
**2018-2019 MCC Governing Board Regular Meeting
followed by:
Public Hearing on FY2021 Programs
March 27, 2019**

MCC Governing Board Regular Meeting

MINUTES

- MCC Board Members Present:** Paul Kohlenberger, Board Chair; Desi Woltman, Vice Chair; Julie Waters; Elizabeth John; Lauren Herzberg; Kat Kehoe; Carole Herrick; Alicia Plerhoples
- MCC Board Members Absent:** Terri Markwart; Megan Markwart; Raj Mehra
- MCC Staff Present:** George Sachs, Executive Director; Holly Novak; Mike Fisher; Ashok Karra, Comptroller; Andrew Jennings; Robert Brown; Maggie Shea; Catherine Nesbitt
- Guests:** Jane Edmondson (Supervisor Foust's office); Bari Levingston (MPA); Merrily Pierce (McLean Citizens Assoc.); Jim Baker (Tysons McLean Orchestra); Diana Villarreal (Tysons McLean Orchestra); Wayne Sharp (Tysons McLean Orchestra); Aaron Anderson (McLean Youth Orchestra); Piper Anderson (McLean Youth Orchestra); Sara Becker (Langley Oaks Homeowners Assoc.); Maria Foderaro-Guertin;

CONVENE REGULAR MEETING OF MCC GOVERNING BOARD

Mr. Kohlenberger convened the Regular Meeting of the 2018-2019 Governing Board of the McLean Community Center on March 27, 2019 at 7:04 p.m.

ADOPT AGENDA

The Agenda for the meeting was adopted by acclamation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Kohlenberger welcomed members of the public in attendance:

Bari Levingston (MPA) – MPA is looking forward to moving back into the MCC building on July 15. They had a great turnout for TED-Ex Open Mic night. The Spring Benefit (May 16) is already sold-out! “Art & Wine Experience” on May 31 will be at the Hyatt (tickets are \$100) sponsored by Total Wine & More; hopefully, it will be a multi-generational crowd. **a summary report was submitted in writing to the Board*

Merrily Pierce (MCA) – she came to observe and report on MCC Board efforts at the next MCA meeting.

Robert Brown was introduced as a new employee on the Special Events staff team.

APPROVE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 27, 2019 GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Mr. Kohlenberger asked if there were any suggested revisions to the Minutes of the meeting on February 27, 2019. A motion was made to approve the Minutes as written; it was seconded.

MOTION: That the Minutes of the Governing Board Regular Meeting on February 27, 2019 be approved. **Approved unanimously.**

CHAIR'S REPORT / EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee did not meet this month. A potential donor policy is being drafted by a board member and the Executive Committee will meet when it is ready for consideration.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Sachs submitted a written report detailing the past month's activities and accomplishments.

Internal Alignment: 'Finishing' construction on the courtyard will begin on Monday, April 1. Work will be somewhat disruptive; hopefully, it will be a 4-week project (or less). The wooden planks will come up and pavers will go down, followed by installation of outdoor furniture.

External Alignment:

Macdonald Scholarship Award Competition: The finals of the competition (in all categories except dance) are being held this evening at 8:00 p.m. in Alden Theatre.

MCC Governing Board election: The election is underway with a competitive slate of candidates: five adults and six youth (three from McLean High School boundary area; three from Langley High School boundary area). *Connection* newspapers have run the ad with candidates' pictures and their statements; it will appear continuously over the next several weeks. The Candidate Orientation meeting was held on March 16, explaining details about campaigning and the process for Absentee Voting. Absentee Voting is underway, with an effort this year to make it easier for the public. Ms. Novak has continued to innovate and offer new eyes on the process to make it practical and understandable to all.

Recognition of youth involved in MCC over the years - Craig McKenzie: He started out as a young kid in MCC teen programs and continued as a volunteer at The Old Firehouse, becoming president of the Teen Council. Then he became the governing board representative for Langley High School. After college and dental school at Penn State, he is now president of the American Student Dental Association. This is a wonderful story about the positive impact of MCC in the life of one local youth.

TEDx Open Mic Night was excellent – a packed house! People who had never been to The Alden Theatre before enjoyed as 'first-timers'. For many, it was also their first time attending a TED talk. This audience in McLean is smart, curious and well-educated. Support and assistance of MCC staff contributed significantly to the organization of the event. We are still receiving comments from first-time guests that they loved the venue. It was a positive experience for all.

Free, open 'drop-in' activities in Hampton Room are catching on by the public. Bridge is well-attended; mahjongg, Scrabble and the book club are gaining momentum. These new and diversified offerings show that MCC is implementing requests received from the public. The demographic is mostly seniors; some under 50. Offered in the evening; late afternoon; morning - the largest turn-out is for Monday A.M. Bridge.

Travel: The trip to the Flower Show in Philadelphia on March 7 was very enjoyable.

Alden Theatre season: The Alden Theatre remains very busy in midst of ongoing back-stage remediation and repairs. "Winnie the Pooh" production was well done. "The Joshua Show" was a big hit (puppet show). Macdonald Scholarship Awards finals tonight will showcase the amazing talent in this community at the high school level. Three American Shakespeare Center performances will be featured this weekend.

Old Firehouse: 5th & 6th Grade "Glow" Party was a sell-out. "Father-Daughter Enchanted Evening Dance" had 150 participants. It was very nicely done; Special Events and OFC staff did a great job. This event was something new - representing a valued expansion of MCC offerings to the public.

Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on March 24 was a lovely event. Award went to Laurelie Wallace for six years of outstanding service to the community through her leadership on the Governing Board.

Financial Stewardship: The county publishes FY2020 budget; MCC is a part of it (when adopted in April 2019). FY2020 budget starts July 1, 2019. At that time, we will be planning our FY2021 budget.

Question: With respect to the new contractor, how much of the [renovation] punch list is being whittled down? How is this cost commensurate with the previous contractor?

The new contractor hasn't quoted the cost yet; they are just now assessing what needs to be done, including fixes on continuing water leaks. It is a scheduling challenge because of the difficulty of working around existing classes and events without too much disruption. No idea when it will be all done; it will all be charged-back to the construction project. They are withholding payment from the general contractor.

ELECTIONS & NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

The Candidate Orientation meeting on March 16 went smoothly. It was short, substantive, and well done.
NEXT MEETING: Monday, April 15 at 5:30 p.m.

CAPITAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE

The Capital Facilities Committee met on March 5 to discuss the status of projects on the CIP list. Old Firehouse update projects: several RFP's are out and awaiting quotes for getting work done. The idea of a donor policy was discussed— well-meaning people desire to provide MCC with actual donated objects. Primary concerns to be balanced are: 1. By accepting good will from the community, MCC must do so equally and fairly to all. 2. Giving the Executive Director and board complete leeway and discretion as to what to accept. A board member is drafting a policy. Ms. Herrick recalled a similar donation policy in existence that was decided by a previous board. *Mr. Kohlenberger welcomes historical precedent and input from previous MCC boards. He asked Mr. Sachs to research previous decisions and/or policies about donations to MCC.*
NEXT MEETING: The CFC meeting on April 2 was cancelled because there is no new business to discuss.

This meeting temporarily adjourned to convene the Public Hearing on FY2021 Programs at 7:28 p.m.

The Regular Board meeting resumed at 7:46 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Communications Committee did not meet this month.
NEXT MEETING: Monday, April 8 at 6:30 p.m. – to review communications about the election.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The Program Committee did not meet in March. NEXT MEETING: Monday, April 8 at 7:30 p.m.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee did not meet in March. NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 14 at 7:30 p.m.

LIAISON TO FRIENDS OF THE MCLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER

Friends of the McLean Community Center did not meet in March so there is nothing to report at this time.

OLD / NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Kohlenberger opened the floor to any new or old items of business.

Booking policies: A board member brought up several points about the general scale of MCC's pricing; the 3-hour minimum (which boosts the total price of an individual rental); definition of groups qualifying as "open"; MCC pricing structure in contrast to other local places that offer free usage.

Opinions expressed: A board member called to book a room for a local political committee meeting. She was told it would be \$25/hour with a 3-hour minimum; \$75 was no longer attractive. She was then referred to two other places in McLean that were available for free. The board needs to reconsider the room rates because, in reading MCC's mission statement ("assisting community organizations and furnishing facilities for civic, cultural, recreational and social activities") it does not seem to be reflective in the current pricing. When advising local organizations: "Sorry. It's \$75.00 as a minimum of 3-hours; but here are two other places in town you can go to that will be free..." that misses the mark of what MCC's mission is.

Question: It's unclear why there is a 3-hour minimum – which effectively creates large blocks of room usage. Why couldn't we shrink it down to 1 hour or 2 hours as a minimum?

Clarification by staff: The 3-hour minimum time frame for room rentals is realistic for advance set-ups and because people tend to hang around for a while afterwards and not leave. If everybody abided by the times, then it would be fine. But the reality is...people hang around and then there is another meeting coming in that needs to be set-up. Consecutive usage of the same room must have “buffer” times.

Opinions expressed: I understand that some meetings are only one hour while some meetings are three hours (with equipment set-ups). The 3-hour minimum for everything seems like too big of a block. Not only that, but you're eliminating other people who might want to book. The board should look at this.

Clarification by staff: Regarding understanding the booking policies: it's not just the determination of what “open” means but it's according to the group's charter and location. For example, the Girl Scouts 501(c)3 is not chartered in MCC's tax district. Over the years, this policy has been in place through many governing boards. But we can revisit it. What will come up in conversation is: What does an “open” organization mean? Organizations qualify as being ‘open’ by specific definition.

Opinions expressed: Again – it seems like we are not supporting MCC's mission - which is to be open to supporting all community organizations. I advocate going for the next step down, which is \$10.00 or \$15.00 per hour and have a 1.5 hour or a 2-hour minimum.

Clarification by staff: As you know we just recently instituted the new policy and it was a board decision to raise the rental rates. The 3-hour minimum applies to every room.

Opinions expressed: Yes – however, several didn't know it was a 3-hour minimum throughout. Some thought the 3-hour minimum only applied to the large rooms and didn't realize it also applied to the smaller rooms.

Summary by Treasurer Ms. John: As a board, we just recently voted on the booking policy, which included the 3-hour minimum. We compared MCC's rates vs. other community centers. However, in relation to other nearby places being “free”, such as the Library and McLean Government Center, we didn't talk about that aspect comparatively. Therefore, the board would be open to having a discussion in Program Committee to revisit the issue of the 3-hour minimum.

Clarification by staff: From an operational standpoint, the Facilities Manager will be prepared to explain to the Program Committee the rationale for why the 3-hour minimum is currently required for rentals.

Mr. Kohlenberger thanked the board member for bringing to light this issue that militated against raising the rates – because of having 3-hour minimums.

Signage plaques:

Question: How is it going with the signage plaques? They haven't been ordered yet.

Question: Will it happen during this board year? Yes, that is the aim.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Kohlenberger adjourned the Regular Board meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Public Hearing on FY2021 Programs

CONVENE THE MEETING

Mr. Kohlenberger convened the Public Hearing on FY2021 Programs of the McLean Community Center at 7:28 p.m., welcoming all members of the public in attendance.

ADOPT AGENDA

The Agenda for the Public Hearing was adopted by acclamation. The board observed the following sequence for all ideas being brought forward by the public tonight:

1. Each person with a desire to share their input will be given an opportunity to speak. The Board or Program Chair will recognize one person at a time.
2. Written comments may be submitted to the Board Chair (in addition to, or in lieu of speaking).
3. The Executive Assistant will include all verbal and written comments into the meeting Minutes.
4. When the person has finished speaking, the Board Chair will state which MCC Governing Board Committee (or MCC staff department) deals with the particular issue the person is raising.
5. That designated committee will be assigned to include the issue as an Agenda topic during their next upcoming meeting, for discussion and recommendations.

If it is not a committee-specific recommendation, but rather a matter for MCC staff operations, the Board Chair will indicate which department is responsible for addressing the feedback that was presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Waters, Chair of Program Committee, recognized each individual who wished to speak:

Verbal Public Comment #1 **expressed in-person*

Diana Villarreal – Tysons McLean Orchestra exec@tysonsmcleanorchestra.org

Introducing Wayne Sharp and Jim Baker, President – who are both here to talk about being able to have access to Alden Theatre for youth programs. Quick facts about how we see ourselves moving forward in 2020 and 2021: in 1981 the McLean Youth Orchestra was founded – the only youth orchestra in the DC region. In 2020 they are launching a new international partnership with Chinese youth musicians. Approx. 40% of musicians in the Tysons McLean Orchestra have served in the military; veterans who are struggling with PTSD have the opportunity to use music to heal their unseen wounds of war. Tysons McLean Orchestra has an unparalleled devotion to classical music with a focus in community engagement. TMO inclusion statement is as follows: As an organization, we are taking steps and reviewing our music, musicians and programming to be more inclusive in our community demographics where we live.

Verbal Public Comment #2 **expressed in-person*

Wayne Sharp – Tysons McLean Orchestra (president in 2010, 2011, 2012) He has lived in McLean since 1972; he has been in the foreign service. He was introduced to the McLean Orchestra after 15 years of going to the Kennedy Center. He was amazed that we have such a fine orchestra here. We love going to the McLean Orchestra - it's like having an orchestra in your living room. It's nice, very friendly; everybody seems to know everybody. They have free refreshments at the end and people stay and visit with their neighbors. Tysons McLean Orchestra is the only one with a Youth Orchestra in this area. There is a youth orchestra in DC but they are a stand-alone group. The Youth Orchestra is our number-one project but Tysons McLean Orchestra itself is a group of professional musicians. We think it's nice that we support community activities here in the MCC, but it's nice to have a professional group come in from time-to-time. We'd be honored to have the opportunity to perform here in The Alden. He was visiting with Robert Alden, a good friend of mine, who happens to be seated in the lobby. The Tysons McLean Orchestra would be honored to be here.

Verbal Public Comment #3 **expressed in-person*

Jim Baker –current president of Tysons McLean Orchestra. He does not live in the area but he has a business at 1401 Chain Bridge Road (architectural design firm). The Tysons McLean Orchestra is working very hard over the past couple of years during the Alden Theatre renovation to reposition ourselves and reestablish a home. Back history: originally when MCC was built, The Alden

was built as part of providing a home for the McLean Orchestra – which was combined with McLean Symphony at the time. There was a time when the McLean Symphony went one direction and the McLean Orchestra went the other. We are a non-profit that pays our musicians to perform (some are from the NSO, BSO, Alexandria Symphony, Fairfax Symphony). They will be doing five concerts this year. Our 50th anniversary is coming up in FY2021 and it would be our greatest hope that we could call that our “coming home” season and have our entire season featured here at The Alden Theatre. In terms of the fact that we’ve changed our name from “McLean Orchestra” to “Tysons McLean Orchestra” indicates what we have recognized as the growth of the region. We believe that by including some of the larger corporations and businesses in the Tysons area, that we can start pulling their money and their sponsorships in and bring additional people from the Tysons area, which has so much growth, into the McLean area – building some of the restaurants; providing that initiative and spontaneity to kind of push the redevelopment and rezoning efforts, so that McLean becomes the destination in Northern Virginia for the arts. We want make be sure that McLean Youth Orchestra stays focused on both providing music education to the youth of McLean, Vienna, etc. However, as the region continues to grow, we’ve started to re-target our focus on the McLean Youth Orchestra to look and make sure that we’ve got moderate and low-income families targeted who may be struggling to live in the area... continue to pay their bills... but yet still have the ability to have their children get a classical music education. We’ve had several meetings with the McLean Community Center board today; board member Raj Mehra is the incoming treasurer of Tysons McLean Orchestra. We hope to work toward a very close bond with McLean Community Center and make this the ‘hub’ of our headquarters over the next 25-50 years. Thank you.

Question: Can the stage can hold the orchestra personnel? How many are in the orchestra? Ms. Herrick sat on the board for the McLean Orchestra for several years, so she is familiar with it.

At any given point we have 50-55 musicians; our maestro believe The Alden can accommodate that many. We were told that it holds 60 people total. If a concert included a choral organization, they would get creative with the staging and have the chorus use the balcony area. It depends on instrumentation. Another important point is that the Tysons McLean Orchestra has one of the few female conductors in the nation (she travels down from New York for the TMO concerts).

Question: How many are in the McLean Youth Orchestra?

The McLean Youth Orchestra right now is at about 30 musicians; at one point, it used to be 65 members. We are now in the process of rebuilding the Youth Orchestra. Margot Young was at the meeting today with the MCC who was the immediate past president; she is working with the youth - rebuilding the parents’ organization and working on the project with the Chinese.

Question: Are you hoping to have your entire season (both youth and adult) performances here? Would that also require using the space for rehearsals?

Yes and Yes. However, if rehearsals (time/space) are not available here, we can certainly place them elsewhere within the McLean community. We have a working relationship with organizations such as St. Dunstan’s, Vinson Hall, Chesterbrook. Most recently, we are working with the new incoming retirement community “Mather” in Tysons; but that won’t be available for four years.

Question: Have you spoken at all with Sarah Schallern?

Yes. She is aware. We were unable to coordinate the schedule this year due to the renovation, I believe. For this upcoming year (FY2020) our entire season will be held at Falls Church Episcopal.

Question: How many people on average attend your shows? And what is the age range of the youth orchestra?

Average number of audience attendees = 175 to 200 people. This is typical for our concerts and we meet the 40% threshold for performance requirements in The Alden Theatre – that we have reviewed. The McLean Youth Orchestra is divided into two segments: Ensemble (which are the younger students) and then there are

the high school students and up. One of the things, as we've been working through this process with the MCC is, we have found that we have not been taking advantage of things like the Macdonald Scholarship. We want to make sure that we can help promote that in the community, and within our own orchestra. There are some discussions that are working with the Fairfax Symphony, as they do not have a youth orchestra program but would potentially be looking in the future to partner with us to help build that even larger. The McLean Youth Orchestra also once a year does a side-by-side concert with a select group of professional musicians from the Tysons McLean Orchestra sitting side-by-side with the students as peers and mentors on the stage.

Ms. Waters thanked everyone from Tysons McLean Orchestra for coming and sharing their perspective. The board will look at those issues within the Program Committee.

Verbal Public Comment #4 *expressed in-person

Aaron Anderson and daughter, Piper Anderson – member of McLean Youth Orchestra

Piper is in 7th grade and plays violin; they live in Centreville and they drive in on Sunday nights for rehearsals at St. Dunstan's. This is her first year; after two concerts and 8 months of rehearsals, she loves it and wants to continue on. As you heard from the Tysons McLean Orchestra representatives, it's a great experience for the youth in the area. We are coming from Centreville, so the footprint of the McLean Youth Orchestra is rather large. Having established performance space at The Alden Theatre would add to the concerts – as nice surroundings and a facility to use. The past two concerts have been at Vinson Hall and another local church in the area; those are nice, but something is missing in those sorts of places. Whereas, if you are in a theatre auditorium, it is more intimate and more designed for these types of events. Plus, that allows kids to get a feel for what is going to be coming in their musical careers. Like my daughter, there are plenty of members that intend to major in music and would even potentially be professional musicians. So giving them that exposure and allowing them to dream... and to foster that dream, to push them a little harder to seek out more opportunities... I think is essential. The experience of sitting side-by-side with the professional musicians is going to do wonders for the youth musicians.

Ms. Waters read aloud the following comments that were submitted in writing for this meeting:

Written Public Comment #1 *submitted via e-mail on March 10; read aloud at March 27 meeting

From: Alan Coffey

Alan Coffey

Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2019 1:10 PM

Subject: MCC's FY 2021 Programs

This is being sent in response to the newspaper notices regarding the upcoming public hearing regarding the McLean Community Center's FY 2021 Programs. My wife and I reside within the MCC service/tax area and we have taken courses at the Center.

With respect to future class offerings, I would like to suggest a Chess Class for adults -- up to now the only offerings as to learning chess have been for children. It would be appreciated if you could pass on this request.

Thank you for your consideration.

Alan F. Coffey

Written Public Comment #2 *submitted via e-mail on March 26; read aloud at March 27 meeting

From: Margot Young

Robert Mill

Margot Young

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 7:03 PM

To: Robert Mill

Subject: Re: McLean Youth Orchestra - Resident submission

Thank you, Robert. Margot

On Tue, Mar 26, 2019, 4:15 PM Robert Mill wrote:

Dear Holly, I am unable to attend the hearing re McLean Youth Orchestra in person, but please find following my contribution and thoughts on the importance of music in the community and the benefits of a strong partnership and support through the McLean Community Center & the Alden Theater.

Thanks, Robert

To whom it may concern;

My name is Robert Mill. I have been a resident in McLean for 14 years. I am a musician and played violin professionally with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and the Wellington Sinfonia (NZ) when I was younger. These days, I work for AES Corporation – a global power company - at their global headquarters in Arlington, and for fun, play music with the Tysons McLean Orchestra, as well as the Manassas Symphony Orchestra.

My young son started playing violin with the McLean Youth Orchestra in 2018 – and has made outstanding progress in his playing! The MYO organization provides a professional caliber coaching and a supportive environment for our youth to explore their artistic ability.

In these days where everything is digital and online, we owe the younger generation an opportunity to develop their own personal talents and foster a diverse learning experience.

I firmly believe that access to performance arts within the community adds to the diversity and quality of life in a vibrant community. I am constantly encouraging friends and colleagues to attend orchestral performance events and am frequently surprised that people have little awareness of the rich cultural experiences that are available to them. Music is a performance art, and as a musician, I can genuinely say that it brings as much joy to the performers as it does to the audience! Having access to a top-class performance venue significantly enhances the whole experience for all concerned. Success breeds success. A “great venue”, conveniently situated, encourages audiences, which in turn adds prestige and strengthens the allure to budding young musicians to get involved.

The Manassas Symphony are fortunate to be able to play at the Hylton Performing Arts Center in Manassas. This is a fantastic venue. The Manassas orchestra have very strong community support and the performances are not only exceedingly well attended, but also hold appeal to a diverse audience of all ages. All concerned benefit from this cooperation. The community has access to local arts performances, the orchestra players have an exciting venue with a large and enthusiastic audience, and the venue succeeds in its mission of providing community engagement.

I believe all styles of music have merit, and the diversity of styles and forms adds to the rich tapestry of being human. Classical music doesn't belong in a stuffy back room. It is equally relevant today in the same way you can sing along with your favorite Beatles song, or with Queen, whose Bohemian Rhapsody took inspiration from the world of Opera.

Music performance is a challenging skill, and gaining proficiency takes many hours and years of focused practice. It can also be a lifelong companion, with many adults continuing to derive ‘soul food’ from it through participating in performance groups and for their own pleasure. I would encourage any and all support between McLean Community Center & The Alden Theater and the McLean Youth Orchestra.

Yours sincerely, Robert Mill

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Waters thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the Public Hearing at 7:45 p.m.

Mr. Kohlenberger then re-convened the Regular Meeting at 7:46 p.m. to discuss remaining Agenda topics. (see p. 3 above for continuation of the Regular Meeting Minutes)

Respectfully submitted, Holly Novak – Executive Assistant to the Governing Board