



**2020-2021 MCC Governing Board
Regular Meeting**

April 28, 2021 *virtual

ZOOM meeting ID: 825 348 22751 Password: 344945

MINUTES

- Board Members present:** Raj Mehra; Terri Markwart; Maria Foderaro-Guertin; Suzanne Le Menestrel; Melanie Sletten; Ivy Chen; Tyler Jensen; Barbara Zamora-Appel; Bill Glikbarg; Carla Post; Carole Herrick
- MCC Staff present:** Daniel Singh, Executive Director; George Sachs, outgoing Executive Director; Mike Fisher; Holly Novak; Sarah Schallern Treff, Jennifer Garrett; Sabrina Anwah
- Guests:** Lori Carbonneau (MPA); John Kuzel; Camila Alfonzo Meza (Supervisor Foust's office); Amy Swaak (MCF); Paul Kohlenberger (former MCC Governing Board chair); Lisa Mariam; Kitty Gonzalez (MPA); Mary Anne Hampton; Guillermo Almado (MPA)

CONVENE MEETING

The following Motion by Chair Le Menestrel was spoken aloud to duly convene this meeting electronically:

Motion for Electronic Meeting

On 14 April 2020, the Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County issued an emergency ordinance pursuant to VA Code Section 15.2-1413. The ordinance permits county boards, including this board, to conduct fully remote meetings in order to continue the organization's essential services, so long as the following conditions are met:

- (1) adequate notice is provided to the public and county; (2) the public is given a means to access the remote meeting; and
- (3) the purpose for the meeting is given in that notice, and that purpose serves to continue our essential services.

I believe those requirements have been satisfied. I therefore move that this board approve that the proposed agenda items are necessary to assure continuity of MCC's services, and that we are unable to meet in person per usual procedures due to the continuing state of emergency.

This meeting of the Governing Board of McLean Community Center was convened on April 28, 2021 at 7:34 p.m. using ZOOM meeting technology, which enabled Board members, MCC staff, and the public to participate virtually.

ADOPT AGENDA No changes were requested to the proposed Agenda. The Agenda was adopted by acclamation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Kohlenberger – I'm here to see George Sachs off in his last Governing Board meeting!

Mary Anne Hampton – I used to work at MCC! *Chair Le Menestrel commented:* Wow, George, you have a fan club here!

APPROVE MINUTES: March 24, 2021 REGULAR MEETING and PUBLIC HEARING ON FY2023 PROGRAMS

Minutes of the March 24, 2021 Regular Meeting and Public Hearing on FY2023 Programs were distributed for review. No changes were requested; the Minutes were adopted as written.

MOTION: To approve Minutes of the March 24, 2021, Regular Meeting and Public Hearing on FY23 Programs (which was convened virtually on ZOOM). **Unanimously approved.**

Chair Le Menestrel welcomed Daniel Singh as MCC's new Executive Director: Welcome, Daniel, we are really excited to have you!
Comments by Daniel Singh: I have been meeting with staff and they are all doing some great work. George has been leading them so wonderfully. I feel lucky to be able to start at this time with this leadership and staffing. I look forward to working with all of you and move forward.



BOARD DEVELOPMENT

Purposes: 1. To offer substantive learning points relevant to collaborative decision-making; 2. For board members to gain a broader understanding, as well as personal growth and development - through their service on MCC Governing Board; 3. Facilitating direct connection with the community by hearing from various stakeholder groups; 4. An opportunity for timely updates about current things happening in McLean.

Chair Le Menestrel introduced Amy Swaak, president of McLean Community Foundation. Ms. Swaak gave remarks about MCF's interests, what kinds of projects and organizations they support and how MCC can partner with MCF.

She wished George Sachs all the best. You are an "institution" in McLean and we are sad to see you leave. Welcome Daniel!
Background: McLean Community Association sold off land in 1978 to start funding a philanthropic arm of MCA. In 1980, the first Board (MCF) was put together. We were incorporated and gave out our first grant in 1981. It's a fascinating story: The Good Knights Templar in 1800's had land near Potomac School that they owned. The organization disbanded; but the land deed still remained in their name. Developers found that, if the original owners were not available, then the land had to be given to the community for its use. At that time, the only 'community' organization in existence was McLean Citizens Association (MCA). The lawyers contacted MCA and the land was bequeathed to MCA to start our endowment for McLean Community Foundation. It is an 11-person board. We give out grants two times a year (totaling about \$110,000 a year, according to a formula). MCF's mission is to fund tangible projects. At MCC, MCF was going to fund a kitchen project (but that hasn't come to fruition). MCF funded the gazebo in McLean Central Park; gave an ambulance to McLean Volunteer Fire Department. MCF really tries to seek useful projects; something that really benefits the McLean planning district. That is one of the biggest hurdles: the grantees must be McLean residents that they serve: non-profits; and those that service McLean, such as MPA, McLean Volunteer Fire Dept. We also have also contributed money to "Lift Me Up" in Great Falls (which also services McLean residents); Phoenix House (recovery center for teens in Arlington; MCF has been able to fund some of their projects which benefits residents in McLean); The "McLean Planning District" also includes the Falls Church-McLean Children's Center. April and October are MCF's two grant cycles.

2020 was very challenging due to COVID-19: usually we rejoice in giving \$110,000! Last year, the \$110,000 felt hollow as we were facing the pandemic and approaching our first grant cycle: April 1. MCF received many grant applications for playgrounds at the schools. MCA has given a lot of money to local PTA's for playgrounds, courtyard enhancements. In the pandemic, people were really hurting. It's not that we didn't want to fund the playgrounds... but at the time, it was challenging to know what to do. We formed an *Ad hoc* COVID-19 Committee and reached out to 20 different organizations. The good news was that most were doing OK due to private donations and grants from state and local govt. That was reassuring for us to hear. The most rewarding grant given last year was for a new organization, "McLean Cares" (based off "Reston Cares"): four faith-based communities started it. They purchase restaurant meals that are then given to individuals with food insecurity. MCF gave a \$15,000 grant – which was still purchasing something "tangible" [criteria]. We were able to help the local restaurants and also our local community residents. At the end of the year, MCF had given out \$110,000 – which puts us over \$1.8M total grants in 40 years! It felt really great!

Chair Le Menestrel pointed out that MCF funded the landscaping project at OFC (\$25K) and donated the vans.

Clarification by Mr. Sachs: MCF funded a bus for MCC in mid-1980's through mid-1990's. \$125,882 has been given to MCC over the years (which includes OFC) by McLean Community Foundation.

Regarding the question of how MCC could partner with MCF:

1. Make sure that, when you hear of a project in the community, that you inform MCF. We are accessible and able to give out money to certain projects.
2. Donate personally. Monies go a lot farther when we pull together.
3. We are always looking for qualified board members. Board terms end in May (in February we begin to designate new nominees). We are always willing to talk to a qualified candidate and re-approach them when there is an opening.

Clarification: McLean Community Foundation (MCF) is an arm of McLean Citizens Association (MCA).



Q & A: By “concrete projects” do you mean ‘durable’ things (buildings; materials), rather than events or one-time things?

We can sponsor an event; it is in our parameters to give a scholarship (such as to MPA ArtFest every year). We do have the capability of ‘sponsoring’; but our grant policy does specify a tangible item. S.H.A.R.E. typically receives \$2,000; but last year MCF gave \$25,000. MCF is able to give donations; but it cannot fund operating expenses and salaries. An exception was made a few years ago for ‘infrastructure’: Falls Church-McLean Children’s Center telephone system was going wireless; and they asked MCF to fund the new router system. That was very new to MCF at the time: Is this something that MCF could really provide (something web-based vs. something ‘tangible’)? That’s when MCF realized that the world was shifting to more virtual and they had to provide some flexibility... from brick-and-mortar vs. supporting a ‘soft’ project.

If we know someone who would like to become an MCF Board member or trustee, how do we bring that to your attention?

There is an application on MCF website that an individual can fill out and submit.

If one of us MCC Governing Board were interested in serving on your board, we would need to recuse ourselves if you were discussing an application to the MCC, correct? Yes. McLean is a small community and we have several members who overlap in several different organizations. That’s what happens: the individual just recuses themselves.

I see a lot of movement toward putting solar panels on various buildings. Fairfax County funds some of that. Would that be considered a ‘facility’ that MCF could fund through your granting process? Yes – as long as it is a 501(c)3, MCF can fund that type of project.

Comment by Chair Le Menestrel: We’re actually looking into a lot of sustainability projects for MCC; so, we may come back to you!

In our April grant cycle, there were a record number of grant requests; unfortunately, several were for operating expenses. That was challenging for MCF to have to turn those down (these organizations are facing tough times). Post-pandemic, we expect that those requests will go down and once again return to 100% of MCF’s mission of supporting more tangible items. Solar panels would be a great project that MCF would like to look at.

Being on Churchill Road PTA, it is a long process of deciding on a playground; getting that funding from MCF was just what we needed at that time. As a leader, what are the things you are looking for? For the grant applications that MCF have denied, is it because they didn’t know how to write a grant application... or is it because they didn’t know what MCF wanted to receive?

That’s an excellent question. MCF is a very friendly organization. We don’t ding an organization for a horribly-written grant. We look at the project... scope of project... number of residents that are helped by that grant, in relation to the amount of money they are asking for. If a grant is denied, it is because it doesn’t fall within our parameters. An organization that was very new (in Great Falls) approached last year and requested a large sum of money. It’s not that we don’t want to fund them. We asked them to come back in a year or two and let us look at them again. It was a viable project and fit within MCF parameters; it just was a substantial amount of money for a fledgling 501(c)3. If something is turned down, it is mostly due to the parameters – not due to the writing of the grant. We request the organization’s Form 990’s and a list of their Board of Directors. There are specific requirements that MCF asks for, along with the application. MCF is very friendly.

Would a pollinator garden be anything that MCF could support eventually?

Yes – MCF has supported gardening projects at different schools. About 20 years ago, MCF did greenhouses at Churchill Road Elementary. We also gave funding to Kent Gardens. Recently at Langley H.S. we did courtyard enhancements (pond area). Keep in mind that as long as it is something that will be sustainable, lasting (will be there for years) – that is the type of project MCF will want to look at.

Closing remarks by Amy Swaak: Thank you for having me. I look forward to meeting with Daniel Singh and working with him! We partner with MCC on McLean 5K (MCC does the logistics and MCF does the fund-raising and receives the benefit of that fund-raising). October 2 is the date for McLean 5K (an in-person event). Good Luck and Happy Retirement George!

CHAIR’S REPORT / EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

***Sponsorship Policy:**

This was initiated by George Sachs based on a sample that is used by FCPA and Reston CC (who have such policies). The Executive Committee has been reviewing and revising. Executive Director Daniel Singh also reviewed it. The purpose of the policy is to give more transparency and openness about criteria that we are using to assess sponsorships that MCC does



with other organizations. We would welcome everyone's brief comments tonight; or, you may send specific feedback to Chair Le Menestrel. The final document will have to be approved by the full MCC Governing Board – probably once the new 2021-2022 board is in place. But of course, we would welcome feedback and revisions from the current Board members. Fairfax County legal counsel will also review before it is finalized.

Comments now (or Board members may submit feedback in writing later):

Opinion expressed: The major change suggested was adding headings (for better understanding). Some parts of the FCPA policy are relevant to apply at MCC. We tried to combine the original policy from the county and add some other things from similar-type sponsorship documents. We want clarification: 1. 2. 3.... this is what it is... this is what you do... why you do it. Ideally, for anyone who is trying to seek a sponsorship, plain language is needed. Please review this document from that perspective: Is it easy to understand? Does something not make sense? If you don't quite get it in reading through, that's the kind of feedback we need. *DUE DATE for written comments: before the May 26 Board meeting.*

*First reading of MPA ArtFest2021 MOU:

The revised MPA ArtFest2021 MOU was distributed in advance for the Board to review. George Sachs will address the changes that were made.

Earth Day event – April 17:

Congratulations to George Sachs, Mike Fisher and all MCC staff for their planning and execution of the Earth Day event! People were so excited just to be out of their house and go to an event that was fun! With the DJ music, it was a great atmosphere. People want to see more of this. It was very well done. Thank you to MCC staff for all your hard work!

Comment by Vice-Chair Post: Ms. Zamora-Appel participated in the event by making recycled art (an amazing 14-foot whale using recyclables)! It was a fun project with my kids: that's the kind of things we want to do more of. The recycled art exhibit was well-executed; the staff did a wonderful job in the event. Traffic was never an issue: it was well-done by using the two parking lots and separating the vendor trucks. A lot of people made a point to come just to see the recycled art!

Comment by Chair Le Menestrel: This is an example of a really great and fun partnership with MPA.

Comment by Vice-Chair Post: Art initiatives are very well established and I'm thrilled that we were able to accomplish that with MPA. There are many projects to consider for next year; momentum is building. Logistics: there were some traffic issues; we can improve on that (two people almost got in a traffic accident out there). Otherwise, the event was fantastic!

Comment by Chair Le Menestrel: Finally, I would like to thank George Sachs for his dedicated service to the McLean Community Center and to the field of parks and recreation. I've had the chance to get to know George a lot better this year and the first word that comes to my mind when describing George is: servant-leader. We appreciate your leadership, especially during this past year which has been very difficult and challenging. I wish you the best in your retirement and I want to take this official opportunity to say that. So, thank you, George!

Other grateful comments: Thank you, George. Amazing! You're a great ambassador to our community.

Response from George Sachs: Thank you very much. I appreciate those comments. That's what this job is about. I have embraced it and enjoyed it; every moment – and every challenge that it brings. It is a constant challenge. I love it! It keeps me getting up every day and charging to the next challenge out there.

*Preserving OFC historical distinction and location:

Chair Le Menestrel sent the endorsement letter from the MCC Governing Board; no response back yet.

Comment by Carole Herrick: The McLean Historical Society sent a similar letter. Fairfax County History Commission also sent a letter. Others also sent letters to preserve OFC in the language of the CBC plan. Thank you for writing a good letter, Suzanne. *Comment by Chair Le Menestrel:* Paul Kohlenberger kindly drafted it; I just did a little editing. Thank you, Paul.

Public comment: *Clarification by Paul Kohlenberger:* The public hearing scheduled for tonight was deferred: OFC and log cabins were deferred. Commissioner Ulfelder has been unwell, so all Dranesville cases have been deferred: McLean CBC from April 28 deferred to May 26; Madeira School - from April 28 deferred to May 19. In the interim (thanks to unanimous support from this MCC Governing Board) we were able to convince all landowners

and the Chamber of Commerce representatives to the McLean Planning Committee to also support that position, along with several citizen members. The position came out 14-2 in favor of that language. Other people in the community are active and will work on this further.

Chair Le Menestrel: That is great news! Thanks, Paul, for your leadership on that.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT **remarks by Mr. Sachs*

Regarding MPA ArtFest MOU: In conversations with Daniel Singh and Lori Carbonneau, we have come to a great agreement now that addresses the challenges from the original MOU about the way the funding was accounted for. We were talking about a total sponsorship amount of \$25K – cash part and an in-kind part. The difficulty from the past way of showing it was trying to attach a dollar amount to the in-kind services (tables; chairs; extension cords; trash cans) – it was silly to try to add a hypothetical \$amount on those things. The only change to the MOU is the delineation of funding: of the \$25K sponsorship, 10% is to be recognized as an in-kind service. \$2,500 is the in-kind support that MCC gives to the MPA event. MPA receives \$22,500 in cash in sponsorship for the ArtFest event. That results in changes: instead of MCC contracting for porta-johns, tents, golf carts, dumpster service...MPA will negotiate their own contracts for those services. It helps MPA because as a county organization, MCC is restricted to purchasing through Fairfax County purchasing department and specific contracted vendors. But it is not always the best \$deal\$; whereas, 501c3 non-profits have more contacts and can get better deals. That is the proposed change.

ACTION ITEM: Daniel Singh is ready to propose this at the next meeting for his and Lori Carbonneau's signature, to go forward.

Internal Alignment:

- Dates have now been set for **American Red Cross Blood Drives** that will take place in MCC Community Hall: June 11th, August 19th, October 22nd, December 17th from 9am to 3pm.
- Special mention of MCC staff member Scott Bowen lending a helping hand (positive interaction with the public): Some things that go on in MCC daily are amazing human moments: staff members who step-up and go above-and-beyond the call of duty. That happens often; we have such great people here. Recently, a young girl in emotional distress approached the front desk one afternoon, asking about MCC building hours. Scott Bowen noted that she seemed disturbed. He gently asked if she needed a ride somewhere, or if there was someone we could call to pick her up. She announced that she had run away from home after a confrontation with her stepmother. Scott Bowen sat with her in the lobby and tried to sound her out a bit more. He explained that her stepmother was probably really worried about her and that she would have to go home eventually because MCC would be closing. After some kind encouragement, Scott Bowen was able to get the girl to agree to have a police officer come out and talk to her, and to lend a sympathetic ear. The young woman really had a tough time; she claimed that the stepmother had become verbally abusive and told her that "she wished she had never adopted her." The police officer on the phone asked to speak to her and talked to her for quite a while until another officer arrived on-scene. The police officer and girl sat out front and chatted for a while; then they both left in his cruiser. I wanted to share that as a is a heartfelt example of what can go on here – a moment of human need. The young girl is much better-off because of how it ended well.

Question: Thank you for sharing that with us. That makes it all worth it. Does the whole MCC staff have mental health training? What is the advice for when there are situations like that?

Those who have such training do show sensitivity when those moments occur. Not a formal training; but our OFC staff and many other staff are schoolteachers (in their other jobs) where they do receive that kind of training. It comes from within – knowing to do the right thing. We are lucky and fortunate that our staff act in those ways.

Comment by Chair Le Menestrel: Fairfax County does have mental health first aid training for staff and teachers. I don't know how often this happens but thank you for sharing, and I'm glad that it ended well.

Clarification by Mr. Sachs: NCS has put out resource information for all county employees. Scott Bowen knew the

protocol: to call the police because it involved a minor; they put a trained person on the phone with the youth. The outcome was that the police officer arrived and handled it from there.

Opinion expressed: That's fantastic. Just like CPR or first aid training: it is knowing what you need to do. Statistics and reports on mental health issues show that teens and everyone right now have these problems. It's fantastic that MCC staff did what they did. This is something maybe we should look into further.

Opinion expressed: As I listened to this story, I'm very impressed by the employee. But I also think there is a compliment to George Sachs by hiring this kind of people on MCC staff! It goes both ways: the immediate person and George's leadership to get us people like that. I want to compliment George on it, as well.

Comment by Mr. Sachs: Thank you – the real compliment goes to the staff. They are great people. Scott Bowen has been here the longest as a Recreation Aide (20 years or more – he was hired before 1990). Scott is also bilingual (Spanish) and he helps out in that way, when needed.

Opinion expressed: **Having the MCC Front Desk people training and having a list of available services is important. It's also important that Daniel Singh will keep up the synergy in the community that George Sachs has with the police department and the faith communities.** Having a relationship with the Police Chief at the McLean District is important - to keep those connections. I have been at church when people have come up to me, and I'm not always sure if I'm saying the right thing or doing the right things to help them. It's reassuring to have annual training so that I know what to say before it happens.

Comment by Mr. Sachs: Terri, thanks. **You are right- the connection with the stakeholders in the community (particularly the police) – the relationship has always been a common denominator: we are all here for the good of the community.** I just wanted to convey this to you all as an understanding of what goes on here at MCC.

- U.S. Marines help us at many MCC events; many live and work here in the local community. In appreciation for their volunteer service to the MCC on Earth Day, April 17, a letter was sent to their commanding officer (Col. William Bentley) on behalf of U.S. Marines: Gunnery Sergeant Derek Spoor; Lieutenant Col. Casey Ramos; Private First Class Jonathan Rodriguez; Sergeant Griffin Steele; Corporal Antonio Fairley, thanking them for their volunteer support at our Earth Day event on April 17th. Val Sheridan Comer, who coordinates our volunteers, made sure that the letters went to the commanding officer - to go into their individual files; such recognition is appreciated.
- Daniel Singh and I have been meeting regularly (beginning on April 12) and staff have been informed to now direct their emails, questions, approvals, and authorizations to Daniel. I feel overwhelmed with information that I want to convey. But in talking with Daniel, things are going to be fine! I will still communicate with him and remain available as a resource. Daniel also was able to attend his first monthly Fairfax County Director's meeting on Thursday, April 22, where I had the opportunity to introduce Daniel and welcome him to the senior staff team as my replacement. As I talk to people and the connections that I have, I'm letting everyone know that Daniel is here and on-site. I'm encouraging people to start getting to know him.
- I shared some parting thoughts with the staff: keep things positive, smile, do the important things, enjoy life and what you do. Continue with the passions – and always keep smiling!

External Alignment:

- **Spring Fest 2021** was held on March 27th with 55 families and a total number of 195 attendees. The bunny, chick and fairy were a hit with the kids, and we have lots of great photos!
- **Parent-Child Dance Re-imagined** in a silent disco dance format will be held in MCC parking lot from 7pm – 8:30pm on Fri. April 30th. Sold-out! 90 people expected (45 couples); each get their own headset for music. *Opinion expressed:* Thank you, Daniel, for putting the name of "Parent-Child" as the moniker. We have friends who don't have a father figure. So, calling it "Father-Daughter Dance" was not as inclusive. *Daniel noted that Mike Fisher made that change.* Thank you, Mike. That is part of being inclusive in the community.
- **Earth Day** was celebrated at MCC with a drive through recycling event; 170 cars took part in dropping-off their recyclable and reusable items.

- **Mission McLean app** has 50 teams signed up so far, with up to 10 participants on a team.
- There were **78 Classes** for the month of March with a total attendance of 249.
- In March, the **Old Firehouse** had 4 students still attending Learning Connection; 7 attended a trip to Skyzone & Movie, 9 attended trip to Dave & Busters, and 16 attended the Virtual Family Trivia Night.
- So far in April, Learning Connection has dropped down to 2 participants (reflecting the fact that schools are back in-person); 30 attended Virtual Family Bingo Night; 18 attended Family Fun Trivia Night. Coming up on April 30th is Friday Night Trip to Top Golf.

Financial Stewardship:

- Preparations are underway for yearend submittal to Fairfax County. Staff are closing-out all outstanding purchase orders and reconciling their department financials with Comptroller Karra (wrap-up of FY21). Comptroller Karra, George Sachs and Daniel Singh had a productive meeting to discuss the timeline of the annual budget process.

Opinions expressed: Thank you to George. Another trait that you have – you are not only about the work or the job, but also as a community member, you are a caring person. Mr. Sachs thanked Maria Foderaro-Guertin for her recent effort to pick-up the notebooks to give out to Carla, Suzanne and Barbara; it was good teamwork. Maria said that she will miss George!

PROGRAMS AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE *Chair Foderaro-Guertin gave a summary.

The Earth Day event went well – we had fun! Traffic was noticeable, so we will have to work on managing that.

McLean Day will also be a drive-thru format. *Mike Fisher shared the following updated information:*

TRAFFIC PATTERN: It will be a different from Earth Day, which was regulated and registered (limiting and knowing how many to expect). During the driving, people had to stop and offload things from their car. **Whereas... McLean Day – no stopping; it will be a constant slow crawl, and unregulated. We didn't want to limit the number of people who would be able to come into the event– keeping the 'all-inclusive' spirit of McLean Day.** Eight police officers will be out in the surrounding neighborhood to manage traffic. Agreement with Fairfax Co. P.D.: they will handle outside MCC; staff will take care of MCC property. We are glad to have their support, especially with several cruisers. The left turn from Route 123 to Ingleside will not be open; that will regulate the traffic flow as to how many sides people can approach from. The police are prepared: if one direction starts to get heavy, they will use their radio communication system to work it out and start closing roads in real-time to direct people to come around the other way. We have every confidence that they will manage traffic in the neighborhoods. It will be MCC staff's responsibility to keep everything flowing inside the drive-thru route in parking lot.

FEATURED ELEMENTS: walking globe jugglers; unicyclists; aerialists (silk and metal); stilt walking; costumed characters; cotton candy giveaways (to first 250 attendees); MCC swag bags (similar to McLean 5K) – which include some promotional items from local businesses. "Mission McLean" app directs people to local businesses (we are pushing out their marketing information). Squeels-on-Wheels (farm animal safari); DJ and magician. Acts are planned in such a way as to have two performers at each location (so they can take breaks) –no lull at any point all day. Always activity and something on display!

VOTING: People will be constantly moving forward in their car. Our in-depth discussion today will focus on: 1. Ballot pick-up as people come in. 2. Ballot box near exit at Ingleside (at the corner); 3. Parking for voting on Ingleside Avenue (near ballot box). Two board members will be stationed there to assist with any questions.

Question: Will there be signage to indicate where to vote? Signage was overlooked on Earth Day and we perhaps could have gotten more votes had there been a sign indicating where people could pick up a ballot.

At Earth Day, we had an individual engaging every car that came in, including asking them if they wished to vote. That was part of the welcoming remarks for each arriving car – to be informed that voting was an option. Yes – we will have signage at McLean Day, including candidate statement signs (picture; name; 144-character Tweet). All candidates will have an individual poster representation.

Public Hearing on FY23 Programs: Survey responses - we received some, but not as many as we would have liked. There was a glitch in the electronic distribution; it will be fixed in the future.

Opinions expressed: I posted it in NextDoor and we tried many different times –the link was not working. The same thing happened last year when I tried to respond to a survey. **It is an ongoing issue –a BIG missed opportunity. There were people who were very interested in participating but were unable to. After they had such trouble, they didn’t want to give their input anymore. Can we figure out why that error message happened (when people had not actually filled out the survey)?** *Others had this same issue: Sabrina Anwah did check the links.*

Clarification by Ms. Anwah: I called Constant Contact – they confirmed that we had set it up correctly. It was indeed “open for responses.” It should have been an open response rate; it is unclear what the problem was. Constant Contact verified that it was set-up correctly and was working. It would have been better to have directed respondents to the home page so that they could link from the home page. Whenever we sent a link straight from the home page we didn’t get that problem. *Daniel Singh wants to make sure it works in the future; he will look at it.*

Free and low-cost programs: Thanks to Melanie Sletten - moving forward on trying to get more activities that are FREE to the community or at very low-cost. We appreciate her efforts because it is great to offer more access to more people.

Comment by Ms. Sletten: I learned that the board in previous years stipulated that programs should make a 25% profit. Is that correct?

Clarification by Mr. Fisher: Yes, that was the understanding that I was given: classes specifically are expected to achieve 25%

Clarification by Mr. Sachs: Years ago, that was set as part of the revenue budget: 75% of MCC revenue is to be from tax revenue and 25% from MCC’s program funds, including theatre, rentals and classes.

Opinion expressed by Ms. Sletten: I would like to revisit that percentage at a future board meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Chair Le Menestrel said this would be a discussion for Finance Committee to take a look at that and make some recommendation to the full board.

Clarification by Treasurer Zamora-Appel: Absolutely. Finance Committee hasn’t met recently; but we have talked about this because **the COVID-19 pandemic having changed how MCC does business and how so much has been offered without charge. Perhaps part of that model can continue forward; and not necessarily impacting that 25%. We do need to look at that because the rules and regulations we are following are rather outdated and so much has happened since then. We need to look into the Fairfax Co. code and see how we can apply it to this situation.**

Program Guide: *Comment by Chair Foderaro-Guertin:* The longest part of the discussion was about the Program Guide. Here is my personal experience that I want to mention:

We received the Summer Guide at home and it was lying around. My daughter happened to pick it up; and now she wants to do some fencing! I know about the digital world and that everyone likes to do things on the app.

Somehow, **I don’t think my daughter would have taken the time to go into the app to look at the classes. I know how my kids work: it’s got to be right there in front of their eyes in order to get their attention. The other one was the really cool comic book-type catalog – my kids were going through it like crazy! I know it seems like a lot of paper going out. But what I do know is that it is 18,000 households that are actually touching and opening the catalog.** I like Sarah Schallern Treff’s idea of a compromise: Alden Theatre sending a postcard and directing people to a link. But I just don’t see my daughter having done that. So now, in the second week of July, we are going to put her into the fencing class.

Similar Comment by Ms. Herrick: My sister-in-law lives with us. **The Program Guide came in the mail and she sat down for an hour and went through it page by page! She was pleased and delighted to see many things. She wouldn’t have done that online, but she read every single page!** Thank you.

Comment by Chair Le Menestrel: I think this is an ongoing discussion. I’m looking forward to having Daniel Singh’s and Sabrina Anwah’s leadership to think about creative ways to adjust. **To me – on the other hand, I see the cool Program Guide...then I put it into recycling and later go on the website and look up what I want to look up. So, there are many different learning styles and a lot of different ways that people access information and technology.**



ACTION ITEM: We don't have the data to know exactly what the needs of the community are. We've talked about re-visiting doing a representative survey of the community. Exec. Director Singh and PIO Sabrina Anwah need to work with the Programs & Outreach Committee on this.

Additional point about updating MCC's public signage: *Opinion expressed:* The signage on Route 123 still mentions the MLK event from February. Can we update that? It also says "Earth Day." When I see something that is two months old, it looks like we don't have our act together. I just wanted to point that out.

CAPITAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE *Chair Post gave a summary.

A lot of the efforts that we're trying to do as part of our Capital Facilities Committee is about sustainability. There is a happy medium; but we have to put sustainability embedded into everything MCC does. Otherwise, we're going to be in a bad place. This is a serious issue. CFC discussed updates on the following projects:

*Joe McGovern, George Sachs, and Jennifer Garrett talked about the Green Room renovation and back hallway projects which are imminent; stage floor replacement; sound work... a lot of great stuff is being done, taking advantage of the fact that the facility is not in normal usage.

*Sustainability and solar panel initiatives (through Fairfax Co.). Joe McGovern and George Sachs met with Sigora (solar panel vendor working with Fairfax County); MCC is "in the queue." It is slow-going; but exciting because it's important. Renewables are huge

*Pollinator Garden ("pollinator pathway"): Melanie Sletten is a master gardener; she has been helping out with this effort. We meet tomorrow with Daniel Singh and a local horticultural expert to talk about placement. A key point is that it's not just about encouraging pollinator species but also to get the community involved (as a teaching and learning tool) and getting the community to help us. We met with a vendor (landscape designer Lindley Ogilvie); she is fantastic and will give us a great proposal. We will get competitive bids. I'm excited about moving forward on that!

*EV charging stations in MCC parking lot: progress on that is also moving forward.

*Resiliency Award: Vice-Chair Post mentioned how hard this year has been. **For everyone's consideration, she brought up the idea of some sort of inspiration (display) for our community – "resiliency award". Something to show how, as a community, we got through this tough year: it was hard, and it's still going to be a struggle; but this would show who we are as McLean.** Ideas: a mural... friendship garden (Japanese or Asian garden) – some artwork that would embody the idea that we got through this [COVID-19] as a community. Sarah Schallern Treff is interested in the idea of a mural to reflect people in McLean history who aren't represented (equity). Perhaps there are other ideas or visions of how we want to make MCC look like "it's the place to be;" if so, let us know,

*Back plaza patio area: CFC also discussed how, when you drive up to MCC from the back side, the back plaza of MCC is not inviting – it is stark. George Sachs suggested a photo of a lovely tent/cover and possibly outdoor games (bocci ball) or market umbrellas out there... something to encourage people to come inside, linger and enjoy. This is something we're thinking about and if anyone has any ideas or thoughts... please communicate to Carla Post

*Ramp to MPA Gallery: *Opinion expressed:* I recently went up the ramp to the McLean Art Society exhibits. When my kids were little, local artists had artwork with price tags displayed. We would look at all the pictures on that ramp. If we could put something up... there are local teens who have amazing artwork. It is a great space to offer rotating exhibits. Maybe place a mural on the ramp. That ramp is so stark now compared to what it was in previous years.

Clarification by Mr. Sachs: What happened is: during the renovation, things changed. **According to Fire Marshall regulations, the ramp area is no longer allowable for such displays. It is also difficult for MPA installers because of the odd shape and angled construction. Now, it's an issue that the fire codes do not allow it. A static mural or painting that would stay there all the time may be different. But the individual hanging of artwork was the objection from the Fire Marshall.**

Comment by MPA: MPA did have some wonderful exhibitions in that ramp. We were sad about the Fire Marshall decision; but it is understandable. It would be great to talk about what we could do as a permanent installation that would be



approved (such as a mural). That would be wonderful. I can mention to Lori Carbonneau that you are interested in talking about it, to start this discussion. *Comment by Vice-Chair Post:* She has already talked to Lori Carbonneau about a mural. *Comment by MPA:* We would love to figure something out because that space is really interesting and it is a great gateway up to the galleries. It is a shame to have it be dark and stark.

ACTION ITEM: *Comment from Chair Le Menestrel:* If people have ideas along these lines, send to Carla Post, Holly Novak, Daniel Singh and George Sachs.

FINANCE COMMITTEE *Treasurer Zamora-Appel gave the following comment.

Finance Committee did not meet in April because there were no current business matters to discuss.

ELECTIONS & NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE *Chair Markwart gave a summary.

Progress on # of ballots given out in the community TO-DATE: We have **given out 563 Adult ballots and 199 Youth** ballots. Most requests have come from the online link; about 1/3 as many ballot requests are walk-ins and phone requests.

League of Women Voters came in on Thursday, April 22 to process the Affidavits/ballots that had been turned in thus far. LWV went through the Affidavits to verify the individual is a Small District 1A-Dranesville resident; and separated the ballots. The ballots were put into a lockbox for counting on May 15.

The **number of ballots returned by April 22: 169 Adult/40 Youth.** Nine youth ballots were disqualified because the students did not live in Small District 1A-Dranesville. That seems to be a recurring issue, so maybe we need to emphasize that more. One Youth ballot was disqualified because it was actually an adult trying to vote for youth candidates (birthdate was 1967!). **All ballots will be counted by the League of Women Voters after 5 p.m. on May 15, 2021.** League of Women Voters team will certify the affidavits first; and then count the total ballots.

Write-in candidate: So that everyone is aware (a rule in ENC Procedures): A write-in candidate may run in this election-but they must receive at least 10 votes in order to be counted. We were approached by someone who was interested and asked questions about how to run as a write-in candidate. That is a possibility - someone who has not been listed as a candidate could hypothetically run a “write-in” campaign and win.

“Too close to call” provision: 3rd and 4th adult position/ 1st and 2nd youth position (for each school): if fewer than 3 or fewer votes separating them, there will be an automatic recount. There is nothing in ENC policies about a candidate (or someone from the public) asking for a re-count. We want to make sure everyone is clear on the rules in case someone asks you: “What if it’s close...?” or... “I heard this...” That’s what the rules say. If something were to ever come up, then we would have to deal with it. But there is no provision for a candidate to ask for a recount.

McLean Day – voting will be from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thank you to those who have signed-up to help. We do need more people from 1:45 to 5 p.m. Tyler Jensen and Ivy Chen cannot volunteer on McLean Day because they are running again as youth candidates. Chair Le Menestrel offered to help; she will register on the Sign-up Genius. Chair Markwart thanked MCC staff - Mike Fisher and Catherine Nesbitt for all their help. She recognized Melanie Sletten, Maria Foderaro-Guertin, Suzanne Le Menestrel, Carla Post and Carole Herrick – and thanked them for coming in to help with Earth Day.

Election of 2021-2022 Executive Committee – “Call for Nominations”:

We will be electing the 2021-2022 officers at the May 26 Regular Meeting (which will be after the election on May 15, 2021), and those who are elected that day (May 15) may also run for the officer positions. Per the ENC Policies and Procedures, ENC Chair Markwart is to call for nominations (either by others, or by self-nomination) if they are interested in running for a position on the Executive Committee.

That being said, there is no time frame written into the policy of when this “call for nominations” has to be done. So I will just say that because that’s not in there, and because it was a change for this year... and since those who are running now for

election may also put their names forward... I would suggest a May 20 deadline makes sense. That is five days after the election concludes, and a week before the next Board meeting [on May 26]. No pressure tonight on anyone. But I just technically need to make that announcement here this evening, for those wanting to run for the Executive Committee positions for next year.

BACKGROUND: This year, the current Board will select the Executive Committee of the upcoming 2021-2022 Governing Board. This decision (as of June 2020) represents a departure from previous years in the way the Executive Committee is annually chosen. The reason for this new approach is to reduce discomfort and awkwardness of an entirely new Board having to suddenly vote to select officers among people whom they do not know or have a personal relationship with. The current Board has experience of working together collaboratively. They understand the challenges and process of Governing Board matters. The current Board can convey their wisdom and understanding to the forthcoming Board by selecting capable leaders.

- All current Board members who are continuing their 3-year term of service are eligible to run for the officer positions. They will so state their intention when the “Call for Officers” is given on May 26.
- All newly elected adult and youth Board members (as of McLean Day, May 15, 2021) are also eligible to run for these positions. They will also be able to so state their intention at the May 26, 2021 meeting where they will be in attendance.

Clarification: On May 26, 2021, the newly elected people may step forward to run for a position, but they do not vote in the officer election because they will not have yet been sworn-in (Pledge Ceremony takes place on June 2, 2021).

**instructions:* Send your statement of interest to ENC Chair Markwart. She will send out a reminder e-mail closer to the May 20 date (after the election) to current Board members and those who have been elected, to explain the process and the timeline.

Chair Le Menestrel thanked Ms. Markwart for all the hard work involved in the ENC, especially at this time of year.

OLD / NEW BUSINESS *Such discussion is permitted in the context of COVID-19 emergency.

Comment by Chair Le Menestrel: Thinking ahead, I have one item –as to when we want to return back to meeting in-person as a Governing Board. Vaccines are now freely and widely available. Are there any revised Fairfax County government guidelines about in-person meetings?

Clarification by Mr. Sachs: The only thing still in effect is the required social distancing at 6-feet, which limits the number of people in a room. There will likely be adjustments to that distance in the future; schools are already adjusted to 3-feet as appropriate social distancing. We will have to wait-and-see until the distancing numbers change for indoors. MCC Community Hall could accommodate our Governing Board. We would be exactly at capacity in the McLean Room (12 people only); but there would be 15 people with staff attending a Board meeting – so that is not the correct room space. Community Hall could certainly be set-up for an in-person Board meeting.

Comment by Vice-Chair Post: I think flexibility, both for the staff and Board, should be maintained. We should move forward with the ability to meet in a ‘hybrid’ situation: those who wish to attend in person can... but those who wish to remain virtual can – we should have the technology in place to allow that, and to allow more flexibility. I think everyone (most workplaces)... most everything is going that way. So, I’d like us all to really consider that.

Comment by Chair Le Menestrel: Yes – at my work at the National Academy of Sciences, we are going hybrid in July.

Opinion expressed: First, I absolutely agree on the hybrid thing. I’m 76 years old. I’ve been vaccinated; but, I’d really like to have everyone meet together if at all possible. Clearly the ‘hybrid’ route is the way to go. I’m not sure why a particular room inside the building is essential: there is a lovely outside courtyard. They are changing the rules on who can get together – MCC Board could meet out there with a fold-up table and adequate lighting. I think there are lots of options here.

Comment by Chair Le Menestrel: I want to do whatever people feel comfortable doing; I’m not going try to push us back into the MCC building. I do like the “hybrid” approach, which would necessitate having a screen and the technology... and all that set-up. But I do like that option; maybe Daniel Singh and I can talk off-line about this. It is something we are going to have to plan for, whatever happens.

“Emergency Meeting Status” is a legal framework by Fairfax County for structuring public meetings during COVID-19:

Clarification by Mr. Sachs: I will mention just as a reminder: ‘hybrid’ arrangement *may not* be an option. It certainly is now; but if the “Emergency Meeting Status” is lifted by Fairfax County, that will not be an option for public meetings.

Comment by Chair Le Menestrel: What won’t be an option? *Comment by Mr. Sachs:* “Hybrid” arrangements.

Comment by Chair Le Menestrel: Oh, really? Hmm. I guess that is out of our control, then.

Question by Vice-Chair Post: *If the status is lifted, you CANNOT [meet ‘hybridly’]? Is that what you said?*

Comment by Mr. Sachs: Yes. *Comment by Vice-Chair Post:* They may change that; I’d be surprised...

Clarification by Mr. Sachs: **MCC Board meetings are public meetings. That is what it is. It will be re-visited/revised for the entire county. As it is and as it stands, public meetings have to be public.**

Continued hesitation about meeting in-person: *Opinion expressed:* A lot of us are ready or have gotten at least one vaccine or two; but we cannot assume that everyone will get vaccinated. That’s part of the risk of thinking about being in a room right now. In my federal government job, we’re not going back into the office – at least not in the near future. The idea of ‘hybrid’ meetings is in place. Because nobody had planned for this [pandemic]... the rules [about meetings] may change. For the Board, I would exercise caution to jump at the first opportunity to go back in-person. I don’t think we’re going to be asking people: “Are you vaccinated? Are you vaccinated?” “Can I sit next to you?” “Can I remove my mask?” Everyone has their own priorities. **For now, if we can continue this way [virtually on ZOOM] it works. Some of us met for the very first time at Earth Day (April 17) and that was amazing! It would be great to see each other more; but right now, there are too many unknowns.** At schools, kids are little and there are different rules for their size and age (that’s why the spacing has been reduced). As mentioned, the inner courtyard has been in a lot of conversations about usage. If we could access that at some point, that would be good: outdoors; we have technology there... Wifi all around. So, having the ability to be on the computer to connect in a hybrid meeting should not be a big deal.

Further clarification by Mr. Sachs: **Please understand that the policy is not an MCC policy – it is Fairfax County [legal authority]; we don’t control it. As the Committee chair reads the opening statement [at the beginning of each meeting] it says: in order for us to have these virtual meetings currently, that’s what it’s all about. The [virtual] public meetings are governed by the opening statement. When-and-if that would ever change, there is not going to be an option for a hybrid. I think it will be a long time before the emergency meeting provision is lifted. Even teleworking is different in how it is being looked at and reviewed. Daniel Singh will be working with the county. There is a report to give to the county about our current staffing and MCC workforce, in terms of teleworking.**

Chair Le Menestrel transitioned to Executive Director Daniel Singh to give some concluding remarks:

Thank you, Suzanne. I wanted to take a moment to thank George – as I came in, for anything I had a question on, he already had a packet, notes put together - prepared clearly and thoughtfully. He has introduced me to several resources in the county and community leaders. Most generously, George has offered to let me call him any time I need to contact him while he is on retirement! So, he’s *not quite* retiring just yet! I just wanted to thank George for that. I also hope to meet with all the board members one-on-one, if I can, including exit interviews with the outgoing board members. I think exit interviews are really important to get your feedback on what is valuable and what we could improve on. The MCC staff have really made this a joy. I’m working with PIO Sabrina Anwah on creating a press release. Not just being about my appointment but, rather, what we are doing to get MCC open again. Each department is thinking about exciting ideas to kind of ‘launch’ us, so that it’s not just about an appointment, but about what MCC is going to be doing in the next 90 days, or so. We will share DRAFTs as we get information together. But mostly, I just want to thank George for making this so easy for me and for being such a wonderful colleague.

Comment by Mr. Sachs: Thank you. “Easy” is not the word I would use! I wish you all well. You have a great selection in Daniel Singh. I couldn’t be happier to have Daniel in the leadership role here for the future of MCC and McLean.

ADJOURNMENT Nothing else was mentioned as a topic for discussion this evening. There being no further business, Chair Le Menestrel adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

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