



**2025-2026 MCC Governing Board
Regular Meeting & Public Hearing on FY2027 Budget
September 24, 2025 6:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

Board Members PRESENT IN-PERSON: Doug Jeffery, Chair; Katie Gorka; Venita Wang; Ron Keesing; Michael Monroe; Liz Lawson; Peter Pin

Board Members ABSENT: Kathleen Cooney Porter; Gloria Marrero Chambers; Katie Myshrall; Anna Bartosiewicz

MCC Staff present: Betsy May-Salazar, Executive Director; Jonathan Melendez, Deputy Director; Holly Novak, Executive Assistant; Sarah Schallern Treff, Performing Arts Director; Matthew Hockensmith, Comptroller; Sabrina Anwah, PIO; Jessica Wu, new PIO

Guests: Deb Bissen (MPA); Jim Lawless (Friends of MCC); Kevin Kierce (MCA/CERT); Prabha Rollins (Supervisor Bierman's office); John David

CONVENE MEETING

Chair Doug Jeffery convened the Governing Board of the McLean Community Center to a Regular Meeting and Public Hearing on FY2027 Budget of on September 24, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. It was open to the public attending in-person. The agenda was adopted by acclamation. A courtesy announcement was made about the meeting being audio-recorded for purposes of Minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of three recent meetings were reviewed and considered for approval.

1. Minutes of June 11, 2025 first convened meeting: no changes requested; accepted as written.
2. Minutes of July 23, 2025 "Working Group" meeting: no changes requested; accepted as written.
3. Minutes of Sept. 3, 2025 Meeting-of-the-Whole on FY2027 Budget: no changes requested; accepted as written.

The MOTION was seconded to approve all three respective Minutes. The MOTION passed unanimously by a vote of seven.

Kathleen Cooney Porter, Gloria Marrero Chambers, Anna Bartosiewicz and Katie Myshrall were absent.

CHAIR'S REPORT **remarks by Board Chair Doug Jeffery*

The mural dedication and Block Party at Old Firehouse Center on Saturday, Sept. 20 was fantastic! The mural design and execution turned out beautifully. Please drive by and see it; it is worthy of the community. Several county leaders participated in the public art dedication, which is significant affirmation. The public also went inside OFC and saw all the effective renovations made for ADA purposes. The ADA upgrades were necessary, but also with the addition of new floors and fresh colors, the OFC now feels very light and uplifting. Well done!

ACTION: Before future board meetings, there is interest in having tours of various facility areas – MPA galleries; The Alden stage; OFC. Executive Director May-Salazar will arrange for such tour opportunities.

The intent of tonight's meeting is 'where MCC budget meets the community;' but first focusing on a special recognition.

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

Recognition of PIO Sabrina Anwah We wish to recognize our wonderful Director of Marketing Communications, Sabrina Anwah. She has been here 25 years and has grown this place from a department of one person to a department of 3 ½ people - an excellent team! A floral bouquet and framed certificate were presented to honor Sabrina's professional achievements and contributions during her significant career as MCC's PIO (Public Information Officer). Sabrina enters retirement with encouragement and gratitude from her staff colleagues and MCC Governing Board! *(applause!)*

Presented to Sabrina Anwah

In recognition of your extraordinary career at the
McLean Community Center
and your unwavering dedication to the residents of McLean.
July 17, 2000 – October 7, 2025

We commend your exemplary contributions to public communication,
your skilled leadership of the talented marketing and communications team,
your timely and effective collaborations with local and national media,
and your innovative efforts in strategically promoting the Center's programs and events.

Your steadfast commitment to excellence has significantly enhanced community awareness
of the McLean Community Center's vital role in Fairfax County
while exemplifying the values of accountability and transparency
to the taxpayers of Small District 1A-Dranesville.

Your leadership, vision and dedication leave a lasting legacy of public service.

**remarks by Sabrina Anwah* Thank you to past and current Executive Directors who have always been supportive of any effort we put before them. Thank you to past and present Governing Board members who have volunteered their time and helped in so many ways to progress the Center. Thank you to many past and present colleagues for support, and without whom this would not be possible. Thank you to Jessica Wu who, in just three days, has been very impressive! Knowing MCC is in good hands, Sabrina leaves feeling very good about this.

Introduction of Jessica Wu Jessica Wu is our new Director of Marketing Communications. She may be familiar to some as she has been a key presence in the McLean community – especially in the MCP playground fundraising. Jessica is a member of McLean Revitalization board. She is a huge asset to McLean and we are fortunate to have her! In two weeks of overlap with Sabrina she will learn about all aspects of MCC marketing & communications.

**remarks by Jessica Wu* I'm excited to be here - to work with the board. Sabrina Anwah has a big legacy to fill but I'm trying!

**comment by Michael Monroe:* I've been on the McLean Revitalization board with Jessica as well, serving for a year on the Communications Committee. Amazing! It's going to be great having you here!

Mural dedication: THANK YOU to board members who attended the OFC mural dedication on Saturday. Several Fairfax County representatives were present and made very impactful statements about why the ADA renovations are so important to the community. Members of SPARC were present; it was terrific for them to receive recognition as key users of the OFC space. The mural has received a very warm reception from the community. Two community paint days offered in early September exceeded expectations. We expanded to several more slots because so many people wanted to get involved! The artist also worked with OFC Afterschool program participants - great experience. People drove by with 'thumbs up;' they stopped, blocked traffic and wanted to know what was going on. The mural is positive – something people really appreciate. We will continue to look for opportunities for similar community engagement pieces.

OFC Block Party was a huge success – approx. 1,400 people attended!

The Alden sales opened on September 3 with over \$10K in sales on opening day and \$24K since opening! That is a huge boost; last year it was under \$700 sales on opening day. Sarah Schallern Treff noted that this year ticket purchasers were not simply buying for one performance but for several throughout the season.

Ideas for Why – What is driving public interest?:

1. more promotion of Alden this past year including ParkTakes & Community Events;
2. more focused effort to promote future events and like events throughout the year;
3. staff presence in lobby after performances to answer questions;
4. moved first day of sale to September after program guide was received;
5. promotion by artists.

Upcoming opportunities for board members to be involved in MCC events:

1. Trunk or Treat – have your vehicle decked-out! OFC provides all the candy and kids come to Trick-or-Treat. Saturday, October 25 – several open slots.
2. Community Feedback Survey – we have launched the survey and request your participation at events to encourage people to take the survey: help with the iPads and QR code – to encourage people to take the survey.
 - *Sunday, Oct. 5 MPA ArtFest (McLean Central Park) – an excellent event for us to leverage contact with the public.
 - *Sunday, October 12 PetFest (McLean Central Park). It's a fun event and sometimes a different crowd than come through our doors. *Please sign up now or get in touch with Holly Novak after this meeting.
3. October 18 – our big 50th Anniversary Party. We invite board members to serve as greeters (one-hour shifts). You can still enjoy the party around whatever timing you are able to give to greeting. This is a way to welcome everyone and thank them for attending as people flow in-and-out: 5:00 – 10:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 18.
 - Friday, October 17 is Carole Herrick's history talk: The Wayback Time Machine -about the history of MCC & McLean.
 - *We will also partner with Friends of MCC.

OVERVIEW OF FY2027 BUDGET PROPOSAL **remarks by Comptroller Matt Hockensmith*

Reflective of Sabrina Anwah's example (25 years of dedicated service) – such commitment for our community is awesome! Jessica Wu has been involved in many other things but she desires to come here because of the level of commitment we have. Also the Governing board members serving faithfully... and the people attending here tonight to sit through a detailed budget presentation > none of the programs for the last 50 years would be possible at MCC if it weren't for the funding of the budget we have, and all the levels of support by the people in the community, including my staff colleagues. Thank you!

During and after the budget presentation, no questions nor points of clarification were raised by board members.

Summary by Treasurer Peter Pin: At a high level, when you look at the budget (three elements - Operating expenses + Personnel + Capital) – it is very much in line with comparisons to other well-run centers of this same nature that have income primarily from the tax base. There is some volatility in the tax base and with interest; but in terms of the way MCC is run, the programs are in balance. The popular programs are all self-sustaining from year-to-year. To my role of oversight as Treasurer, nothing appears out of proportion in any way. Reserves are well-maintained and they come up and down. Capital fluctuates because of the big projects. Overall, things are in balance. When you get granular and down to detail, there may be questions; but at a high level, it is well run. Thank you for that.

Upon concluding the FY2027 Budget presentation, Comptroller Hockensmith transitioned to Chair Jeffery to open the opportunity for public comments.

PUBLIC HEARING ON FY2027 BUDGET PROPOSAL – PUBLIC COMMENTS

In-person comments: Chair Jeffery invited the public attending to express verbal remarks specific to the FY2027 Budget. An opportunity for public comments on other general topics occurred later in this meeting. Those who wished to speak would introduce themselves and give verbal remarks. It was required to first state aloud their residential address to verify they are a Small District 1A-Dranesville resident. If having requested in advance to speak, those individuals were pre-verified as being a Small District 1A-Dranesville resident. Each person was allotted three minutes to speak.

No one had requested in advance to express a verbal comment about the FY2027 Budget.

No one present requested to speak.

Written comments: Chair Jeffery explained that written comments about MCC's FY2027 Budget were also welcome, if coming from a Small District 1A-Dranesville resident.

No written comments about FY2027 Budget were received in advance of this meeting.

No written comments about FY2027 Budget were submitted during this meeting.

CONCLUSION **remarks by Chair Jeffery*

Opportunity for the public to submit written comments about FY2027 Budget will continue through October 13. All such written public input will be included in the Minutes record of this meeting.

No written comments about FY2027 Budget were received from September 25 through October 13.

The vote on FY2027 Budget will take place at October 22 Regular Meeting. The FY2027 Budget proposal thus voted on will be sent to the county as a “DRAFT;” it will not be finalized by Fairfax County until May/June 2026.

The public is welcome to attend future meetings; all MCC Governing Board meetings are open to the public (view the board schedule on MCC website). We have very strict county regulations and stringent oversight of our operations in all areas and we work hard to meet these needs in being responsive 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.

Chair Jeffery then proceeded to conduct remaining business matters of the Regular Meeting agenda.

CAPITAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE **remarks by Vice-Chair Michael Monroe*

CFC met on August 27 for in-depth review and discussion of upcoming facility improvements: DuVal Studio roof replacement; parking lot repaving; furniture replacement. Any other projects that didn’t have a specific budget yet will be brought to the Capital Facilities Committee for review and vote once a budget is determined.

OLD /NEW BUSINESS

1. Lack of communication to local merchants about OFC Block Party: **feedback from a board member*

Board member received a comment from local merchant (El Tio Restaurant) in shopping center adjacent to OFC, regarding an apparent lack of communication about the OFC Block Party event on Saturday, September 20. One of the owners expressed that he didn’t know the event was happening. In the past, they have been notified but this time they were not advised. Or maybe they missed it somehow.

ACTION: We should be mindful of this for the future [as part of our event planning for OFC Block Party.]

2. Update on McLean Project for the Arts **remarks by Deb Bissen*

ArtFest: We are excited about the partnership with MCC and continuing to expand with all of you. Thank you for the sponsorship of MPA ArtFest on October 5. We are excited to be back in the park! The yarn bombing on MCC interior columns is delightful to see! Our volunteers are excited to share it with the MCC. Everyone seems to be enjoying it!

Gov. Board members are invited to be part of the photo at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, October 5 in MCP – it’s a community volunteer photo of everyone who has been involved in planning, organizing and sponsoring MPA ArtFest. We are excited to use both performance stages – musicians will perform under the gazebo and the pavilion and there will be several art activities for kids. It will be a fun celebration, so please stop by!

MCC 50th Anniversary: We are happy to be involved with QB and the mural (Nancy Sausser was on the jury panel for the selecting the artist) - Lori Carbonneau [MPA Executive Director] was glad to be at the mural dedication on September 20.

“Women Artists of the DMV” exhibition: There are 18 locations featuring 400 women artists. We have about 40 of them! If you have time, stop upstairs and see the artwork. Artist Talk on Saturday, October 25.

Next exhibition: Bernie Boston – a prominent African American photographer who worked at White House in 1960’s and 1970’s - an upcoming exhibit of his photo collection to be shown at Pleasant Grove Church and MPA. There was a famous photo during Vietnam war and protests in DC. Interestingly, he was the Chair of MCC Governing Board from 1977 to 1979. Exhibit opening will be November 6, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Future exhibition: Later in the Atrium and Emerson Gallery, we will have another photo-related exhibit.

ArtReach – McLean H.S. Special Ed. students and a new partnership with a local elementary school. We talked about the environment and art. *Comment by Executive Director Betsy May-Salazar:* We are looking to join forces on the opening for Bernie Boston exhibition, which will be wonderful. Our Seniors In Action really enjoyed the ArtReach program this week!

Tours (several) – Today we welcomed a group from Flint Hill High School. As a ‘Senior Seminar’ it was fun to hear about their plans for the future. Flint Hill High School has a gallery featuring a big show at the end of the school year. We are also working with SIA to offer a tour for them, and with the Center for Older Adults (Fairfax County program).

Classes and workshops are going well. We are excited to be offering some new instructors and new one-day workshops – trying to get people who only have time to do a one-day option (which is another way to keep people engaged).

Update on status of new gallery in downtown McLean – We have begun construction but ran into a bit of a delay: there is a hallway space between the space that was going to be the restaurant and the condominium building. Since that wasn’t being

used for anything, we made an agreement to access that. But that final approval hasn't been processed yet – so we're waiting for that to be approved so they can then start joining it with the restaurant space. We are making some progress. We're excited about it and are still raising some money to complete the funding needed for this big construction project. It's exciting to see it starting to happen!

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

PUBLIC COMMENT (general) **focused on 'general' or other topics - not FY2027 Budget*

In-person comments: Chair Jeffery opened an opportunity for the public to express remarks on *general* topics (not FY2027 Budget). Each person would introduce themselves and state aloud their residential address to verify they are a Small District 1A-Dranesville resident. If having requested in advance to speak, those individuals' addresses were pre-verified.

No one had requested in advance to speak.

No one present requested to speak.

Written comments: **No written comments on general topics were received in advance of this meeting.**

No written comments on general topics were submitted during this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Jeffery thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Holly Novak – Executive Assistant
