

**McLean Community Center  
Governing Board Minutes  
June 23, 2010 Meeting**

**Members Present:** David Sanders, Chair  
Kevin Dent, Vice Chair  
Sean Dunn, Treasurer  
Risa Sanders, Secretary  
Susan Bourgeois  
Lee DiCenso  
Jay Howell  
Craig McKenzie  
Craig Richardson  
Robin Walker

**Member Absent:** Sun Park

**Staff Members Present:** George Sachs, Acting Executive Director  
Ellen Barial, Board Administrative Assistant

**Guests Present:** Jane Edmondson, Chief of Staff, Office of County Supervisor  
John W. Foust (Dranesville)  
Bobbi Bowman, *The McLean Ear*  
Nancy Perry, McLean Project for the Arts (the “MPA”)

Mr. Sanders convened the June 23, 2010 meeting of the Governing Board of the McLean Community Center (the “MCC”) at 7:35 p.m.

**ADOPT AGENDA**

On a motion by Mr. Howell, seconded by Ms. Sanders, the agenda for the meeting was adopted unanimously.

**CITIZEN COMMENT**

Nancy Perry

Ms. Perry gave an update on a number of recent MPA activities including:

- Budget: The MPA Board approved the organization’s 2011 fiscal year budget. Ms. Perry noted that the budget of \$539,874 required the MPA to use \$16,450 from its \$200,000 reserve fund. She also indicated that it was anticipated that the MPA would end the current fiscal year with a \$19,476 deficit (although it was lower than had been projected). In its 2011 budget, the MPA cut every category except staff members.

- MPAartfest: The event will be held in Central Park, as in previous years, which will require logistical considerations due to the library construction. The new hours for the event are 10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Ms. Perry indicated that the next planning session for the event was set for June 28, 2010 at the MCC.
- Summer Classes: Ms. Perry reported on the MPA's upcoming summer classes, which include five adult/young adult classes and 14 camp sessions.
- Other Information: Ms. Perry distributed copies of the "June News from MPA" report.

### Jane Edmonson

Ms. Edmondson reminded everyone about the McLean Centennial Celebration scheduled for the following Saturday (June 26<sup>th</sup>). She noted that Supervisor Foust had obtained a proclamation from the Board of Supervisors in recognition of the event.

Ms. Edmondson reported that the previous evening the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors had approved the Comprehensive Plan for the redevelopment of Tysons Corner. Among other things, the plan would widen Route 7 out westward, and would provide at least one and possibly more parking garages at the Tysons Metro station.

Ms. Edmondson indicated that she hoped the McLean downtown development, including the MCC's planned development, would take place in conjunction with the Tysons redevelopment.

### **APPROVE MINUTES**

Minutes of the May 26, 2010 board meetings were approved unanimously.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

#### Committee Assignments

Mr. Sanders spoke briefly about the committee assignment process that he used in appointing board members to specific committees.

#### Strategic Planning

Mr. Sanders reported on the planning session that had been held with the MCC staff members on June 7, 2010. He indicated that staff members had provided good input and had bought into going forward with the strategic planning process.

Mr. Sanders also indicated that a board planning session was needed to bring new board members into the process. He pointed out that previous MCC strategic planning had

been board driven and organized around board committees rather than the functional lines of staff organization.

Staff members would also be invited to the next planning meeting. Mr. Sanders noted that he needed to work out the date and time logistics.

### **ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Sachs highlighted a number of items that were included in his written report to the Board, which also included departmental reports. Among other things, Mr. Sachs pointed out the following items:

- The Jammin' Juniors held performances on Wednesdays in May at the gazebo in McLean Park with nearly 1,000 attendees.
- It was estimated that there were 14,000 in attendance at McLean Day.
- He reminded the Board about the upcoming Fourth of July celebration at Langley High School.
- There were a total of 260 attendees at teen center classes in May.
- The final concert of the season took place on May 30<sup>th</sup>, featuring young soloists on piano and harp.
- The Summer Concerts in the Park series was to begin on the following Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup>. Additional performances were scheduled for July 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Congratulations to Zack Sanders who won the Fairfax County Rising Star volunteer award in connection with his volunteer work at the MCC.
- The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of McLean Celebration on Saturday June 26<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. received great press. A number of well known individuals were expected to attend, such as:

Former Governor and Senator – Charles Robb  
Congressman – Frank Wolf  
Delegate – Barbara Comstock  
Delegate – Jim Scott  
Chairman Board of Supervisors – Sharon Bulova  
Supervisor – John Foust  
School Board Representative – Janie Strauss

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (David Sanders, Chair)**

Mr. Sanders reported that the Executive Committee at its meeting on June 14, 2010 had passed two motions to present to the Board for action. He directed board members to the motions that were included in the meeting agenda and the Executive Committee minutes.

### **1. The first motion was as follows:**

**MOTION: That the policy guidance and oversight of the instructional programs and the performing arts programs be moved from the Program Committee's responsibility to the Communications Committee for the 2010-2011 board year.**

Mr. Sanders gave his rationale for reassigning the work load between the Program and Communications Committee as follows:

- To even out the work load between the two committees.
- To give the programs being transferred more oversight and attention.
- The change was to be done on a one-year trial basis.

Mr. Sanders also noted that there were a number of ways to split out the programs.

#### **a. Motion to Amend Main Motion**

Ms. Walker indicated that programs should stay under the Program Committee, and made the following secondary motion, seconded by Mr. McKenzie, to amend the pending motion:

**Motion: that the program portion of the Executive Committee's recommendations in its motion should remain with the Program Committee.**

There was significant discussion among board members about the secondary motion and its effect on the pending main motion. Mr. Dent referred board members to the minutes of the June 14, 2010 Executive Committee minutes for more information (which had been previously provided).

#### **Speaking in favor of the Amendment:**

Ms. Walker:

- Clarified that the intention of her motion was to keep the instructional programs under the Program Committee, but not the performing arts programs.
- Ms. Walker noted that some change was logical, but just changing work from one committee to another may not help.

Ms. DiCenso:

- As Chair of the Program Committee, was surprised by the Executive Committee's motion since the Program Committee had not felt overwhelmed by work.
- She wanted to know what inspired the changes.
- Ms. DiCenso stated that the burden does not fall so much on the Program Committee, but on staff members to make sure that the programs are underway, and that there are evaluations of the programs.

Speaking against the Amendment:

Mr. Sanders:

- Everything that the MCC does could be considered a "program." Therefore, a lot of activities were lumped together under the Program Committee.
- The current situation did not provide the depth to drill down into a lot of the MCC programs to get the maximum leverage and benefit for the MCC's stakeholders.
- With the number of classes and camps, the Board and the Program Committee do not get a breakdown of the quantitative and qualitative issues related to classes and the performing arts.
- Wanted to look at programs and look at the customer focus of them.
- Noted that prior chairs of the Program Committee had thought that the work of the committee was too large.
- Pointed out that a lot of things have been done by custom; he wanted take a fresh look and to modernize the MCC's work to make it more performance driven.
- In response to a question from Mr. Dunn regarding whether Ms. DiCenso had been told in advance of the proposal, Mr. Sanders indicated that he had spoken only broadly with Ms. DiCenso about the changes before making them; but, had laid out the reasons for the changes in a memorandum to board members.
- The proposal was for one year.

Other Comments:

Mr. Richardson noted that establishing committees is the Board's prerogative; but, the Chair made appointments to the committees. He asked for clarification that Chair had the prerogative to make the proposed changes.

Mr. Sanders indicated that the Chair’s appointment of committees was in the Memorandum of Understanding (the “MOU”) with Fairfax County.

Vote on Amendment to the Main Motion:

A vote was taken on the secondary motion by Ms. Walker to amend the pending main motion by taking instructional programs out of the main motion:

***Decision on the Secondary Motion: There were five votes in favor of the motion, and three votes against the motion, with one abstention. (In addition, the Chair did not vote.) The motion passed on a 5-3 vote.***

**b. Discussion of Main Motion**

Mr. Dunn stated that it was the Board’s responsibility to establish committees, as set out in the MOU, and the Chair appoints members of the committees.

Mr. Sanders pointed out that there was a difference between establishing a committee and restructuring a committee. He indicated that his proposal is a restructuring rather than establishing a committee.

Mr. Sanders called the question regarding the main motion, as amended by the previously adopted secondary motion.

***Decision on the Amended Main Motion: The motion passed unanimously.***

**2. Second motion from the Executive Committee:**

**MOTION:**

- **To rescind the policy that “Anyone eligible to vote at the Board meetings can vote in committee, whether a member of that committee or not;”**
- **Only members of a specific committee in question can vote at that specific committee’s meetings; and**
- **All board members can attend any board committee meeting and participate in the discussion, but cannot vote if they are not a member of the committee.**

Speaking in Favor of the Motion:

Mr. Sanders:

- The policy regarding non-committee members voting at any committee meeting was a policy adopted by the Board, and was not in the MOU.

- Mr. Sanders described the policy (and gave board members an opportunity to review the motion that had been provided previously).
- The current voting practice was a policy unique to the MCC Board; he was not aware of any other board that had the same policy.
- The MCC Board is organized with a committee structure. He was concerned that each committee meeting would become a meeting of the whole, which would leave the MCC Board without a committee structure and make it difficult to operate in an organized way.
- The current policy was not fair to committee members who gather the information needed for recommendations, including going to outside sources for information such as county resources.
- The proposal was not reactionary; making a change at the start of a new board year was appropriate.<sup>1</sup>
- Pointed out as Chair he has been to a lot of committee meetings, but tries to stay out of the meetings' work. As Chair, he is an *ex officio* member of all committees; but, he indicated that tries not to vote or monopolize the discussions.

Ms. Sanders:

- Everyone is giving up a right to vote at other committee meetings, when not a member of the committees.
- The current policy diminishes the committee structure.
- It is difficult to vote without full knowledge if a board member has not regularly attended a committee's meetings.
- The Board needed to maintain the integrity of the committee structure.
- Wanted to clarify and respond to comments made by Mr. Dunn.<sup>2</sup> Everyone is welcome to bring their information and skills to committee meetings.
- All committee decisions go to the full board and are fully digested there. The change in policy does not limit anyone's ability to tear into an issue when it reaches the Board.

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<sup>1</sup> This was in response to a statement by Ms. Walker, shown on Page 9.\*

<sup>2</sup> This was in response to a statement by Mr. Dunn, shown on Page 9. \*\*

Mr. Dent:

- Did not feel very strongly about the current policy; however, he thought the current committee voting policy seemed off.
- The Board could encourage members with prior knowledge of a committee's work to attend committee meetings to share that history.
- Mr. Dent indicated that he was in favor of the motion since it made sense and was the right way to do things.

Mr. Howell:

- Agreed with Mr. Dent's position.
- Noted that to permit board members to vote at all committee meetings would defeat the purpose of having committees.
- Observed that committees take materials to the full Board after doing the background work.
- Mr. Howell stated that he supports the change.

Mr. Richardson:

- Indicated that he is in favor of the motion, since members will have the power to vote at board meetings.

Speaking Against the Motion:

Ms. Walker:

- Want to confirm whether the policy was in the MOU.
- Indicated that she had done research and could not find a similar arrangement in any other organization; however, asked why the policy should be change since it had been in place for a number of years.
- *Moved to table the motion. There was no immediate second to the motion.*
- Not allowing non-committee members to vote would discourage them from attending.
- There had not been problems with the policy.

- Pointed out that she believed that the timing of motion was a reaction to statements made at an earlier meeting.\*<sup>3</sup>

Ms. DiCenso:

- Noted that one reason for the current policy is to allow input and vote by someone who has gone off a committee; it allows them to attend and vote on issues that they have worked on.
- However, she acknowledged that while input under the circumstances (she described above) was valuable, it was not so with a board member randomly dropping in at meetings.
- Ms. DiCenso noted that most board members who come to a committee's meetings usually attend several.

Mr. Dunn:

- Believed that it has been better to have other members attend committee meetings. \*\*<sup>4</sup>
- Mr. Dunn went on to note that there was no problem right now with the policy.
- The change was about power in not having non-committee members voting.
- Pointed out that the MCC Board is a residential board, which does not have power concerns; it is about helping each other and staff members.
- With something that has been around for 30 years, why change.
- He also noted that in future years, it could affect the Chair's appointment process to give more power to the Chair.
- Once they lose the vote, it is unlikely that board members not on a committee would attend.

*Ms. Walker reminded the Board that she had made a motion to table the proposal. Mr. Sanders asked for a second. There being none, the motion failed.*

Mr. Sanders called the question.

***Decision on the Motion: There were seven votes in favor of the motion, and three votes against the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 7-3. (The Chair did not vote.)***

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<sup>3</sup> See footnote 1 on Page 7.

<sup>4</sup> See footnote 2 on Page 8.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE ( Sean Dunn, Chair)**

Mr. Dunn indicated that there had been no Finance Committee meeting in June; but, he hoped to get the committee together in the next few weeks. Mr. Dent, a member of the Committee, asked whether the Committee was late getting started on the budget. He stated that he thought the Committee needed to get going on the budget.

Ms. Sanders thought that the committees needed direction from the Finance Committee. Mr. Sanders noted that the Finance Committee gets the process running by issuing guidance.

Mr. Dunn acknowledged by last year's standards the Committee is late getting started; however, he noted that the Committee has not had a chance to meet given the late committee assignments.

Several board members asked what the County's projections were for tax revenues for the MCC tax district for the 2012 fiscal year. Mr. Dunn indicated that there had been projections received from the County, which had been discussed at the March 2010 committee meeting. Mr. Dunn indicated that the revenues were expected to be flat.

Mr. Sanders asked Mr. Sachs to confirm whether the County's guidance was to stay flat in budgeting for the next fiscal year. Mr. Sachs stated that Bob Taguding (the MCC Comptroller) and he had met with the County's financial analyst for the MCC, and it was recommended that the MCC hold the line for the 2012 fiscal year. Mr. Dunn stated that the MCC is not bound by that recommendation.

## **CAPITAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE (Kevin Dent, Chair)**

Mr. Dent noted that the Committee had not yet met in June; but, would meet the following Tuesday (June 29, 2010).

### Downtown Development

Mr. Dent spoke briefly about the MCC's downtown development plans, and made the following points:

- There had been a meeting with the County about what was achievable on the downtown site.
- The initial word from the County was that it did not want to do spot development; rather, it wants to know what the plans are for the whole area.
- The MCC would need help from Supervisor Foust since the Board wants the MCC to be the first mover in the downtown development.
- There will be follow up meetings to get more information regarding what is achievable and what issues need to be overcome.

Ms. Edmondson made the following points regarding the MCC's downtown development:

- Supervisor Foust strongly favors having the MCC go forward with its downtown development plans.
- Supervisor Foust wants to get all of the players to the table, the Montgomery's, particularly Bob Montgomery; MCC (Mr. Sanders and Mr. Dent); Fairfax County representatives, such as, Jim Zook (Director of the Department of Planning and Zoning), Barbara Byron (Director of the Office of Community Revitalization), and Bridget Hill (Revitalization Program Manager) regarding what to do with a comprehensive plan for downtown McLean.
- There may not be a problem with spot zoning with the MCC's development.

#### **PROGRAM COMMITTEE (Lee DiCenso, Chair)**

Ms. DiCenso reported that there had not been a committee meeting in June thus far; but, she is finalizing a date with committee and staff members.

Mr. Sachs noted that staff members are preparing new program information for the 2012 fiscal year budget.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE (Risa Sanders, Chair)**

Ms. Sanders reported that there had been no meeting of the Committee in June; however, a meeting has been scheduled for July 12, 2010. She noted that the Committee's initial work would be:

- Follow up on the MCC signage issue, including going back to the designers with a consistent set of criteria.
- Look at the teen center signage, being mindful that things might change quite a bit on that site.
- The Committee would have more to share at next board meeting.
- Work on branding issues and how the MCC's logo is being used.
- The new members of the Communications Committee need to be brought up to speed.

In response to a question from Ms. Perry, Ms. Sanders indicated that she would let Ms. Perry know when it is appropriate to involve the MPA in the MCC signage process.

**ELECTION COMMITTEE (Susan Bourgeois, Chair)**

As the outgoing Chair of the Elections Committee, Ms. Sanders reported that she has put together an elections binder for Ms. Bourgeois. She also asked Mr. Dunn for any input he might have for the binder.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion made by Mr. Dunn, seconded by Ms. Sanders, the Board voted unanimously to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Sanders adjourned the regular meeting of the Board at 9:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Risa E. Sanders  
Secretary