



**2025 - 2026 MCC Governing Board
Regular Meeting
December 3, 2025 7:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

Board Members PRESENT: *(in-person)* Doug Jeffery, Chair; Venita Wang; Ron Keesing; Liz Lawson; Peter Pin; Kathleen Cooney Porter; Anna Bartosiewicz; Katie Gorka; Katie Myshrall; Michael Monroe

Board members ABSENT: Gloria Marrero Chambers

MCC Staff present: Betsy May-Salazar, Executive Director; Jonathan Melendez, Deputy Director; Holly Novak, Executive Assistant; Matthew Hockensmith, Comptroller; Jessica Wu, PIO; Mike Fisher, General Programs Director; Catherine Nesbitt, Special Events Manager; Joe McGovern, Facilities Manager

Guests: Deb Bissen (MPA); Jim Lawless (MCA); Kevin Kierce (MCA)

CONVENE MEETING

Chair Doug Jeffery convened the Governing Board of the McLean Community Center to a Regular Meeting on December 3, 2025 at 7:04 p.m. It was open to the public attending in-person. With no changes requested, the agenda was adopted by acclamation. A courtesy announcement was made about the meeting being audio-recorded for purposes of Minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The first order of business was a vote on the Minutes of October 22, 2025 Regular Meeting. No changes were requested; accepted as written.

MOTION: To approve Minutes of October 22, 2025 Regular Meeting.

Ron Keesing seconded the MOTION. It passed unanimously by a vote of ten.
Gloria Marrero Chambers was absent.

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

Thank you all for coming to this holiday gathering. Thank you to the staff for organizing the food and lovely ambiance. It's always great to see the staff whom we don't get to see as much. It was awesome! Thank you!

Even in the holiday season, MCC's schedule is not slowing down!

- *Winterfest Parade on Sunday, December 7: Please try attend—it's informal, open to spouses & kids
- *Milk & Cookies with Santa – everyone is very excited about it.
- *several Christmas shows are coming up in The Alden
- *"Light Up McLean" holiday lights contest –people can participate and vote on winners.

Several important committee meetings: *Capital Facilities Committee met last month (report in this meeting).
*Next week: Programs & Community Engagement and ENC.
*Finance and Capital Facilities committees will meet in mid-January.

We are starting to get into the details of strategic questions and analyses of projects that MCC staff is putting forward. Chair Jeffery encourages board members to consider those topics and develop their thoughts to facilitate good discussions and moving forward as needed. Chair Jeffery acknowledged Executive Director Betsy May-Salazar for the solid work of the MCC staff team. Tonight's meeting packet has a lot of good information (key data). Chair Jeffery encouraged board members to make the effort to read through the materials.

2025 Summary: Looking back at 2025, this was a REALLY BIG year! MCC's 50th Anniversary was a central focus, while many other things also took place: summer concert series; facilities updates. A lot was happening! **It's worth reflecting on and appreciating all that we achieved here.** It is significant and very exciting! Thank you all!

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

- *I want to thank everyone for attending the holiday gathering tonight and having the opportunity for board members and staff to chat. It was lovely!
- *Winterfest Parade – it is open to everyone; we would love to have you come participate in the parade and in the block party immediately following. Line-up at 3 p.m.; parade starts at 3:30 p.m. MCC dance class Art in Motion will join us to represent MCC. Snowperson costumes are available! This year will feature a Block Party afterward (event runs until 7 p.m.). Board member Michael Monroe encouraged everyone to attend the parade. Kristina Groennings (former Gov. Board Chair) is now part of McLean Revitalization Corporation. Next year we hope to have a QB costume!
- *Holiday Arts & Crafts Festival – Friday, 12/5 and Saturday, 12/6. It's a great event and very festive at this time of year.
- *For more of the happy holiday spirit, a video by MCC Hip Hop classes led by Art in Motion was shown. *(applause!)*
- *There is a lot of holiday programming at MCC (see "Be Visible" list of events). Please attend as you are able.
- *Winter/Spring Program Guide is in tax district mailboxes by now. Registration has started. **Executive Director May-Salazar's remarks in the program guide focused on the concept of MCC's relationship to downtown McLean and those important connections. We want to encourage that conversation in a bigger way.**
- *We are doing a partnership with SHARE of McLean for food donations– from beginning of November through Dec.20. There are donation boxes in MCC lobby and at OFC - it's been very popular! We have delivered two loads to date. Children are enjoying being engaged by writing and drawing on colorful leaves for the decorative display. **We are piloting this and considering whether to make MCC a permanent donation spot where so many people come in every day.** SHARE of McLean is local, but they have connections with other food banks in order to share & distribute any excess. We are excited about this partnership.
- *MCC staff participated in "Adopt-a-Family" program through Fairfax County – supporting two families with gifts. MCC staff donated specific items on the 'wish list' for each person. Our staff has participated in this effort for the past few years to serve people in our county.
- *Light Up McLean – a house lights decorating contest that the community votes on. Registration to enter ends Dec. 12; contest voting runs Dec. 22 through Jan. 3 (online). We want it to be really big and exciting! Local social media threads are promoting it; there is some competition among neighborhoods! Categories: best overall; most creative; best holiday theme. **We re-envisioned the prizes in 2025: gift cards that support local McLean businesses and restaurants. This is a direct connection to the community and to MCC. We are trying to grow our messaging.**

Langley High School Class of 1975 monetary gift: We are delighted to announce that we received a \$5,000 gift from the Langley High School Class of 1975, in honor of their 50th year reunion in October 2025. They reached out to us for a proposal for how the funds could be used; we offered two potential ideas. The decision was that this gift will be designated to support MCC's Macdonald Performing Arts Scholarship fund, which is an annual competition for local youth – dance; theater; instrumental music; vocal music. The competition involves preliminaries, finals, and juried performances. It's a wonderful program that has been going on at MCC for several years. This is an appropriate vehicle because Langley kids are part of that audience. Holly Novak is a member of Langley High School Class of 1975 and was delighted when she learned that the reunion committee reached out wanting to make a gift to MCC! **Executive Director May-Salazar and Comptroller Hockensmith coordinated the receipt of the gift and developed appropriate recognition to acknowledge the donation. This is very exciting! Perhaps other local entities will consider similar donations.**

CAPITAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT – UPDATE ON OFC FRONT FAÇADE **remarks by Vice-Chair Mike Monroe*

The meeting on Nov. 12 at OFC was a great opportunity to look closely at the front façade and three different construction options. We unanimously chose Option 2: it has 3 x 3 larger window panes – it looks nicer and is reinforced to prevent water damage that has been occurring over time. It will match the color, style, and original design of OFC. Cost: approximately \$202,000. It has a 4-inch concrete curb; color will match the existing color.

**remarks by Executive Director Betsy May-Salazar:*

Shared a visual presentation showing the final selected version. Window size has been further reduced bringing the price

down further. We are ready to proceed > now receiving samples of colors and materials (there are different options on surfaces). We were informed that prices will go up 20% on January 1, so we are signing paperwork immediately to move forward. It's a very good solution: little-to-no maintenance; more airtight. The added concrete curb will prevent water from entering the building. It's very similar to how it looks now. **What we've chosen in the re-design will continue to honor the historical significance of OFC.**

Funding for this project is already approved as part of the OFC renovation. It's not an additional funding request (it fits within that budget). What also fits: LED lighting that will be more economical. It will be retrofitted and wrapped into the same energy project – monitoring savings to MCC (same as being measured in Ingleside facility). It must be done in-sync with other county energy projects (schedule t.b.d.). Once OFC façade construction is completed, we will then be able to finish the interior flooring.

We also discussed ways MCC can interact with other community groups to get involved with what is happening in downtown McLean. McLean Revitalization Corporation (which Michael Monroe is also on) has a banner program; MCC will work closely on this. **We are focusing on positioning MCC for the future... changes in McLean... and being a partner with growth, expansion. MCC is the center of McLean – how we do we stay in that position? We are asking Gov. Board members how you envision MCC working with other groups in McLean (walkways; park upgrades)?**

Update on digital sign in McLean Central Park: Following 11/12 CFC meeting, Executive Director May-Salazar attended Fairfax County BOS meeting. Supervisor Bierman facilitated the request to get a waiver for the digital sign in McLean Central Park. That moved forward and was unanimously approved by BOS. Now the architectural firm will complete the engineered drawings. We will re-cost it because it has been a while since the original estimate (may be different \$\$).

YOUTH AMBASSADORS – PROGRAM UPATE **remarks by board members Katie Myshrall and Venita Wang*

We have completed the selection progress with 23 Youth Ambassadors accepted to the program, including a student from TJ and a student from The Potomac School. We had our first meeting to welcome new members. MANY good ideas were generated: tutoring opportunities for Cooper Middle School students; volunteering at upcoming holiday season MCC events, including Milk & Cookies with Santa and gingerbread. Next week the Youth Ambassadors from Langley and McLean H.S. will go to Cooper Middle School to tutor students in their 'study buddy' program. We are very excited for this opportunity! We plan to have more than 10 volunteer opportunities for the Youth Ambassadors and more events and activities already in season. We will participate in April Earth Day Park Clean-up. **We are inviting additional ideas to bring more teens into the OFC and MCC activities.**

remarks by General Programs Director Mike Fisher* They have been very busy thus far. Katie Myshrall and Venita Wang have been excellent in leading this group! At Orientation meeting expectations were set and we discussed the arc of planning for the season. The next meeting was about brainstorming. It was phenomenal – they had some really great ideas, very actionable! Both Katie and Venita want to place major emphasis on volunteerism so their peers have opportunities to volunteer. As a result, we've had 10-12 ambassadors to volunteer at MCC events. We had glowing reports from MCC staff at gingerbread event where Youth Ambassadors were very helpful and welcoming! **We want continued opportunities for the Youth Ambassadors to be out in public to represent MCC.

remarks by Executive Director Betsy May-Salazar* Youth Ambassadors began a few years ago and again, the program is growing. **This year we are institutionalizing it as part of MCC programs. The goal is to offer it year-round and not have a 'start/stop' seasonal time-lag. At gingerbread event it was amazing to have the Youth Ambassadors hand out the candy to the participants. They were very attentive to the needs of the participants at the tables throughout the event.

Board member Peter Pin complimented the Youth Ambassador program and the youth board members Venita Wang and Katie Myshrall for all they have accomplished!

OLD /NEW BUSINESS

Chair Jeffery opened the floor to any matters of old or new business.

Elections & Nominations Committee Chair Liz Lawson mentioned that public interest cards are now available so board members can share with their contacts and friends - to have conversations with people who may be interested in running for MCC Governing Board in the upcoming 2026 election.

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

UPDATE: MCLEAN PROJECT FOR THE ARTS

**remarks by Deb Bissen*

*Thank you for including MPA in tonight's party gathering. We wish everyone a great holiday season!

*Art classes are open now – makes a good idea for a gift. Workshops are a one afternoon event.

*Two exhibitions are upstairs (Bernie Boston in atrium; interesting history; PhotoGenesis 2 in Emerson Gallery. We hope SIA will come upstairs to see the shows. For the January meeting, MPA would love to host anyone who would like to tour the exhibit.

ACTION: Inform Nancy Sausser if there is interest in having a tour before January 28 Gov. Board meeting.

*MPA will be at the Winterfest parade (MPA board members participating). MPA will offer print activity.

*Regarding MPA's expansion in downtown McLean: it is going well. MPA is on-track to hopefully open in March 2026! We are busy finalizing details and figuring out how programming will work with what we do here at MCC.

*ArtReach – if you have any groups who would like to tour, our ArtReach director is always happy to work with school groups and community groups.

PUBLIC COMMENT

In-person comments: Chair Jeffery opened an opportunity for the public to express remarks. Each person was asked to 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 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 speak.

No one attending requested to speak.

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

No written comments were submitted during this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Jeffery thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Holly Novak - Executive Assistant
