



**2025 - 2026 MCC Governing Board
Regular Meeting
April 22, 2026 6:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

Board Members PRESENT: Doug Jeffery, Chair; Venita Wang; Ron Keesing; Liz Lawson; Peter Pin; Katie Gorka; Katie Myshrall; Gloria Marrero Chambers

Board Members ABSENT: Michael Monroe; Kathleen Cooney Porter
***Anna Bartosiewicz resigned - effective March 2026**

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

Guests: Deb Bissen (MPA); Daveeda "Dove" Shaheen; Martin F. Smith; Michael Signer; Pascale Siegel; Noah Teates; Kavitha Ness; Michael Solomon; Catherine Nesbitt; Nanda Shaheen

CONVENE MEETING

Chair Doug Jeffery convened a Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of the McLean Community Center on April 22, 2026 at 6:31 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

DRAFT Minutes of March 25, 2026 Regular Meeting and Public Hearing on FY2028 Programs were reviewed. No changes were requested; the Minutes were accepted as written.

MOTION: To approve Minutes of March 25, 2026, Regular Meeting and Public Hearing on FY2028 Programs.

Gloria Marrero Chambers seconded the MOTION. It passed unanimously by a vote of eight.

Michael Monroe and Kathleen Cooney Porter were absent.

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

Chair Jeffery thanked everyone for attending. He noted that last month's meeting featured a public hearing on MCC programming - an annual opportunity designed for the public to learn about MCC programming and everything offered here and contribute feedback. The public hearing highlighted results of the community feedback surveys, as well as innovative attendance reports that have been implemented.

Tonight is a continuation of this emphasis as the 2026 Governing Board election is proceeding. Remarks by adult candidates is yet another way to hear from the community on the direction they want the Center to take as a whole. This is a new endeavor. Spring Community Parking Lot Sale last weekend was an occasion for candidates to come out and meet members of the public. McLean Day is another well-honed opportunity for candidates to meet members of the public and have people vote in-person. But we wanted to offer tonight's board meeting as an innovation: to create a neutral platform for folks to come in and speak to an audience of members of the community.

12 adult candidates are running for the Governing Board – that is a large field! Special thanks to Liz Lawson, Chair of Elections & Nominations Committee and PIO Jessica Wu who supported advertising and promotion of the MCC Governing Board Election. Thank you for all the public interest that has been generated! To be clear, this is *NOT* the Governing Board trying to approve, endorse, or in any way trying to elevate any specific candidates. The invitation was open to all adult

candidates. The people attending tonight chose to do so and were able to fit it into their schedule. I appreciate all who are able to be present this evening.

When I first decided to run for the board two years ago, it wasn't a very natural step for me. I felt a bit uneasy and I was stepping out of my comfort zone. So, I really appreciate all of you who've made this decision because you are choosing to step up and put forth your public service.

The MCC is a very important place – unlike a lot of things today that are pulling us all apart. There are not enough things pulling us all together. I think the MCC is that and should be that. And I know you all feel the same way. Win or lose, there is no shortage of ways for people to participate in the MCC and to influence the process – whether it's participating in surveys; coming to these events and speaking publicly or engaging with the staff at various events. I encourage you all to continue your relationship with the MCC. (*applause*)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**remarks by Executive Director Betsy May-Salazar*

1. Looking back at all the successful programs we've had since our last board meeting: Spring Fest; Community Parking Lot Sale (with Candidates' Café Meet-and-Greet); Earth Day recycling event. Together, these events reached 2,700 people!
2. More impressive than the attendance measurable for the Earth Day event is the amount of recycling we collected: 840 sq. ft of bulk household material; approx. 40 bicycles; 1 full shredding truck = 30 trash bins of paper; 3,220 lbs. of paint; 5,180 lbs. of electronics; 2 boxes of eyeglasses. This was significant for a three-hour period. Fantastic!
3. Highlighting performances in The Alden: "Jazz at Lincoln Center - Great American Crooners" had both an evening performance (nearly full house) and a school performance. Nicholas Rodriguez "Sincerely Sondheim" had a full house evening. The school version of "Jazz at Lincoln Center" was amazing in how well they interacted with 6th graders – students were engaged from the moment they walked in, all the way through. That was a perfect example of an extended program. >> 1. public sold-out performance and 2. an amazing program for youth to come in as a school field trip.
4. OFC – kick-off of "OFC Ignite" (our new themed monthly open house that showcases everything we offer to the community at OFC). OFC also ran a week-long excursion camp to favorite locations during Spring Break.
5. Senior Safety Summit – presented today in partnership with McLean Citizens Association. Safety officials provided tips to McLean's older adults.
6. Safe Community Coalition – "Community Leaders Celebration" – Jonathan Melendez and Betsy May-Salazar participated. It was an excellent workshopping of ideas for topics they can bring forward for the next year.
7. This weekend we look forward to Family Bingo and Sensory Day at OFC.
8. Zac Mirz Magician has chickens and scorpions (school field trip + evening public program)
9. Macdonald Scholarship Competition – Wednesday, April 29. Vice-Chair Mike Monroe will M.C. the event.
10. Saturday, May 2 – (2:00 p.m.) reception for MCC Youth Ambassadors writing and art competition winners ("Freedom Through My Eyes"), which is in conjunction with America250. That is followed by the "DooWop Project" at The Alden Theatre. There is A LOT going on!

AMERICA 250

I'd also like to continue highlighting our efforts in the America250 commemoration:

*Exhibit of "Freedom Through My Eyes" artwork is on view in our hallway – off the lobby. There are some really fantastic pieces! We are producing a printed anthology of the writing and visual art submissions; it will be shared with everyone who attends May 2 reception. We will also announce the winners of the juried competition (writing & visual arts). The Top 3 awards will be given for each category.

*MCLEAN DAY – May 15 & 16: We are kicking off the festival with an America250 intro. on the stage at 11 a.m.

**Governing Board members are all invited to join us on the stage. We will send out information.*

We have participation from the Fairfax County 250 Commission through an interactive booth placed on Sponsor Row. We are very excited that they will be able to participate!

*Independence Day Fireworks Celebration – Saturday, June 27 at Langley High School. We will start the event one hour earlier at 5 p.m. Key aspect: Virginia250 mobile experience will be there and should attract residents. I We're adding field games; a youth parade; Virginia Chamber Orchestra Brass Quintet; food trucks; fireworks!

*Monday, June 29 at 6:30 p.m. – a special screening of Ken Burns first film: “The American Revolution: Episode 1” (from his 6-part documentary series) – shown in The Alden Theatre. The film will be preceded by a primer from Dr. Adam Rothman - Georgetown University history professor. He will give some context before viewing the film.
*July 2 at 7 p.m. Summer Concert Series in MCP amphitheater – Independence Day concert featuring “Still Surfin’ - A Tribute to the Beach Boys.” Preceding that, the organizers of Flags for Heroes program will hold a special commemoration ceremony recognizing all the organizations that participate in that program.
*July – McLean Community Players will present “1776” in The Alden Theatre.
*Our social media posts have been highlighting “250 Acts of Community” – recognizing everyday actions that strengthen our community. It’s been fun to watch; they come out at the beginning of each month: 30-45 second videos and pictures that are a compilation of the previous month. Any ideas are welcome for things to include in that “250 Acts of Community.”

It’s been fun for us to be able to envision these things. We will continue to emphasize America250 throughout our robust programming for the entire year.

PRESENTATIONS BY ADULT CANDIDATES – 2026 GOVERNING BOARD ELECTION

Adult candidates in 2026 Governing Board election had the opportunity to speak to the board and members of the public attending about their interest in serving on the MCC Governing Board, their skills and professional background.

Remarks by Chair Doug Jeffery:

Thank you to the candidates for joining us and sharing why they are interested in running for the MCC Governing Board. Each person may speak for 1-2 minutes; candidates will be called to podium for their turn in alphabetical order. To keep on schedule, we will time the remarks and let candidates know if they are reaching 2 minutes. This is an opportunity to present to the community – this is not a venue to ask questions of the board. If you do have comments addressed to the board there is an option at the end of this meeting for Public Comment.

For the audience: please hold applause until the very end when all the candidates have presented. Please do not applaud for individuals between candidates. These presentations are an opportunity to hear from the candidates themselves directly. There will not be a Q & A period, so any questions you have for the candidates should occur outside of this meeting.

Seven individuals spoke: Kavitha Ness; Daveeda “Dove” Shaheen; Pascale Siegel; Michael Signer; Martin F. Smith; Michael Solomon; Noah Teates.

PROGRAMS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**remarks by Chair Gloria Marrero Chambers*

We had a great meeting on April 8, starting with an in-depth tour of The Alden Theatre led by Sarah Schallern Treff, Performing Arts Director and Jennifer Garrett, Technical Director. It was very, very informative. We went into the areas not open to the public: sound consoles; lighting booth; trap room; scene shop; backstage areas; green room – where the artists prepare for their performance. We saw where they keep all the equipment for the outdoor concerts, stage props and the engineering of the trap room (underneath the stage). It is just a whole other world back there. It’s amazing!

RECOMMENDATION: I personally think the entire board should get this tour when they start on the Governing Board. It was awesome!

After the tour we had a very informative marketing demographic analysis presented by PIO Jessica Wu (included in 4/8 Minutes). It was fabulous! I encourage everyone to go through it and study the information about everything the marketing team is doing. They are doing SO MUCH and I don’t know how they manage to get everything done with their small team.

*Please read the 4/8 Minutes which include the PowerPoint presentation (on MCC website).

2026 GOVERNING BOARD ELECTION LOGISTICS

**remarks by Elections & Nominations Committee Chair Liz Lawson*

Update on progress of Absentee (Early) Voting: Absentee voting began at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 1.
WALK-IN: 336 adult ballots; 11 youth ballots ONLINE (through website): 118 adult ballots; 9 youth ballots
PHONE/E-MAIL REQUEST: 13 adult ballots; 1 youth ballots TOTAL = 467 adult ballots; 21 youth ballots

Those numbers sound good however the youth participation is slightly low. Last year was a bit unusual and we had more early traffic for youth; but typically the voting for youth happens at McLean Day festival/Friday Night Rides (May 15).

No votes have been tabulated as of yet; the entire vote-counting process is done on Saturday night, May 16 by League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area.

Encouraging people to come in-person to request/cast their ballot is our goal in all 2026 election promotion efforts. The reality is that most tax district residents reside in close proximity to MCC. Moreover, the MCC building is open for lengthy hours on weekdays and weekends – making it easy and convenient for people to come into the building to vote. Mailing out large envelopes of requested ballots adds additional costs and staff time. Our priority is offering multiple methods for Absentee Voting to enhance accessibility.

Opportunities for Board member involvement:

The role of current Governing Board members supporting our election logistics has improved efficiency of the process in recent years. The League of Women Voters supervises the participation of board members and values this assistance. League of Women Voters has requested such coordinated support again this year.

**A sign-up sheet was distributed for board members to commit to participating in these tasks.*

Call for Officers: Executive Committee of 2026-2027 Governing Board:

The newly-elected 2026-2027 Governing Board will be sworn-in on June 10, 2026. All officers are elected annually by the MCC Governing Board from among its members. No officer shall serve in the same office for more than two consecutive terms. The first order of business after convening will be to choose officers: Chair; Vice-Chair; Secretary; Treasurer. As required by the MOU, the Regular Meeting on May 20, 2026 will have an opportunity for current board members to verbally express a “personal statement of interest” of their intention to run for an officer position on June 10. This is all very similar to how it was last year. We will follow up with an email providing instructions to submit nominations.

**Detailed responsibilities of each office were distributed in written form. Position descriptions:*

- 1. Chairperson** – The Chairperson shall preside over all meetings, represent the Board at official functions and ceremonial events, and perform such other duties as normally are inherent in similar positions. The Board chair is also tasked with coordinating and conducting the Executive Director’s annual performance appraisal consistent with Fairfax County policy.
- 2. Vice-Chairperson** – The Vice-Chairperson shall preside in the absence of the Chairperson and perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Board.
- 3. Secretary** – The Secretary shall be responsible for having the official minutes of all regular and special meetings of the Board kept and shall have these minutes preserved in a manner outlined by the Board. The Secretary shall also be responsible for the preparation of such correspondence as may be directed by the Chairperson of the Board, or as is normally performed by persons in similar positions.
- 4. Treasurer** – The Treasurer shall act as the chief financial officer of the Board. The Treasurer chairs the Finance Committee, which reviews the overall budget, recommends adjustments to the budget during a fiscal year, recommends policy changes and makes its proposals to the full Board for approval.

Nomination Process

- All potential nominations are presented at the May Governing Board meeting.
- Board members may self-nominate or nominate others between now and the May meeting.
- All potential nominees should submit a written statement to the elections chair (and copy Executive Director) declaring intention to run or that you are considering running even if a final decision has not been made.
- Written statement should include the prospective nominee’s qualifications and will be read aloud at the May Board meeting.
- All submissions will be shared with the full board prior to the May meeting.
- Prospective nominees may also submit their nominations at the May meeting and present at that time.
- It is suggested that candidates for the Executive Committee (Board officers) have at least one year of experience on the MCC Governing Board.
- The elections chair will ensure that there is a nominee for each office. If there are no nominees for a board office, the elections chair will canvas all Board Members (including newly elected) for nominees. The intention is that the slate of nominees be final at the May meeting.
- The elections chair will publish a final list of declared or potential nominees, the offices they are running for and the responsibilities of that office for the benefit of newly elected Board Members at least six days before the June Board meeting when the new Officers are elected.

- No prospective nominees will be accepted after this time. No prospective nominees will be permitted to come forward at the June meeting.
 - If the ENC Chair chooses to run for MCC Board Chair, a designee from the elections committee, or other board member, will be appointed to oversee the Officers' election process.
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OLD /NEW BUSINESS

Chair Jeffery opened the floor to any matters of old or new business. Nothing was mentioned as a further topic for discussion this evening.

UPDATE – MCLEAN PROJECT FOR THE ARTS

**remarks by Deb Bissen*

*It's a busy time at MPA – we are soon opening MPA Berlage Arts & Education Center in downtown McLean. Grand opening ribbon-cutting is Thursday, April 30 at 11 a.m. We hope you can attend. We are excited to share with the community what's happening there: Café Monet restaurant; three galleries; 1st ceramics program in the McLean area with wheels – accessible to both members and through classes. It's an expansion of what MPA is already doing here at MCC in our two galleries here and classes in DuVal Studio. It's an opportunity to offer more options for community engagement in visual arts. We are really excited about that.

*Summer camps are coming up – registration is ongoing. Some weeks have a little more availability and that is being promoted on social media. All MPA art camps are taught by FCPS art teachers, so it's excellent instruction and small groups of campers. It's a fun and creative way for your kids to spend their summer.

*Spring art classes are off to a good start.

*NEW EXHIBITIONS: Spring Solos – reception on Saturday, May 2 at 2:00 p.m. We are trying these receptions on weekends to encourage more attendees.

**Executive Director Betsy May-Salazar mentioned that America250 Youth Ambassadors "Freedom Through My Eyes" reception will also be held on the same date/time, so we will combine promoting it and encourage people to also come upstairs to view MPA art.*

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

No written comments were submitted during this meeting.

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 tax district resident. If having requested in advance to speak, those individuals were pre-verified as being a tax district resident. Each person was allotted three minutes to speak.

No one had requested in advance to speak.

No members of the public in attendance requested to speak.

ADJOURNMENT

With all business matters concluded, Chair Jeffery thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Holly Novak – Executive Assistant
