



**2025 - 2026 MCC Governing Board  
Capital Facilities Committee  
January 14, 2026 - 5:30 p.m.**

**Working Meeting** (*In-person quorum was not present.*)

**MINUTES**

**Committee members present:** *in-person:* Michael Monroe, Vice-Chair; Peter Pin  
**Committee members absent:** Anna Bartosiewicz; Katie Myshrall  
**Other Board members present:** Doug Jeffery; Kathleen Cooney Porter  
**MCC Staff present:** Betsy May-Salazar, Executive Director; Jonathan Melendez, Deputy Director; Matthew Hockensmith, Comptroller; Joe McGovern, Facilities Manager; Jennifer Garrett, Technical Director; Holly Novak, Executive Assistant; Andrew Carter, OFC Manager; Mike Fisher, General Programs Director  
**Guests:** None

**CONVENE MEETING**

Vice-Chair Michael Monroe convened a ‘working meeting’ of the Capital Facilities Committee of the Governing Board of McLean Community Center on January 14, 2026, at 5:31 p.m. In-person quorum was not met as two committee members were absent. As a ‘working meeting’ there are normal Minutes record of the proceedings. No changes were requested to the agenda; it was adopted by acclamation. A courtesy announcement was made about the meeting being audio-recorded for purposes of Minutes.

Chair Monroe thanked everyone for continued collaborative work to make the MCC facility the best in McLean and best in Virginia! Treasurer Peter Pin echoed similar affirmation, noting that the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year seems like just yesterday – with a hectic pace. Executive Director Betsy May-Salazar gratefully reflects back on all that MCC staff accomplished in the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year on top of everything else! The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee was officially disbanded at the start of FY26 in July 2025.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS UPDATE**

*\*remarks by Facilities Manager Joe McGovern, Technical Director Jennifer Garrett and OFC Manager Andrew Carter*

**OFC:** We met today at OFC with contractors. Work starts soon on the last phase: replacing the bay doors and front façade. Likely 5-6 weeks of interruption but not to the point where we can’t continue programming in the space. A temporary wall will be built so they can work while we still inhabit the building.

Sequential phases: build the wall; demo existing; put in concrete curbs to stop the water flow; install EIFS wall system with red color; install storefront windows in middle. Access contractors expected to start last week of January, conclude by 2<sup>nd</sup> week of March. We are evaluating if any OFC programs will need to relocate to MCC during this time.

**DISCUSSION:**

*Question: Is there any lost revenue by cancelling OFC classes that we can’t fit over here?*

We don’t anticipate cancelling any programming. Most of what may be moved is not revenue-generating. We will likely keep most programming at OFC but shift room locations.

*Question: Is the new wall being built warm enough for the interior?*

It will be a 6-inch wall that is insulated but it’s not going to be as warm as what is there now. One of the four air handlers will be off-line during construction. We think the current air-handlers will be adequate.

**ENERGY STUDY:** The project is still ongoing but mostly complete. It's working how we want it to but still some need for online coordination/integration. It requires remote connectivity – to be able to see what is going on with systems (and our contractor can also view when they are not on-site). We have the monitoring system (laptop) to view here – but haven't been able to see anything remotely. We just got that working through county DIT. We're hoping in the next weeks to receive final training and then conclude this project.

**DIGITAL SIGN IN MCLEAN CENTRAL PARK:** We just finalized an agreement with SWSG who will oversee the engineering drawings and the project management. Now we will move forward with engineered drawings, update price quote (existing quote is 1-year old) and construction. No timeline yet but we hope to have that soon as we want it done as quickly as possible. The fact that the conceptual design of the sign was already been approved by the BOS should help facilitate the process from here.

#### **ALDEN THEATRE PROJECTS:**

AV/IP Infrastructure installation: Preparing to go to bid with the Fairfax County buyer's assistance. We are using SWSG and subcontractor Theatre Projects who are finalizing plans. Goal to award contract by Spring, create a P.O. and get most materials ordered prior the start of work in August; concluding by mid-September if everything goes well.

Chain Hoist: There is a revised ANCI standard. We are sending that out to several companies with our revised quote request to ensure the quotes received refer to the revised ANCI standards for hoist installation.

Motorized Roll Drop: There has been a little hiccup but we're hoping to resolve that.

*Question: In the mid-year adjustments, I noticed - will it be cheaper?*

The existing plan is cheaper but given the hiccups we've been running into we might be back to our original amount. We may have to go with a different vendor.

Audio Booth Console: (advanced to next fiscal year) There are several things we are considering and need to gather more information before making a purchase.

McLean Central Park Pavilion infrastructure: Working with FCPA on getting the conduits installed that were part of the original scope. Once that's complete, we'll get the wiring installed. We will have a basic infrastructure up-and-running for the start of summer concert season in June 2026.

Follow Spots: We had two choices – we awarded and have a P.O. cut for a conventional style (operated manually by a person sitting in the catwalk). But encountered tariff issues and the company had discontinued the model we required. The new model is too big for our facility. We then budgeted to consider a more expensive new robotic system, which we were planning to demo before deciding on its purchase. But in the interim, the company offered to do a special run of conventional style follow spot that we originally requested. That is the better solution and more economical. They are being fabricated now for us. This is not a Capital expenditure so we will be able to reduce this line item and repurpose these funds.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

*Question: Do you feel like our set-up in The Alden Theatre is "best-in-class" as compared to other local venues?*

For our infrastructure and our facility – Yes, we are getting there. The technology changes constantly so we would never want to be 'cutting edge' because what is cutting edge today is likely obsolete tomorrow. We prefer to wait and give something a couple of years to see if it's really effective before we invest in it. Protocols come and go; you've got to stick with one that will last. The Alden is not 'cutting edge;' and we certainly are not the 'leading edge.' But The Alden is a very lovely facility.

*Comment by board member: That's great! I want to brag about the McLean Community Center and I want to be able to back it up. This sounds really good.*

Once we get the AV/over IP we will have replaced our last serious obsolete component. The Alden Theatre has no AV component and that is very obsolete in this day and age. Once that infrastructure is in place we will be upscale.

## **DISCUSSION: VISION FOR HOW MCC'S CAMPUS FITS INTO LARGER DOWNTOWN MCLEAN**

Vice-Chair Monroe opened the opportunity for a collaborative discussion about how the MCC campus fits into the planning for larger downtown McLean. Imagine MCC's Year 51 and going forward > keeping MCC as the "heart of it all" (which is what we are). Let's see what your thoughts are and where we are in this whole cycle.

1. How does MCC grow even more and be that key resource for the community?
2. How do we tie-in with all the various groups – partnering and being a good teammate with: McLean Revitalization, MCA, etc.

The following key points were expressed:

### **1. BOLD COMPREHENSIVE VISION**

*Comments by Board Chair Doug Jeffery:* Mike Monroe nailed it in terms of the intent: we should be reasonable, intentional, but we can also be bold. We don't need to necessarily think through things obtainable within a year or two - it can be something that is a longer-term plan. Our intention is to have a comprehensive vision. Carole Herrick's historical presentation [at MCC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary] nailed it: MCC is intended to be the "center" of McLean's social activity. We are doing that: our influence is now spreading to Mclean Central Park, which dovetails nicely into McLean as now undergoing a larger renovation. We need to think through what we want that to look like.

### **2. PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IS A PRIORITY (crosswalks)**

*Question by Vice-Chair Monroe:* Pedestrian safety is a huge issue – both coming into and out of the park. What role does MCC play: Do we own the crosswalk or does the county own it? If crosswalks is a priority, how do we navigate that and what is MCC's role?

*Clarification by Executive Director May-Salazar:* MCC doesn't own the crosswalk – VDOT owns it. There have been a lot of ideas for many years about bridges, tunnels and other kinds of ways to safely get across Route 123. A "pedestrian bridge" has been talked about for many years – but it is not in any plan at this point.

#### **\*this unites MCC with other local entities on the same priority (public safety)**

MPA is very interested in it. Lori Carbonneau and Betsy May-Salazar have had conversations about advocating for a focus on the cross-walk at Ingleside & Rt. 123 - proposing a new "art" painted crosswalk at Ingleside connection – especially since MPA will have a 2nd facility downtown McLean that is an extension of MCC. Some creative ideas for a trail that leads from MCC to MPA downtown with icons and fun ways to encourage people to walk. Those proposals could bring a lot of people on board. We propose reaching out to McLean Revitalization, Supervisor Bierman's office, & MCA, Park Authority, etc. **It's definitely not just MCC but MCC does have the connection to Fairfax County in a way that's different than anyone else.**

*Question:* If MCC were to take an initiative of trying to somehow solve that little intersection, is that something we could rally around with different groups to advocate for a speedbump... or a light... or a painted sidewalk.. and create some momentum? Yes.

#### **\*traffic light across Route 123 at Ingleside Avenue; art walk**

*Question:* What traffic protections would push the county in that direction? Have they ever proposed a traffic light?

The county did reline the crosswalk recently. One approach is to advocate for a pedestrian push-button light to blink to allow a person to get across Route 123. We should also try for art on the streets (although VDOT may not be receptive) – similar to what Mosaic District has on their smaller streets. Reston also has art crosswalks. We are not sure if Route 123 is the correct size road for such things, but it would be something that people would notice.

*Question:* Have they ever done anything about a traffic light there or proposed anything different?

The county did put bollards in so you can't cross over on Ingleside which helped with traffic and reduced accidents. Those are to prevent cars from driving across Route 123. Previously there were 8-10 accidents per year.

#### **\*pedestrian safety is a matter of access > this relates directly to MCC**

It is a matter of access and the leverage of the new park > because the volume of pedestrians has changed dramatically (new playground; concerts and more visibility of MCC). It's a very vibrantly-used space. We've seen people wait and wait to cross onto Ingleside. The cars are supposed to stop and not block the intersection, and yet they do not stop. It's very scary.

*Question:* Some people have asked how to turn in to get to MCC that is easily noticeable, and if it's better to go the back way?

Many people go all the way up to Churchill Road to get onto Route 123.

**\*other alternative: flags for people to carry as they walk across**

*Question: Are there hand-held flags that people can carry from one side to the other to signal that they are crossing?*

No – we have never seen that. And it would only work in daytime, not at night. A push-button lighted sign could be an option – the person pushes a button and the sign lights up and traffic stops.

**\*other alternative: push-button lighted sign for crossing** *Question: Is there a pedestrian sign at Ingleside/Route 123?*

There is only a little pedestrian sign. The biggest improvement is new white lines showing a crosswalk at Ingleside. There is a pedestrian crosswalk further down at Old Dominion (with a traffic light) but no one wants to walk down that far to cross the street and walk back up toward MCC. There is now a pedestrian push light at Lewinsville Park (installed 2 years ago - at the park entrance where the park sign is. Maybe we can leverage that to FCPA. And there is a push-button at McLean High School across Westmoreland Blvd. But we also have to recognize that Route 123 is different classification than Westmoreland, Lewinsville or Chain Bridge Road – it's a four-lane road. Some 2-lane and 4-lane roads have a button that gets you ½ way across and then you push it again for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the crosswalk. Some roads have buttons for crossing all the way across but even then, many people don't stop.

**\*other alternative: speed bump** *Question: Is there enough traffic to warrant a speedbump?*

No – that would likely be inappropriate for a major commuting, large road (Rt. 123); there are rules for such installations.

*Summary by Vice-Chair Monroe:* We can't come up with a total solution right now but we can continue to build on this topic; we are open to suggestions. **There is clearly a problem to solve at the intersection. It's an MCC issue, with other community partners - and we want to come up with a solution. Once MPA's new facility opens in downtown McLean, there is even more reason to advocate for this. The park improvement and pedestrian cross-traffic merits consideration and will have a bigger impact as a strong reason for this advocacy.**

ACTION: Think through a DRAFT of initial thoughts on what it is we are trying to do related to MCP?

Then we can start to connect with other community people and come up with a proposed solution. Everyone talks about crosswalks and pedestrian safety but they are 'stuck.' MCC needs to champion this and pull it all together. That's a great initiative – the timing works out with the new MPA downtown facility and all the MCP upgrades (*Exec. Director May-Salazar agrees.*)

**\*county focus on 'mixed use' development further prioritizes the pedestrian safety issue**

*Comment from board member: If there is precedent in Fairfax Co. on a four-lane road, there has got to be a good case for a better crosswalk. There must be precedent for this and I can help to research it.*

*Clarification by Deputy Director Melendez:* **As more communities are becoming 'mixed-use' there is more attention being paid. There are many different versions of crosswalks in the county.** At Mosaic, you hit the button for the light to flash at the crosswalk. In Vienna, there are areas where the pedestrian hits a button and red light stops cars (flashing red lights overhead) on Route 123, and then it slowly reopens to resume traffic (not a solid right light). Another example of a push-button is Route 50 and Graham Road (two-lane on either side) which is one of the most dangerous intersections in Fairfax Co. and bears a similar amount of traffic to Route 123. **There is precedence and different models that we could look at that impact car traffic. There is also a continually rising number of pedestrian deaths in the county that is starting to change the narrative on what is needed.** Two pedestrian deaths occurred in January 2026. It's a real problem; that is a key point in addressing this important issue.

### 3. MCLEAN DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT

**\*MPA's new downtown location; overall redevelopment progress of McLean**

*Question: Does anyone know about the movement on MPA's downtown location in the redevelopment progress of McLean?*

The Downtown Commercial Redevelopment plan is approved; now it is just developer by developer to implement as they build. There are design changes now happening in downtown McLean. The big change for MCC (to our advantage) is that most of the development is happening right across the street – MARS building + additional development next to it. It will be truly transformational because it spans all the way through both blocks. **MCC is positioned well to be very connected to the part of McLean that will change the quickest.**

### 4. SIGNAGE AND BANNERS

**\*enhancing publicity of MCC events; ‘place-making’**

McLean Revitalization Corporation is moving forward with a banner program and very much wants to tie-in with MCC to promote shows, activities, McLean Day festival. **That will be a huge change in making McLean feel like a ‘place’ and being able to promote our key events. The visibility highlights MCC’s presence in downtown McLean and puts our stamp on the area.** People who live here know McLean. But we are more than just a ‘pass-through’ place. The goal is really to inspire people to come into McLean in a thoughtful, controlled way (not to overrun it!). We welcome everyone and will make MCC the central point.

*Comment by Vice-Chair Monroe:* Continued thanks for the work that MCC does. I do not hear complaints about MCC. People are very happy with MCC and very much like everything that MCC does – the programs. It’s a great spot! So, I think promoting it with signage is really strong.

**\*making the design aesthetic consistent**

*Comment by Executive Director May-Salazar:* The new digital sign in McLean Central Park (redesign) will not only give MCC much more visibility but will also help bring that design aesthetic across the street and into the park. It’s an amazing place of visibility (digital sign). We want that design standard to be over here too. We’ve already changed the OFC sign (MCC is leading by example).

5. PUBLIC ART IN MCLEAN CENTRAL PARK

*Comment by Executive Director May-Salazar:* When they renovated McLean Central Park they put in 12 poured concrete platforms along a walking trail behind the library and into the park. Those are places intended for sculpture installations, the park authority had the funds to include the pads in the masterplan for the park but not the sculptures. Executive Director May-Salazar has been in touch with Arts Fairfax and Leila Gordon (former RCC Exec. Director). There is a model for such artwork in the County that uses a lease agreement related to sculpture: the organization leases the art (have it on display for 10 years, which is more affordable). That is a model to be explored.

**\*MCC could lead the process for procuring artwork**

**It’s a place where MCC could be a leader (having done the mural and QB sculpture) – we could step into this. It would be something that would generate people coming over to MCC > connecting to us and to McLean Central Park.** The budget is scalable. There are many options and the idea is wide open at this point. Executive Director May-Salazar’s initial idea was to partner with the library + FCPA + MCC to do something around children’s literature: exploration > kids can go through the park and discover things. Another approach is to have animal icons fabricated (such as the pandas in DC) and local artists paint them.

There is room for conversation. We will coordinate discussion with MPA, once they have capacity after their new venue opens.

*Summary by Vice-Chair Monroe:* There is much to consider; this is a great discussion about all these different items. We are excited about a crosswalks initiative. It’s great to have something to champion and to be a leader within the community amongst the different groups. If it’s something we can start to put together, that would be a great initiative for the year – it’s something that everyone wants.

6. ROLE OF OFC IN DOWNTOWN MCLEAN: *\*comments by OFC Manager Andrew Carter*

**Old Firehouse Center plays a key role in downtown McLean and works very well as an event space.**

Being in the downtown area, especially for events outside, our OFC space is key to bringing in people from all directions. The smaller alleys and roadways behind OFC are fairly simple to shut down for outdoor events without impacting overall traffic.

**\*building direct connection to MCC in the public eye**

Being able to utilize OFC as a part of MCC – many people don’t even know about that connection. We are building greater awareness of the MCC in downtown. Because OFC is there and having a footprint between Starbucks and Giant makes it a lot easier for people to see where we are. **The more we utilize OFC space the more it is a way to gain recognition for MCC.**

*Question: Do people not currently associate the two?*

No - people do not consistently associate the OFC with MCC. Perhaps that’s a Youth Ambassador initiative – because that’s the population that OFC serves, primarily.

**\*install a large MCC logo side on exterior wall facing Giant**

Deputy Director Jonathan Melendez suggested installing a similar large MCC logo square sign on the exterior side wall facing Giant – to reinforce the connection to MCC. We just re-did the awning which references MCC; we are trying to reinforce that connection.

**\*digital sign at OFC; QR code signage**

*Comment by Vice-Chair Monroe:* I don't know if it's possible but if you're creating it from scratch, possibly put a digital sign on OFC: a touchscreen to show what's going on inside OFC, or a QR code. And there is a big development in process down the street next to Sunrise that is walkable to the OFC (new apartments – 130 units). That will further increase the downtown population.

**7. WATER FOUNTAINS IN MCLEAN CENTRAL PARK:**

*Comments by Board Chair Doug Jeffery:* There is a need for water fountains and misters to help with heat situation in McLean Central Park. I don't know if that's realistic, but I think those are good suggestions.

*Clarification by MCC staff:* In the park renovation (which was years in the planning), water was requested and considered but not included by FCPA in the final plan.

It's unclear about the water issue because the original playground that was updated and had been replaced did have a water fountain. And there were four houses from the corner outward that all must have been plumbed. Perhaps it's worth asking again – this was information we inherited. It could be that in an environmental study, the county considered it and were not able to do water based on the old plumbing.

ACTION: We can ask the Park Authority for clarity around the water access.

**8. MAP OF PATHS TO MCC... to MCP... to OFC:**

*Comments by Board Chair Jeffery:* As a very visual, linear person, it may be worth considering creating a true map that would span from MCC to McLean Central Park, where it begins to enter McLean, and to OFC. This would help shop how people can: park their car... go to dinner... walk to all these places. Where are the traffic crossings? What is the preferred path? That would help people easily navigate.

*Clarification by MCC staff:* We tried to get a change in the MRC downtown restaurant guide map to include MCC on their map, however as we are not a part of the official downtown revitalization district we are outside their focus. We have also asked that the arrow to our facility be true to the map so we are identified in the correct location. We need a 'universal' McLean map, with MCC as the center of it.

ACTION: Yes – we can figure that out!

**9. SOMETHING MISSING IN DOWNTOWN MCLEAN: ICE CREAM!**

*Question:* In summer, is it perhaps in MCC budget to have an ice cream truck at OFC on Fridays so everyone goes to OFC on one day a week and bring their kids? I don't know what the budget is or how that would work?

We would have to secure a minimum; but if it's popular, there is no risk. If we decided to shut down the street, we would need to get a permit. But if we simply have the truck in the parking lot, we don't need a permit. Then they can come inside OFC for air conditioning.

**10. OPEN GAMES WITH FOOD TRUCK AT OFC:**

OFC now offers Open Games one Saturday per month – open to anyone who would like to come in and enjoy the games. OFC Manager Andrew Carter is adapting it to a mini-program that includes some type of food and drink available outside – perhaps ice cream for June 2026. A food truck outside will encourage people to come into the building to see what is available inside – all the activities. The front OFC parking lot is a great area to program because it's controllable (you can block it off and now worry about having people affected by car traffic).

**11. CONNECTING TO DOWNTOWN MCLEAN BUSINESSES:**

PIO Jessica Wu has been working on further developing our connections to downtown McLean businesses. In the recent "Light Up McLean" contest, she and OFC Manager Andrew Carter changed the focus to give prizes of gift cards for downtown McLean restaurants. As we are connecting to businesses: creating partnerships and giving them

recognition so that people go back to the local restaurants > then those local businesses, in turn, help to promote MCC programs.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Vice-Chair Monroe said this was a great conversation covering a lot! He asked if there were any topics of old or new business to be addressed. Nothing was mentioned as a further subject for discussion this evening.

With all business matters concluded, Vice-Chair Monroe thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 6:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Holly Novak – Executive Assistant