garrett, Technical Director; Kyle Corwin, Social Media Director; Catherine Nesbitt, Special Events Manager; Mary Carter, Special Events Assistant Manager
- Guests:** Supervisor Jimmy Bierman (Dranesville); Suzanne Le Menestrel; Pascale Siegel; Zafyr Rahman; Michael Stark; Myon Way; Antzare Stark; Kurian Thott; Jessy George; Deb Jeffery; Charles Monroe; Ariane Jeffery; Anna and Elizabeth Jeffery; Melissa Gold; Benjamin Wiles (Supervisor Bierman’s office); Janet Pin

CONVENE MEETING

Board Chair Rasheq Rahman stated it was a pleasure to convene the Final meeting of 2023-2024 Governing Board of the McLean Community Center on June 5, 2024, at 6:36 p.m. He announced that the meeting was being audio-recorded. The first order of business was reviewing the agenda; it was adopted by acclamation.

APPROVE MINUTES

The second order of business was to review Minutes of May 22, 2024 Regular Meeting. No changes were requested; the Minutes were accepted as written.

MOTION: To approve Minutes of May 22, 2024, Regular Meeting.

Approved by a vote of 11: Anna Bartosiewicz; Lisa Mariam; Rasheq Rahman; Eleanor Ague; Katie Gorka; Kristina Groennings; Matt Colsia; Lisa Mariam; Kathleen Cooney Porter; Sophia Bruno; Gloria Marrero Chambers – all voting “AYE.”

RECOGNITION OF BOARD MEMBERS CONCLUDING THEIR TERMS OF SERVICE

**remarks by Executive Director Betsy May-Salazar*

This was her first full year as Executive Director, with a few months in the prior year. She thanked the board for their amazing welcome and orientation, and for being wonderful partners throughout this year. It’s been a great experience. Special thanks particularly to Rasheq Rahman for his efficient running of board meetings and the agenda for the year.

The following individuals were acknowledged for their outstanding contributions as members of the MCC Governing Board:

Rasheq Rahman

2021-2022 = Capital Facilities Committee; Programs & Outreach Committee

2022-2023 = **Board Vice-Chair;** Chair – Capital Facilities Committee; Finance Committee

2023-2024 = **Board Chair**; Finance Committee

Rasheq Rahman is going to be departing after serving three years. We thank you for your service and we know we will continue to see you and your family at many events, programs and camps. (*applause*)

Lisa Mariam

2021-2022 = Chair – 50th Anniversary Committee; Capital Facilities Committee; Elections & Nominations Committee; Programs & Outreach Committee

2022-2023 = Chair – 50th Anniversary Committee (inaugural year); Programs & Outreach Committee

2023-2024 = Chair – 50th Anniversary Committee; Programs & Outreach Committee

We would like to recognize Lisa Mariam who has also served faithfully and energetically for three years. She has been our major cheerleader and spear-header of our 50th Anniversary ideas. We are very happy she will be able to continue on that committee as a community member, contributing to our success for the 50th Anniversary. In 2021-2022 (her 1st year) she was chair of 50th Anniversary Committee (the inaugural year). That was a lot! We thank you... and we'll see you soon. (*applause*)

Matt Colsia – fulfilling 3rd (final) year of a previous board member's unexpired term

2023-2024 = Finance Committee; Capital Facilities Committee; 50th Anniversary Committee

Matt Colsia graciously stepped-in last year to fill an unexpired term from a board member that needed to leave one year early. He has made a huge impact in a single year – bringing a lot of insight and fresh ideas! We really appreciate his input on the board. Thankfully, we will still see Matt Colsia as a continuing member of the 50th Anniversary Committee.

50th Anniversary is the only MCC committee that is a combination of board members and community representatives. An aspect of the pledge when people joined the committee was that they would see it all the way through – even if no longer on the board, you will continue to stay on it from now through 2025 and see it to completion. This is very welcome continuity.

Sophia Bruno – youth representing Langley High School

2023-2024 = **coordinator of Youth Ambassador program**; Finance Committee; Programs & Outreach Committee

In addition to leading the 2nd year of Youth Ambassador program, Sophia was integral in originating the idea to expand the accessibility for teens of voting in the Governing Board election, and expanding that to Friday Night Rides [McLean Day event]. That made a huge impact when you look at the number of votes that came in and the number of people who voted on Friday night. It was a great enhancement to the McLean Day event program.

Eleanor Ague – youth representing McLean High School

2023-2024 = **coordinator of Youth Ambassador program**; Elections & Nominations Committee; Programs & Outreach Committee

In addition to leading the 2nd year of Youth Ambassador program, Eleanor was also integral in originating the concept to expand our voting to Friday Night Rides. We thank you very much and wish you great success moving forward. And we hope we see you back at our events! (*applause*)

PREPARING TO ELECT 2024-2025 BOARD CHAIR **remarks by Chair Rahman*

As this board is now completing its term, and with only two continuing members being in their third year with a longer history of experience in this board's parliamentary processes, we have designated Anna Bartosiewicz to conduct the election for 2024-2025 Board Chair later in this meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

**remarks by Executive Director Betsy May-Salazar*

Pride Month

Over the past week we have received multiple emails inquiring about the McLean Community Center's planned events in celebration of Pride Month, expressing hope that MCC will be recognizing and celebrating the McLean LGBTQ+ community as it has in the past. The following statement was shared with people who submitted letters, as well as some further contextual remarks prepared for this meeting:

MCC is committed to [diversity, equity and inclusion](#) and works to provide programs that speak to and enrich all members of our community. We are committed to ensuring that MCC is a welcoming and safe space for all. Our

goal is to not merely recognize groups during designated heritage months, but to ensure that our offerings reflect diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility year-round. The MCC staff is guided by our DEIA principles as well as programming logistics and budgets as it develops programming over several years. Our programming offerings vary from year-to-year.

This year, MCC's Pride Month recognition is comprised of the Performing Arts Film, Matthew Bourne's "Swan Lake." Our Performing Arts Film series is a monthly series that is held on Thursday afternoons at 1 p.m.; and this is one of those programs. Because we have received interest in having an additional program outside of work hours, we are adding an additional showing of the film in the evening. The film will be shown on Thursday, June 13, at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.; and we hope to see you there. As in previous years, we have installed a Pride Walk display of signs along our plaza walk that highlights many contributions of prominent LGBTQ+ Americans. Also, as is our tradition in the month of June, we will have the Pride flag and the Juneteenth Flag displayed outside at the Old Firehouse Center.

This year, we lost our venue for outdoor concerts with the renovation of McLean Central Park. We have recently been able to secure the Lewinsville Park historic house to continue the concert series, however our scheduling delay did not provide the opportunity to secure an appropriate artist specific to Pride month. In addition, we have traditionally installed this Pride Walk display leading up to the Pride concert in the park. This year, because we do not have this venue, we have decided to put the display up for a longer period of time along our plaza, where it will have greater visibility.

As always, we will be celebrating Pride through our social media posts, promoting programming by the MCC as well as others in the county. So, look for our messaging if you're interested in finding programs.

We really appreciate the public interest in our programming and always welcome feedback -either by reaching out directly to me; through our public comment period during board meetings (like today); through observation of our Programs Committee meetings; participating in our Fall Program Survey (which is a vehicle specifically to gather input from the community about what is important to the community); and at the Public Hearing on Programs held each March.

MCC's commitment to diversity remains strong and is embodied in our strategic goal of "Welcoming All of McLean and its Global Community." And the strong memories of past Pride events at MCC are a testament to this commitment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

In-person comments: Chair Rahman invited the public to introduce themselves and give verbal remarks if they wished. They first stated aloud their residential address to verify being 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.

1. Dr. Suzanne Le Menestrel

Good evening, everybody. My name is Dr. Suzanne Le Menestrel. I am the sister, aunt, friend, colleague and neighbor of people in the LGTBQ+ community. I'm also a past MCC board member and board Chair, and McLean taxpayer. I'm here to express my profound disappointment about the lack of visible events here at the MCC to celebrate Pride Month. I wrote an e-mail to the MCC Executive Director and the immediate past board Chair; and have been searching furiously through the MCC website for Pride Month things. I received a response that the only Pride event is the film "Swan Lake" which is being shown at 1 p.m.; and thank you for changing the time to make it available to more people.

In contrast, the MCC's sister organization – Reston Community Center – which has a similar funding structure, community board, and is also part of the Fairfax County government, was a visible sponsor of "Best in Pride" which happened on June 1. They also had visible events on their calendar including an LGTBQ+ community event and a concert. The neighboring Town of Herndon is offering its first-ever family-oriented Pride celebration.

This is a time in our country, unfortunately, when there are more than 400 anti-LGTBQ+ bills introduced in states around the U.S. Even a local group here in the McLean area – the Dranesville Republicans – is promoting an anti-LGTBQ+

initiative called “Hide the Pride” and encouraging its members to check-out all LGBTQ+ books from our local library so that they are not available for other patrons. And during this time, when LGBTQ+ youth and adults and children – and especially transgender individuals – are being attacked, marginalized and other, I think it’s more important than ever that taxpaying or public government entities like the MCC stand on the side of LGBTQ+ individuals, families, children and youth that live here in our community.

So, I’d like to know why the MCC is not carrying forward events that happened in 2021: like lighting up the MCC with Pride colors; an interfaith panel, which I was an usher for; a family-friendly T-shirt decorating contest with an open mic night with refreshments and selfie booth. And I’m sure there were other things – an outdoor youth concert. So, as one of my friends here in McLean with a transgender daughter said: “The blatant lack of Pride events here at the MCC is a slap in the face.” The MCC can and must do better and should live up to both the county’s One Fairfax policy and the MCC’s DEIA initiative (on it’s home page and when you walk in the front door you see it right there). Thank you, Betsy, for reiterating that commitment to promote a responsive, caring and inclusive culture for all McLean residents. Thank you.

RESPONSE BY BOARD CHAIR:

Thank you, Dr. Le Menestrel. We appreciate your taking the time to share your comments regarding Pride Month. All community feedback is valuable and will be taken into consideration.

2. Pascale Siegel

Hello. I want to second what Dr. Le Menestrel said. I appreciate the additional efforts that the MCC Board is doing in response to community input; but it is still grossly insufficient. The role of the Center is to address everybody’s needs in the community and there are members of the LGBTQ+ community here who need to be treated the way that everyone else is treated - by having programming that appeals to them. And it is your responsibility. You’ve asked to be community leaders. It is your responsibility to ensure that the LGBTQ+ community is served to the level that they deserve.

I will also add that, as this community is undergoing harrowing bullying, especially children, especially teens in middle school, in high school – your role is to lead by example. Support, reassure members of the LGBTQ+ community who are demonized and who suffer from bullying. So, more programs, more visibility. All we are asking is that the LGBTQ+ people feel safe in their own community, in their own background – and can be seen and supported, tolerated and accepted by everyone else. I don’t think it’s too much to ask. Some people call that “basic politeness.” Thank you.

RESPONSE BY BOARD CHAIR:

Ms. Siegel, thank you. We appreciate your taking the time to share your comments regarding Pride Month. All community feedback is valuable and will be taken into consideration.

3. Michael Stark

I didn’t want to leave two people standing up here alone. That’s all I wanted to say: I support what they said. My support should be sufficient.

RESPONSE BY BOARD CHAIR AT CONCLUSION OF VERBAL REMARKS:

Let me close by saying: we thank members of the public for contributing their feedback this evening.

The MCC Governing Board takes your suggestions very seriously. You are welcome to attend our meetings.

All MCC Governing Board meetings are open to the public. You can view the board schedule on MCC’s website.

We have very strict county regulations and stringent oversight of our work in all areas, and we work hard to meet these needs in being responsible to our taxpayers. We are committed to transparency and making the process open to the public. We welcome you back to future events at the McLean Community Center to see the value of your tax dollars at work.

Written comments: The following written comments were submitted in advance of this meeting, intended for inclusion in the Minutes record. Individuals submitting were verified as being a Small District 1A-Dranesville resident.

1. Dr. Suzanne Le Menestrel

Dear Rasheq and the MCC Governing Board,

I am writing to inquire if there are any McLean Community Center (MCC) events going on to celebrate Pride Month, beginning June 1. I didn't see anything visibly posted on the MCC website. I did a search for events in the month of June and a general search on the home page and nothing turned up except one loosely affiliated movie and a past event from June 2023. I also follow the MCC on social media and have seen no mention of any upcoming Pride events. In contrast, the Reston Community Center, which has a similar funding structure, governing board, and is also a county run and tax payer funded center, is a visible sponsor of Reston Pride.

I sincerely hope that the MCC will be recognizing and celebrating the McLean LGBTQ+ community next month and throughout the year, especially transgender youth whose gender expression and simply their right to exist is being attacked and vilified in many parts of the country and state. They need to have a safe space where they are welcomed and included. They need to see themselves reflected in MCC's teen, cultural, arts, and family focused events. Tax paying LGBTQ+ families here in McLean need to know they will be welcomed and feel safe when they attend MCC events.

When I was a board member, I heard many positive comments about the Pride month events that were hosted by the MCC, including a fun family event with live music. It was also amazing and beautiful to see the MCC lit up with the Pride rainbow colors. I sincerely hope that the MCC continues this tradition and that the LGBTQ+ community and their allies, such as my husband and I, can show our support at these events.

Thank you,

Regards,

Dr. Suzanne Le Menestrel

2. Ruthanne Smith

I live in Dranesville Small District 1A. I would like to see additional MCC events honoring all the diversity that makes this area such a vibrant place to live and work. In particular, during June, I would like to see more visible support for the LGBTQ community beginning with something as simple as a few Pride posters or flags visibly present in and around the MCC facility and grounds. Reston and Herndon both hosted Pride festivals this year. Let's take a page from their book and show that our community recognizes and values diversity in all forms.

By doing this, we not only support friends and neighbors but we advance the reputation of Tysons as a place open for business to all!

Thank you,

Ruthanne Smith

ADJOURNMENT

After the public comment segment ended, all business matters of the 2023-2024 Governing Board were thus concluded. Chair Rahman thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

**Executive Director May-Salazar introduced Supervisor Jimmy Bierman (Fairfax County Board of Supervisors – Dranesville District).*

PLEDGE CEREMONY TO INSTALL 2024-2025 GOVERNING BOARD

McLean Community Center 2024-2025 Governing Board Members Annual Pledge

As an MCC Governing Board Member, I Pledge to:

- Support the mission of the McLean Community Center:
The McLean Community Center: provides access to inspirational arts, cultural experiences, learning opportunities, civic engagement and recreational activities; supports community organizations, and; offers facilities for all MCC tax district residents.

- Comply with the Code of Conduct.
- Support the executive director in his/her executive role.
- Respect and support the MOU, Policies, Operations, and Board decisions.
- Conduct myself in a spirit of collegiality and respect for the collective decisions of the Board and subordinate my personal preferences to the best interests of the MCC.
- Honor confidentiality regarding discussions, comments, and deliberations.
- Comply with laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, including the State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act as it applies to the Governing Board.
- Exercise the above responsibilities at all times in a reasonable and prudent manner.

Eleven members of 2024-2025 Governing Board were thus installed: Anna Bartosiewicz, Gloria Marrero Chambers, Katie Gorka, Kristina Groennings, Doug Jeffery, Ron Keesing, Michael Monroe, Peter Pin, Kathleen Cooney Porter, Aaron Stark, Sonya Thott. **All being PRESENT in-person duly-constituted quorum for their first convened meeting.**

The pledge ceremony concluded with applause and photographs - as a joyous moment with family and friends attending to observe this happy occasion!

CONVENE FIRST MEETING OF 2024-2025 GOVERNING BOARD

Delegation of leadership to convene meeting and elect Board Chair: Being appointed by the previous Chair to a designated role, Anna Bartosiewicz welcomed everyone who just took the installation pledge and officially convened the first meeting of 2024-2025 Governing Board of the McLean Community Center on June 5, 2024 at 7:10 p.m. She announced that the meeting was being audio-recorded.

ELECTION OF NEW GOVERNING BOARD CHAIR

The important first task was to proceed with electing the new Governing Board Chair. Two people had submitted their names as nominations for Chair. Each was given opportunity to express remarks (2 minutes): to introduce themselves, explain their ideas, and to help everyone get to know them a bit better.

Katie Gorka My name is Katie Gorka and part of why I want to run for Chair is: I really felt Rasheq did an really incredible job this year of running the meetings efficiently and in a real spirit of congeniality. And so, I just want to maintain that tradition. I have experience with a number of different cultural institutions: I've worked with the Asia Society in New York City, and ran film festivals for the New School of Social Research. I've lived in McLean since 2008. I love the community center. I have loved my experience on the board and have really appreciated our time and our work together. Thank you. *(applause)*

Kristina Groennings Reasons why I hope that I have your vote for Chair of the MCC Governing Board: 1. I grew up less than a mile from the McLean Community Center. I went to the events here. I participated in the Macdonald competition as a teenager. The MCC really helped form who I am today, and I love it. It's been a part of my life and was a great big part of my early childhood. 2. The second reason is because I've served on this board – this is actually my last year. I was Secretary my first year (which was a split-second decision right before this first meeting because nobody had stepped up yet!) So, I'm so glad we have great candidates this year. Last year, I served as Vice-Chair. I was Chair of the Capital Facilities Committee and the Elections & Nominations Committee. So, I know my way around and I've dealt with a lot of issues. A lot of the issues aren't issues you would think you'd deal with as a board – things like stormwater drainage; whether we should purchase equipment for the Alden Theatre. They're important decisions; but they're not things like: Should we have Joshua Bell play in the concert hall (which I would be all for!) 3. And the third reason is my agenda: to ensure that the board continues to be forest through the trees, continues to provide oversight of the community center, to support its staff, and to ensure fiscal responsibility, and that the community center serves the interests of everybody in the community. *(applause)*

Board members were called by name alphabetically to state their choice for Board Chair:

5 Votes FOR Katie Gorka as Chair: Gloria Marrero Chambers; Katie Gorka; Doug Jeffery; Michael Monroe; Peter Pin;

6 Votes FOR Kristina Groennings as Chair: Anna Bartosiewicz; Kristina Groennings; Ron Keesing; Kathleen Cooney Porter; Aaron Stark; Sonya Thott

Abstentions: None.

Kristina Groennings was elected as 2024–2025 Governing Board Chair.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Newly-elected Board Chair Kristina Groennings proceeded to conduct the election for the remaining Executive Committee positions: Vice-Chair; Secretary; Treasurer.

VICE-CHAIR Anna Bartosiewicz

**remarks by Anna Bartosiewicz*

Kristina and I ran together in the same year so this is also my last year on the board. I really look forward to supporting you and Betsy in helping this board work well together as a board and also to continue our excellent collaboration with MCC staff. It was in the pledge: the ‘spirit of congeniality’ and working together. I think it’s at the core of everything we do. And I feel like, if that works, everything can fall into place. So, I hope to support both of you [Kristina + Betsy May-Salazar] and the entire board in that goal.

Chair Groennings proceeded to conduct the vote for Vice-Chair. Board members were called by name alphabetically to state their choice:

11 Votes FOR Anna Bartosiewicz as Vice-Chair: Anna Bartosiewicz (“My turn to be awkward!”); Gloria Marrero Chambers; Katie Gorka; Doug Jeffery; Ron Keesing; Michael Monroe; Peter Pin; Kristina Groennings; Kathleen Cooney Porter; Aaron Stark; Sonya Thott

Votes AGAINST Anna Bartosiewicz as Vice-Chair: None.

Abstentions: None.

Anna Bartosiewicz was unanimously elected as 2024–2025 Governing Board Vice-Chair. *(applause)*

TREASURER Kathleen Cooney Porter

Next was the election of Treasurer of MCC Governing Board. Kathleen Cooney Porter had put in her name to run for this officer position.

**remarks by Kathleen Cooney Porter*

I was asked to run last year by our now-departed Chair and I’m happy to do it again unless anyone wants to come on in and run. I was Treasurer last year and I sat on Capital Facilities Committee and the Finance Committee. I have a lot of background as managing partner of a trademark copyright group: long-term planning; oversight of money and boards. So, I just thought it was natural to continue on since we had a learning curve – both of us [Kathleen and Betsy May-Salazar] came in new - and so I’m happy to continue.

Chair Groennings proceeded to conduct the vote for Treasurer of MCC Governing Board.

11 Votes FOR Kathleen Cooney Porter as Treasurer: Anna Bartosiewicz; Gloria Marrero Chambers; Katie Gorka; Doug Jeffery; Ron Keesing; Michael Monroe; Peter Pin; Kristina Groennings; Kathleen Cooney Porter; Aaron Stark; Sonya Thott

Votes AGAINST Kathleen Cooney Porter as Treasurer: None.

Abstentions: None.

Kathleen Cooney Porter was unanimously elected 2024-2025 Governing Board Treasurer. (applause)

SECRETARY Michael Monroe

Chair Groennings proceeded to conduct the vote for Secretary of MCC Governing Board. One person had submitted their name: Michael Monroe.

**remarks by Michael Monroe*

Thank you, and congratulations to all the executives here. I think I'm in the right chair for this position. I have a background in media prior to getting into finance. I'm very excited to get involved right away, follow leadership's example as well, and contribute as meaningful as I can, right off the bat. So, I appreciate your support and I'm happy to be a part of this group.

11 Votes FOR Michael Monroe as Secretary: Anna Bartosiewicz; Gloria Marrero Chambers; Katie Gorka; Doug Jeffery; Ron Keesing; Michael Monroe; Peter Pin; Kristina Groennings; Kathleen Cooney Porter; Aaron Stark; Sonya Thott

Votes AGAINST Michael Monroe as Secretary: None.

Abstentions: None.

Michael Monroe was unanimously elected 2024-2025 Governing Board Secretary. (applause)

ORIENTATION: ENVISIONING THE YEAR AHEAD **remarks by Executive Director May-Salazar*

The next order of business was the orientation; Chair Groennings yielded the floor to Executive Director May-Salazar. Holly Novak was invited to sit at the table to contribute to the discussion. The audio recording and Minutes were concluded.

Executive Director May-Salazar shared an in-depth explanation of board policies and best practices, envisioning fruitful collaboration in the year ahead. Each board member received a notebook of important documents which will serve as helpful guidance for decision-making.

ADJOURNMENT

Following the orientation discussion, the meeting concluded at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Holly Novak – Executive Assistant