

**MCC Governing Board**  
**Final 2025 - 2026 Regular Meeting; First 2026 - 2027 Regular Meeting**  
**June 10, 2026 – 6:30 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**2025-2026 Board Members Present:** in-person: Ron Keesing; Katie Gorka; Doug Jeffery; Venita Wang; Kathleen Cooney Porter; Gloria Marrero Chambers; Peter Pin; Liz Lawson; Michael Monroe

**2025-2026 Board Members ABSENT:** Katie Myshrall

**2026-2027 Board Members present:** Minoo Razavi; Pascale Siegel; Michael Signer; Michael Solomon; Bryn Smith

**2026-2027 Board Members ABSENT:** Yingxi Zhao

**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; Jennifer Garrett, Technical Director

**Guests:** Supervisor Jimmy Bierman (Dranesville); Jaeda Fontaine-Pasaiah; Adam Siegel; Jeremy Siegel, Ms. Siegel; Ms. Monroe

**CONVENE MEETING**

Chair Doug Jeffery convened the final meeting of 2025-2026 Governing Board of the McLean Community Center on June 10, 2026, at 6:37 p.m. He announced the meeting was being audio-recorded for purposes of Minutes. No changes to the agenda were requested; it was adopted by acclamation. The meeting was relocated to Shelp Room because of non-functioning air conditioning in McLean Room.

**APPROVE MINUTES**

Minutes of May 20, 2026 Regular Meeting were reviewed. No changes were requested; accepted as written.

**MOTION:** To approve Minutes of May 20, 2026, Regular Meeting.

**Approved by a vote of nine:** Peter Pin; Ron Keesing; Katie Gorka; Kathleen Cooney Porter; Gloria Marrero Chambers; Doug Jeffery; Venita Wang; Liz Lawson; Michael Monroe- all voting “AYE.”

Katie Myshrall was absent.

**BOARD CHAIR’S CONCLUDING REMARKS**

This meeting convenes the final 2025-2026 Regular Meeting. One year for me as Chair for me has gone very quickly. I personally enjoyed serving as Chair, finding it very rewarding. It’s a privilege to work with Betsy May-Salazar closely and the staff. I learned a lot and I hope a fraction of that insight gained was able to be shared back with the Governing Board and the community. As to some things the board accomplished in the last year, it was outlined in detail in May 20 meeting Minutes. I won’t repeat that again, but I do want to share some final remarks:

Carole Herrick’s history talk about MCC at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration was particularly important and illuminating, especially for those who will serve on the MCC Governing Board. I encourage everyone on the board to review it, as it covered a lot of ground. Here are some highlights:

1. The MCC, by design, was meant to be the physical and figurative center of the McLean community. That’s a big and lofty goal and I think we live up to it – but that is its purposeful design.
2. The need for the community center arose out of post-WWII development McLean was experiencing. There was a desire for its residents to maintain that community feel, particularly as the CIA came in, and a lot of other development. That is what drove the efforts: the need for community is really important. With all the development we’re experiencing now, that need has only grown. At the same time, there are always many things that potentially pull us apart and pull us in different

directions ... and not enough pulling us together as a community as a whole. I think the McLean Community Center serves that need and harkens back to why the MCC is so important and relevant.

3. The Center started with a chapel that folded when the congregation left. They turned over part of it to the local lodge of Knights Templar - trying to figure out if Knights Templar could use that piece of property. They couldn't find a need for it and there was a provision written-in that it had to be used for the community if Knights Templar couldn't use it themselves directly. They tried to sell it to a third party and then the McLean Citizens Association intervened and decided that they should honor the need for a public space to serve the public.

4. There was a lot of back-and-forth about potential plans and how to use that property – most of which failed. Finally, Bob Alden came in with the idea of building this as a central area with a library, a park and a McLean Community Center. There was a lot of back-and-forth around how to fund it; there was 'horse trading' to actually procure the land. They had to rely on Friends of MCC to actually get funding. They had to work with Fairfax County BOS regularly to: develop rules & regulations...funding... how it would exist... to start to build it... and build more... and wanting to expand – installing a balcony in The Alden Theatre.

5. I bring that up because the origin of the first property that was part of this was in 1820! MCC was opened in fall of 1975 and there was a full 25 years proceeding that - of actual activity and discussion around it; and obviously 50 years of existence since then. **When you look at that history and where we are now, this was not the inevitable outcome. The idea that we have this Center that has this quality and expansive level of programming was NOT inevitable. It was because people continuously throughout the community - at different levels and different groups and foundations - stepped forward and continued to believe in this vision to move it forward in the direction that we're all at now. I'm sure at the time, all the things they were doing (having to figure out funding; Friends of MCC having to raise another \$100K) all probably felt very incremental. But when viewed collectively, it was very transformational.** We all played a role in that in this room – some small; some longer than others. But it's because of people like us in this room who took the opportunity to do that, that this place even exists and continues to thrive.

So, in conclusion: the MCC is the center of the community. The McLean Community Center is more important than it's ever been before. The role we all have is important and transformational! I just want to reiterate how important the MCC is, and how important everything we all do individually is in moving that forward. (*applause*)

#### **RECOGNITION OF BOARD MEMBERS CONCLUDING THEIR TERM OF SERVICE**

Three adult members and two youth whose terms of service concluded this evening were acknowledged by Chair Jeffery for their outstanding contributions as members of MCC Governing Board.

##### **Kathleen Cooney Porter**

2023-2024 = TREASURER; Capital Facilities Committee; CHAIR – Finance Committee;

2024-2025 = TREASURER; Capital Facilities Committee; CHAIR – Finance Committee;

2025-2026 = Finance Committee; Programs & Community Engagement Committee

You have been an outstanding team member! You served as Treasurer twice, with great understanding of the role and the complexity of MCC's finances. You participated in all the MCC events, always wearing your name badge and being present as a board member in a professional manner. You assisted with opening of Absentee ballot envelopes in 2025 Election and helped all the candidates at the voting tent in 2026 McLean Day. Thank you! (*applause*)

##### **Katie Gorka**

2023-2024 = Programs & Outreach Committee; Elections & Nominations Committee

2024-2025 = CHAIR – Elections & Nominations Committee; Finance Committee

2025-2026 = Finance Committee; Programs & Community Engagement Committee

Regularly in meeting discussions you always asked excellent questions around the MCC's programs, the budget, and all the various actions taken by the board. You pointed out the significance of the U.S. founding and proposed a new name of "Independence Day Fireworks Celebration" for the annual event at Langley High School. And you've been an amazing help in the annual election details – managing hundreds of absentee ballot envelopes and serving in the voting tent at McLean Day to help the in-person voting. Thank you! (*applause*)

##### **Gloria Marrero Chambers**

2023-2024 = 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee; Capital Facilities Committee; Finance Committee

2024-2025 = 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee; Elections & Nominations Committee

2025-2026 = CHAIR— Programs & Community Engagement Committee; Elections & Nominations Committee

You were a tremendous help in all the internal processes for the 2025 and 2026 election and were a very stable presence at the voting booth. You skillfully led the Programs & Community Engagement Committee meetings as Chair and supported the new name of this committee. And you advocated for all board members to receive the backstage tour of The Alden Theatre to help learn about its importance. It has been a pleasure to work with you, Gloria! *(applause)*

**Katie Myshrall** — *youth representing Langley High School*

2025-2026 = **Coordinator of Youth Ambassador program**; Programs & Community Engagement Committee;  
Capital Facilities Committee

Katie has strongly led the MCC Youth Ambassadors, collaborating with Venita Wang and Mike Fisher as needed. She enhanced the focus on volunteer service for the Youth Ambassadors to contribute to our local community. Katie has also assisted with our dance classes, having been trained by the MCC dance instructors over several years. *(applause)*

**Venita Wang** — *youth representing McLean High School*

2025-2026 = **Coordinator of Youth Ambassador program**; Elections & Nominations Committee;  
Programs & Community Engagement Committee

Venita has been visionary in her leadership of the MCC volunteer Youth Ambassadors. She gave excellent presentations to the board meetings to explain the activities of this group. And she strongly championed the focus on volunteer service for the Youth Ambassadors to contribute to the local community. Thank you, Venita! *(applause)*

Chair Jeffery acknowledged that it has been a pleasure to be with the seasoned board members - looking to you all for how to conduct ourselves, how the meetings go; your advice and expertise generally. And the youth as well – the energy and excitement that they contribute – your ideas are always fantastic! It's a pleasure to work with you all.

He also acknowledged:

1. Holly Novak *(applause)* – she has the toughest job here, potentially wrangling all of us. And you always do it in such a happy and warm manner that it's hard not to do whatever you need us to do! And when I read those meeting Minutes, I can't tell if we're all great speakers or if you're just a great writer! Either way... thank you for everything!
2. The MCC staff – I want to thank you all for everything you all do. So many events such as McLean Day - we just get to walk on stage and 'Be Visible' and be forward in front of everyone... but you all are the ones obviously doing the work to make that happen. I know you know that. I just wanted you to know that WE know that! Thank you all.
3. Betsy May-Salazar – thank you! Thank you for your leadership. You are always professional and very, very smart. At every board meeting you always bring your best forward. Such board/management relationship isn't always this way; it's this way because we have such a talented and capable person as the counterpoint. I also want to acknowledge: it's one thing to be capable; it's another thing to be so happy and excited! It's clear when you talk to the staff about these things that you are having fun and enjoying what we're talking about. And that enthusiasm is contagious. So, thank you! *(applause)*

*Remarks by Betsy May-Salazar:* Before we move on, I want to thank the entire 2025-2026 board for your support and leadership, and for your commitment over the past year. It's been a tremendously productive and meaningful year! None of this would have been possible without all of you working so hard to support the Center. Some key highlights:

- \*Hugely successful 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in 2025 – with enormous community engagement
- \*Developed a range of programming commemorating America 250, including our highly successful Youth Ambassadors art & writing competition: "Freedom Through My Eyes"
- \*We invested in placemaking in McLean with two public art projects and through our support of MPA's new downtown location.
- \*Successfully completed several major capital projects, including ADA update to Old Firehouse Center, extending that project with further renovations.
- \*Nearing the finish line on the long-awaited digital sign in McLean Central Park
- \*Refreshed and refined our programs, guided by continuous community feedback
- \*We continue to strengthen our community feedback loop with the fall program survey, two public hearings, monthly public comment opportunities and targeted program surveys.

I want to convey my heartfelt ‘thank you’ to all our outgoing board members for their service and dedication: Katie Gorka, Kathleen, Gloria, Katie Myshrall and Venita. Your contributions have made a very lasting impact. We hope you continue to be engaged in our programming and activities. In your dedication to the community, I am sure we will see you at all our events coming up!

Finally, I want to recognize Doug Jeffery for his leadership as Chair. We had a very productive year and I truly appreciate his approach in identifying the key initiatives to explore at the beginning of the year and then supporting those items to be slotted into the appropriate committee structure throughout the year. It led to a wonderful conversation in summer 2025 around strategic goals and then we were able to effectively plan for the entire year and get the work done. That was truly terrific and I’m delighted that we have another year with Doug Jeffery remaining on the board following his year as Chair. Thank you all again for a really incredible year! (*applause*)

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**In-person comments:** Chair Jeffery invited the public to introduce themselves and give verbal remarks if they wished. They first stated aloud their residential address to verify being an MCC tax district resident. Any individuals who requested in advance to speak 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 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 stated that all business matters of this final meeting of 2025-2026 Governing Board were now concluded. He thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 6:53 p.m. (*applause*)

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#### **PLEDGE CEREMONY TO INSTALL 2026 -2027 GOVERNING BOARD**

Supervisor Jimmy Bierman greeted everyone and expressed his thanks to Doug Jeffery for his year as MCC Governing Board Chair and to the 2025-2026 Governing Board for all the work they accomplished together. He then introduced and welcomed **newly-elected board members:** Minoo Razavi; Pascale Siegel; Michael Signer; Michael Solomon; Bryn Smith; Yingxi Zhao (in absentia); and **returning board members:** Doug Jeffery; Ron Keesing; Liz Lawson; Michael Monroe; Peter Pin. All rose to stand together as a group to affirm their commitment to the pledge:

#### **McLean Community Center 2026 - 2027 Governing Board Members Annual Pledge**

As an MCC Governing Board member, I pledge to:

- Support the mission of the McLean Community Center to provide access to inspirational arts, cultural experiences, learning opportunities, civic engagement and recreational activities; support community organizations, and; offer facilities for all MCC tax district residents.
- Support the Executive Director in her executive role.
- Respect and support the MOU, Policies, Operations, and Board decisions.
- Conduct myself in a spirit of collegiality and respect for the decisions of the Board and to the best interests of the MCC.
- Honor confidentiality regarding discussions, comments, and deliberations.
- Comply with applicable laws.
- Exercise the above responsibilities at all times in a reasonable and prudent manner.

**Ten people were thus installed to the 2026 - 2027 Governing Board of the McLean Community Center.**

Yingxi Zhao (*youth member representing McLean High School*) was absent; she will be installed at a future date.

### **CONVENE FIRST MEETING OF 2026 - 2027 GOVERNING BOARD**

With ten individuals PRESENT in-person, quorum was duly constituted. Elections & Nominations Committee Chair Liz Lawson opened the first meeting of 2026 - 2027 Governing Board of the McLean Community Center on June 10, 2026 at 7:03 p.m. She announced about audio-recording for purposes of Minutes.

### **ELECTION OF GOVERNING BOARD CHAIR**      *\*remarks by ENC Chair Liz Lawson*

Formally presenting the slate of nominations for the 2026 - 2027 Governing Board officers:

As per MCC's Elections and Nominations Policies and Procedures, all officer nominations were previously identified in the May Governing Board meeting, with two vacancies filled the following day. This list of nominees was published in advance of this meeting. Only those previously identified as nominees are permitted to stand for election at this time.

ENC Chair Liz Lawson proceeded to conduct the election for Chair of 2026 - 2027 Governing Board. Two board members had submitted their names as nominees for Board Chair: **Ron Keesing; Michael Monroe.**

Ron Keesing: Thank you for considering me for the position of Chair of the Governing Board and to Doug for his leadership as Chair over the last 12 months. In my two years as a Board Member, and currently as Secretary of the Board, I have gained a deep appreciation for the important role the Chair plays in supporting both the work of the Board and the Center's Executive Director. I believe my background—including experience as an officer of a major local company and as a member of the Fairfax Council on Economic Opportunity—has prepared me well for these responsibilities. In addition, having recently transitioned from full-time employment, I now have the time and flexibility to become even more actively involved in supporting both the Center and its leadership. If elected, I hope to continue and accelerate efforts to strengthen MCC's connection to the community and to increase awareness, participation, and engagement across all residents of the district. I appreciate your consideration of my candidacy and hope for your support.

Michael Monroe: It has been a privilege to serve on the McLean Community Center Board over the past two years as Secretary, Vice Chair, and a member of the Executive Committee. I have also served on the 50th Anniversary, Elections, and Finance Committees, chaired the Capital Facilities Committee, helped draft the initiative for the much-needed walkway connecting MCC and the MPA, and supported community engagement efforts, including emceeding the MacDonald Awards. These experiences have strengthened my commitment to the Center and the community it serves. I would be honored to earn your vote to complete my term as Chairman. If elected, I will continue to lead with an independent perspective, respect for differing opinions and values, and a commitment to empowering our staff to perform at the highest level. Thank you for your consideration and partnership.

Voting for Chair position: when I call your name, please indicate your candidate preference: Ron Keesing or Michael Monroe, or whether you wish to abstain.

Votes **FOR Ron Keesing** as Chair: (7) Ron Keesing; Liz Lawson; Minoo Razavi; Pascale Siegel; Michael Signer; Michael Solomon; Bryn Smith

Votes **FOR Michael Monroe** as Chair: (3) Doug Jeffery; Michael Monroe; Peter Pin

There were no abstentions.

**Ron Keesing was elected Chair of 2026 - 2027 Governing Board.**

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

As newly-elected Board Chair, Ron Keesing proceeded to conduct the election for the other Executive Committee positions: Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

**VICE-CHAIR** Two board members had submitted their names as nominees for Vice-Chair: **Liz Lawson; Peter Pin.**

Liz Lawson: In my first year as a Board Member, I have had the privilege of serving as Chair of the Elections and Nominations Committee, a role that has given me a firsthand understanding of board governance and the importance of strong, organized leadership. That experience has reinforced my appreciation for all the incredible work that goes into keeping this Board functioning well. If elected, I look forward to supporting the Chairperson and contributing to the effective leadership of the Board. I believe deeply in MCC's mission to bring the community together and ensure its programs and spaces are accessible to all residents and I want to help protect and advance that work. I am committed to bringing the same focus and dedication to this role that I have brought to the Elections Committee. Thank you so much for your consideration.

Peter Pin: I am excited to put my name forward for Vice Chair of the McLean Community Center Board of Directors because I believe in the power of strong, collaborative leadership to drive meaningful impact in our community. In this role, I would serve as a dedicated partner to the Chair, helping to facilitate productive board meetings, support fellow board members, and ensure that the Center's strategic priorities are carried out with consistency and purpose. I am committed to fostering an inclusive and transparent governance culture where every voice is heard and every decision reflects the best interests of the McLean community we serve. My passion for the Mission of the MCC, combined with my desire to see the success of our community makes me confident that I can help guide the MCC Board toward an even stronger and more impactful future.

Voting for Vice-Chair: when I call your name, please indicate your candidate preference: Liz Lawson or Peter Pin, or whether you wish to abstain.

Votes **FOR Liz Lawson** as Vice-Chair: (7) Ron Keesing; Liz Lawson; Minoo Razavi; Pascale Siegel; Michael Signer; Bryn Smith; Michael Solomon

Votes **FOR Peter Pin** as Vice-Chair: (3) Doug Jeffery; Michael Monroe; Peter Pin

There were no abstentions.

**Liz Lawson was elected 2026 - 2027 Governing Board Vice-Chair.**

**TREASURER** Two board members had submitted nominations for Treasurer: **Ron Keesing; Peter Pin.** However, as Ron Keesing was elected Board Chair, only Peter Pin would be considered for this position.

**Peter Pin:** Having served this past year as Treasurer on the MCC Board and Chair of the Finance committee I am respectfully seeking to serve again as Treasurer for the McLean Community Center Board of Directors. Having a good grasp of the Financials for the MCC in my previous role, I continue to believe strong financial leadership is essential to fulfilling the Center's mission. In this role, I would bring focused accountability and a long-term strategic vision to ensure that the Center's resources are managed with transparency and discipline, safeguarding the community's investment and enabling the programs that make a real difference in people's lives. My commitment to the McLean community, combined with a clear understanding of fiduciary responsibility, drives me to hold the committee—and myself—to the highest standards of integrity.

Beyond oversight, I see the Treasurer as a pivotal role in shaping the financial future of the Center. I would bring a collaborative leadership style to budget planning, financial reporting, and long-term sustainability efforts, working alongside fellow board members, staff, and stakeholders to align every fiscal decision with the Center's mission. I am confident in my ability to communicate complex financial information clearly, build consensus, and make sound decisions under pressure- giving the board the confidence it needs to pursue ambitious goals for our community. I am ready to continue in this role and provide the financial leadership the McLean Community Center deserves.

Voting for Treasurer: when I call your name, please indicate your preference: Peter Pin, or whether you wish to abstain.

Votes **FOR Peter Pin** as Treasurer: (10) Doug Jeffery; Ron Keesing; Liz Lawson; Michael Monroe; Peter Pin; Minoo Razavi; Pascale Siegel; Michael Signer; Bryn Smith; Michael Solomon

There were no abstentions.

**Peter Pin was elected 2026 - 2027 Governing Board Treasurer.**

**SECRETARY** Two board members had submitted their names as nominees for Secretary: **Liz Lawson; Michael Monroe.** However, as Liz Lawson is now Board Vice-Chair, only Michael Monroe would be considered for this position.

**Michael Monroe:** Congratulations to the newly-elected board members, as well. I am running for Secretary of the McLean Community Center Board. Having served as Secretary in my first year on the Board, I am very familiar with the responsibilities and am committed to clear communication, accurate records, and serving our community. And I appreciate your vote.

Voting for Secretary: when I call your name, please indicate your candidate preference: Michael Monroe, or whether you wish to abstain.

Votes **FOR Michael Monroe** as Secretary: (10) Doug Jeffery; Ron Keesing; Liz Lawson; Michael Monroe; Peter Pin; Minoo Razavi; Pascale Siegel; Michael Signer; Bryn Smith; Michael Solomon

There were no abstentions.

**Michael Monroe was elected 2026 - 2027 Governing Board Secretary.**

## **ORIENTATION: ENVISIONING THE YEAR AHEAD**

After officers were elected, the meeting moved into a comprehensive focus on practical orientation for the year ahead. Executive Director Betsy May-Salazar shared an in-depth explanation of board policies and best practices to facilitate fruitful collaboration. Deputy Director Jonathan Melendez and Executive Assistant Holly Novak also participated in the discussion. Each board member received a notebook of key documents and reference materials as helpful guidance for decision-making.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

When the orientation session concluded, Chair Ron Keesing thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Holly Novak – Executive Assistant