



**2021-2022 MCC Governing Board  
Regular Meeting  
May 25, 2022 6:30 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**Board Members present:** Barbara Zamora-Appel; Lisa Mariam; Bill Glikbarg; Rasheq Rahman; Carla Post; Melanie Sletten; Maria Foderaro-Guertin; Shivani Saboo; Suzanne Le Menestrel; Ivy Chen

**Board Members absent:** Max Blacksten

**MCC Staff present:** Daniel Singh, Executive Director; Holly Novak, Executive Assistant; Ashok Karra, Comptroller

**Guests:** Camila Alfonzo Mesa (Supervisor Foust’s office); Lori Carbonneau (MPA); Anna Bartosiewicz; Nancy Sausser (MPA); Paul Kohlenberger; Catherine Trauernicht; Kristina Groennings; Suzanne Groennings; Melissa Sporn; Nancy Fatimi; Fariborz Fatimi

**CONVENE MEETING**

Chair Zamora-Appel convened a Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of the McLean Community Center on May 25, 2022, at 6:31 p.m. This meeting was open to the public attending in-person and was tape-recorded. The required courtesy verbal announcement about audio recording was duly-stated by the Chair. The audio recording will be made available to the public once Minutes are approved on June 8, 2022.

Chair Zamora-Appel called for a moment of silence to honor children and teachers who lost their lives this week in a mass shooting in Uvalde, Texas.

**ADOPT AGENDA** No changes were requested to the proposed Agenda; it was adopted by acclamation.

**APPROVE MINUTES**

Minutes of April 20, 2022, Meeting-of-the-Whole were reviewed. No changes were requested; accepted as written.

MOTION: To approve Minutes of April 20, 2022, Meeting-of-the-Whole.

**Approved by a vote of 9:**

Barbara Zamora-Appel; Lisa Mariam; Bill Glikbarg; Carla Post; Melanie Sletten; Rasheq Rahman; Maria Foderaro-Guertin; Shivani Saboo, Suzanne Le Menestrel – all voting “AYE.”

Ivy Chen and Max Blacksten were absent during this vote.

Minutes of April 27, 2022, Regular Meeting were reviewed. No changes were requested; accepted as written.

MOTION: To approve Minutes of April 27, 2022, Regular Meeting.

**Approved by a vote of 9:**

Barbara Zamora-Appel; Lisa Mariam; Bill Glikbarg; Suzanne Le Menestrel; Melanie Sletten; Rasheq Rahman; Maria Foderaro-Guertin; Shivani Saboo; Carla Post – all voting “AYE.”

Ivy Chen and Max Blacksten were absent during this vote.

Minutes of May 4, 2022, Special Called Meeting were reviewed. No changes were requested; accepted as written.



MOTION: To approve Minutes of May 4, 2022, Special Called Meeting.

**Approved by a vote of 9:**

Barbara Zamora-Appel; Lisa Mariam; Bill Glikbarg; Suzanne Le Menestrel; Melanie Sletten; Rasheq Rahman; Maria Foderaro-Guertin; Shivani Saboo; Carla Post – all voting “AYE.”

Ivy Chen and Max Blacksten were absent during this vote.

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

\*McLean Day: we had approximately 2,200 on Friday night enjoying the carnival rides and 6,200 on Saturday. This was lower than prior years due to the hot weather. Yet, post COVID-19, it was a huge success! Kudos to Catherine Nesbitt and Mike Fisher, with all they had to do!

June 4 is Robert Alden’s memorial service – 2:00 pm. at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church. Board is encouraged to attend.

American flags displayed on MCC grounds and at OFC is in partnership with Rotary and local American Legion Post 270.

Upcoming events: Bassem Yousef is a satirist – he is a heart surgeon and became famous using art for leadership and cultural change. Summer concerts start on June 19: Alphabet Rockers & Garba dance troupe will return.

Pride month: concert; exterior lights; partnership with Dolley Madison Library for a book release by Alphabet Rockers.

#### Acknowledgement of Holly Novak receiving 2022 Sharon Bulova Award for Administrative Excellence:

In February, while walking into the office one day, I noticed Holly was outside picking up trash in the parking lot. We were short-staffed; it needed to be done and she did the necessary task. I realized her commitment to the agency. In April, Holly was recognized by Fairfax County as one of five people out of 40 nominated for the Sharon Bulova Administrative Excellence Award. Congratulations to Holly on this meaningful achievement!

### UPDATE: STRATEGIC PLAN

*\*Michele Walter explained current status of the strategic plan, with recent board input.*

We have received excellent feedback. Thank you to the board for collating the responses into one document. Request by Supervisor Foust and Deputy County Executive Chris Leonard to coordinate the MCC strategic plan with Fairfax County. MCC’s strategic plan is aligned **with Fairfax County**.

**Majority of changes were giving rationale and context. Goal language was not changed at all. A couple of strategies were amended slightly.** No changes to the goals.

**Metrics – there was a request for more focused metrics.** Currently there are 64. Do we really need 64 metrics – and how frequently will we be evaluating them? **Technology and reporting go together. Implementation will need to be addressed very early on. Report to the board at agreed-upon intervals; and not add so much burden that there is no time to get things done.** Early focus –maintain the commitment that has been made to transparency and evaluation. Appendixes are 350 pages! . AMS has facilitated 14 different touch points that were open to the public through Special Called meetings; Regular board meetings; a survey and another forthcoming survey. All presentations are on MCC website as a report.

#### Q & A:

*Question: On the 64 metrics – there will be a further winnowing. Instead of dumping them all on the staff in year 1, is it possible to prioritize: 20 in year 1? 20 in year 2? Is that a part of the process? And will the next iteration of public comment be an opportunity for people to respond?*

*Response by AMS: The next appendix to the plan is all public comment: What was incorporated? What was not incorporated? Why not? **The public will see that they were heard and what changes were made.** We have the plan and we want to make it public and move into implementation. You all have one week to review and give additional feedback to influence FY24 budget. Board input by June 3 and will get posted immediately with a link to a survey. July 6 public hearing and AMS*



to incorporate all feedback. Public's feedback and on July 13 and a discussion with the board. We all agree we are going to do this.

*Question: To be mindful of costs and time, please review what steps remain, what steps were part of the original scope and what was added?*

**Regarding costs:** Involving the entire board has made it more iterative which has resulted in more time and work. This last round of meetings were not in the original scope. Public hearing and no additional board meeting were in the scope, nor tonight's meeting.

*Question: Were the McLean Day [posters & public feedback] in the budget – but it got cancelled?*

AMS did all the preparation but it didn't get used.

*Question: I wonder if July 6 is a good day to get public input; that is a holiday week. The budgeting process is a 2-or 3-month process.*

**Opinion expressed by Board Chair Zamora-Appel:** We should not be rushing. We must have community input. And we must be conscious about how costly this effort has become. An incoming board has not been part of the discussion; it's a quick turnaround. Let's approve a timeline; it's important for us to have our voice in this document. We gave feedback on the first draft; another opportunity is needed. There was a request to add pictures. Could we do that here at MCC – or what is best approach? We don't want AMS to do additional work before we know what that additional work is.

**Clarification by AMS:** It is branded as an MCC plan. MCC will handle the brochure-making; it can be electronic with links for the public to view. **The major concern is prioritization: we all agree that we are working in a strategic direction together but we have not yet gone through any prioritization. We are seeking public input - which may not be reflective of the priorities of the board.** I understand concerns about Fourth of July holiday week. That board meeting must be a workshop to incorporate public input and decide how much it is going to inform the plan. I'm curious as to why we need a July 13 meeting after we have the July 6 public hearing. Assuming not a change of direction, the July 6 meeting will be a public hearing. Proposed timeline: July 6 – Public hearing

July 13 – discussion with new board members – already included in \$6K additional fee

July 27 – Regular Meeting (vote on the strategic plan)

**ACTION ITEM:** Executive Director Singh will work with Michele Walter to list these new forward dates.

*Question: Regarding approving the additional \$6K – is that something we must do now? Or until we have the final timeline?*

Chair Zamora-Appel stated that the board would rather have the projected timeline first before approving the expenses.

*Michele Walter concluded by thanking the board for their thoughtful feedback. She appreciates this level of engagement.*

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Zamora-Appel welcomed the newly-elected board members: Anna Bartosiewicz, Kristina Groennings, Ari Ghasemian; Charlotte Loving representing Langley High School and Sarah Tran representing McLean High School.

McLean Day – some board members were away on that weekend celebrating their children's graduations. Chair Zamora-Appel attended the entire McLean Day. She was impressed with how staff was smiling consistently while interacting with the public. It was a well-planned event. The election went very smoothly. Congratulations on that.

Regarding committee reports: Chair Zamora-Appel asked each committee chair to explain the three top things they would like to recommend for the future board.

**COMMITTEES: END-OF-TERM REPORTS** \*Respective committee Chairs summarized topics focused on during this board term.

**Remarks by ENC Chair Foderaro-Guertin:**

Three top successes: 1. postcards calling for candidates & encouraging residents to vote. 2. introduced diagrams of MCC locations and events so as to advise candidates where to stand for campaigning presence. 3. Because of amount of attention and advertising, we had an unprecedented turnout of voters. League of Women Voters has been assisting MCC with vote-counting since 1990's. They were able to increase the number of tellers to process this year's high vote count.



Recommendations: We must be more cognizant about the word “election” and how it is used in reference to MCC Governing Board. The MOU states that the election does not fall under any election laws of Virginia; that must be explained to the public. Candidate orientation should focus on their campaigning guidelines. There weren’t any big issues, but it put everyone on edge. Also, the candidates should only contact the ENC chair – not to pass things through other busy board members. The only POC should be the ENC Chair, who has the support of the staff in terms of being able to respond.

*Additional recommendations are listed in ENC Minutes of May 11, 2022.*

Remarks by CFC Chair Post:

Minutes from the May 11 meeting are not yet approved. What went well this year: many of the major repairs were handled efficiently. MCC staff was very efficient in presenting what needs to be upgraded. There are outstanding issues with water drainage remediation. Recommendations: still to be worked out - EV charging stations; sustainability planning going forward needs to be shepherded by someone else on the committee. Chair Post hopes someone on MCC staff takes charge and does research needed to connect with Fairfax Co. initiatives so MCC can be a beacon of sustainability. HVAC unit work is awaiting the units to arrive. Construction meetings went well; we reconnected with the architect at the last meeting. We are still waiting on the DRAFT letter that is being reviewed by the county attorneys; it may be ready before June 8.

Remarks by Programs & Outreach Committee Chair Le Menestrel:

This was a transition year for Programs & Outreach Committee: we spent a lot of time considering whether this same committee should continue in the future. We were put in a ‘holding pattern’ to understand strategic goals and how programming fits into the goals. “Ambassador” committee is a possible newly-defined committee. We will leave that decision to the next board.

Recommendations: Members of the committee request more interaction with senior staff. Evaluate whether a program should be maintained or continued; that would be something MCC staff should look at. Look at how these criteria are developed and how to implement.

Remarks by 50<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Chair Mariam:

There were a lot of great discussions with ideas; and we are in the process of forming a broader community-based committee. Some members of the community have volunteered. We will be doing outreach with them in the next month to seek out additional members and to move forward on tasks.

Remarks by Treasurer Saboo (Finance Committee):

Comptroller Karra will explain the Fund statement. The increase in Operating expenses is: \$230K - due to the following:

Strategic Planning consultants: \$62K

Website development: \$66K

Traveling While Black: \$46K (MCC received \$30K in grants to pay back for this)

Temp services: \$20K

Dead trees, stump and shrub removal: \$36K (it hadn’t been done for three years during COVID-19 pandemic.

Even with the increase in Operating costs, MCC is still in good shape. The cost over-run is not from Programs – it is from Operations. The budget is balanced but MCC is still in a surplus.

Recommendations: As for proposed improvements, the process for the Finance Committee is well structured so there are no suggested improvements.

**ACKNOWLEDGING YOUTH BOARD MEMBERS’ ACHIEVEMENTS**

Ivy Chen is graduating from Langley High School and will enter Stanford University in the fall. Congratulations to Ivy! Ivy has served capably for two years on the MCC Governing Board. We appreciate her creativity and contribution of excellent ideas and insights into the needs of our community. Both Ivy and Max received the “Outstanding Character Award for Teenagers” given annually by the McLean Citizens Association. Through their excellent ideas for incorporating youth



interests into MCC programming, and their time spent in collaborating with MCC staff about programs and positive goals for the future, we applaud Ivy and Max. They both exhibit outstanding leadership qualities! Tonight, we are celebrating with Ivy by presenting her framed certificate and a keepsake of the actual award application that was submitted to MCA by Executive Director Singh on April 15, 2022, which officially placed Ivy Chen into nomination for this significant award.

Max Blacksten is absent tonight because he is practicing with his crew team for upcoming national championships in rowing! We will acknowledge Max's outstanding service on the MCC Governing Board at the June 8 meeting by presenting his framed certificate and award application keepsake. Congratulations to both Ivy and Max for their amazing contributions on the board during this past year in service to Small District 1A-Dranesville residents. We wish them every happiness and success in their next steps of higher education and look forward in hope to a bright future ahead!

**EXPLANATION OF PROPOSED TIMELINE FOR FY2024 BUDGET PREPARATION** \*Fairfax Co. guidelines for budget prep. Each department meets with Comptroller Karra to define their year, also looking at county revenues. We are trying to preserve room for pop-up events. We usually present it to Programs Committee in August; since the committee definitions are evolving, it is unsure which committee will look at it. Finance Committee reviews and makes adjustments. Anything we want to include about the strategic plan must feed into this sequence: What is it going to affect in the budget? If there are certain ideas about FY24, what numbers are associated with it? FY24 numbers must be finalized before September 7. Program Managers come up with their numbers based on the *current* year. If the strategic plan has *new* ideas to be implemented in FY24 budget, those changes must be incorporated before it goes to the public.

Balancing board concerns & requests with staff input to the budget:

*Question: When does the board get involved in that? My concern is that the staff is making their proposals. Because that 8/31 meeting is a public meeting – we may have to work through on our side to make sure we understand everything.*

*Clarification by Comptroller Karra:* In July, the staff works on it; the Finance Committee looks at it in August. I finish it on August 19; then I have time to adjust everything because we must incorporate benefits and salaries based on FY22. The board looks at the Fund statement – if you want to drill down on it, you will receive explanations on where the revenue is coming from. We have never had a situation where the Fund statement has been questioned by the board.

*Comment by Treasurer Saboo:* I think it is good to keep the board review at a strategic level. Wednesday, August 31 will be the first Finance Committee meeting.

*Comment by Chair Zamora-Appel:* It's procedures of the county but it sounds very late for the Finance Committee to see this between August 31 and September 7. It's a very detailed budget and last year we had issues and priorities.

*Clarification by Comptroller Karra:* You have a week to think about it. I can always make the changes.

*Question: If you are getting the strategic plan for the board on July 13, what can the board do?*

*Comment by Chair Zamora-Appel:* I want to clarify something, we have built metrics into the plan and we have to start connecting it to the budget. I recommend not having so much dependency on the strategic plan in this FY24 budget.

*Clarification by Comptroller Karra:* If the strategic plan is going to be incorporated in FY24, it will change how the Program managers proceed on everything and will involve major changes to the budget process.

*Opinion expressed:* Why can't the new Treasurer start working on some of the work that you need to know? And it is not acceptable to wait until FY25 to implement a plan that we just spent a lot of money on. There is a way to do pre-work.

*Clarification by Comptroller Karra:* Absolutely. The new Treasurer will need to have a basic understanding.

*Recommendation by Executive Director Singh:* Take a vote on it and build a budget based on the version that we have now. And then we will begin budgeting for it.

*Opinion expressed by Vice-Chair Post:* The staff is clearly articulating and thinking of programs right now. We all must be thinking ahead. When is that meeting that incorporates the strategy and plan that we are going to deploy if these are the elements of the strategic plan? That strategy in the plan is what the board needs to look at.

*Comment by Comptroller Karra:* Every line item from each of the departments that comes out is all affecting the budget.



*Comment by Treasurer Saboo:* Smart goals – it is important we put a lot of intention behind the plan we approve, but there also comes a time to have a hard stop. We’ve spent a lot of time and money on this. As for the other timing - having one week to review the budget with enough advance notice, we don’t have to spend so much nitty-gritty on the budget. More high-level; just like the staff has opportunities; that would be valuable for the board to give input then.

*Opinion expressed:* We are either adopting the plan on a vote by July 13 or at the very latest by July 27. If by July 13, that’s still five days before the whole budget process begins. We can review with Comptroller Karra so the 8/31 and 9/7 meeting will go smoother.

*Question by Treasurer Saboo:* Is there a reason why we can’t approve the rest of the timeline today?

*Clarification by Chair Zamora-Appel:* No - we must have a document. That is a record for us to take a vote.

*Clarification by Comptroller Karra:* I’ve never had any board, nor any Treasurer, ask me the depth of information at which you are requesting. You are detail-oriented; but that is what the staff expertise provides; we give the board the high-level, major expenses. If you’re going to start drilling-down into how much spending on advertising? How much in personnel? I can give you all the details you want...

Concern was expressed that last year some line items showed up and the board didn’t have advance notice or understanding.

*Response by Comptroller Karra:* We worked with Treasurer Saboo closely throughout last year; we never ‘sprung’ anything on the board.

## **EXPLANATION OF OFFICERS POSITIONS**

ENC Chair Foderaro-Guertin explained the respective officer positions: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer. She welcomed current board members to express their interest in running by giving their personal statement aloud.

She announced that newly-elected board members may consider this opportunity as well. They should submit their personal statement of interest in writing to ENC Chair Foderaro-Guertin in preparation for June 8, when the election will take place for the Executive Committee of the 2022-2023 MCC Governing Board.

Treasurer: A board member has put her name in – Shivani Saboo, serving a second term. (by written statement)

Secretary: no one has stepped forward. If any new board members are interested, please notify Ms. Foderaro-Guertin.

Vice-Chair: A board member has submitted his name – Rasheq Rahman. (by written statement)

Chair: A board member has submitted her name – Barbara Zamora-Appel, serving a second term. (by written statement)

## **UPDATE: MCLEAN PROJECT FOR THE ARTS**

*Remarks by Lori Carbonneau, Executive Director and Nancy Sausser (Artistic Director and Curator):*

Starting with gratitude: as a McLean stakeholder, I appreciate all that this board does. MPA no longer has a programs committee. The partnership with staff is most important. Deb Bissen provides updates to the MCC Governing Board regularly. Ms. Carbonneau requests an opportunity for Nancy Sausser and herself to attend on a quarterly basis to philosophically think about how we all work together. 60 years of MPA; 28 years of partnership with MCC: about \$900K and 15 staff part-time. We had a fantastic day at McLean Day. Those partnerships extend to McLean Chamber, Women’s clubs, ArtsFairfax. ArtFest is a wonderful partnership and we have been side-by-side with MCC. It’s time for Executive Director Singh and I to sit down together for the budgeting cycle: it costs MPA \$100K to put on ArtFest. \$22,500 is financial contribution from MCC and the rest is in-kind contribution. Regarding partnerships: we are working through Ken Avis to reach out to social media networks. We presented an update on current projects and future opportunities in the community, including proposed site development for the Clemyjontri Park property.

Nancy Sausser has a dual role as a practicing visual artist, as a sculptor, and arts administrator. She spent several years doing art in the DMV, as the first arts & education director at Montgomery Co. Arts Council. That resulted in fantastic programming in partnership with school system for after-school programs. She came over to MPA because she respects the space. Nancy Sausser has shown the work of 3,500 artists over time. People love the synergy MCC did with the having the





upstairs open: there is magic in the art that happens here! MPA has a high and exacting standard for what we teach and exhibit. DuVal studio is excellent for drawing, painting, mixed media, figure-drawing.

Plan for Clemyjontri property: (remarks by Lori Carbonneau) The design intent by the Liebowitz family gift was to serve the special needs community: every element at the park is accessible. MPA has a deep commitment to intellectually challenged community through ArtReach. We do programming through SPARC and ServiceSource. It has been 5 years of conversations with FCPA with very important public hearings, master planning process. Oversight body through Greater Washington Community Foundation is a five-year process. Potter wheels and looms or printing presses can't be put here (for a fiber program). How do you have a complement – how do the two spaces work together? The house is old and not historic, so MPA couldn't do much programming in the house. Therein lies what else could be done with the property. What would a gallery look like? What could house professional classrooms and artists in residence? MPA has such knowledge with Nancy Sausser and their board of 45 members + 40 very active advisory board members. Our FTE's work because people are engaged (architects, working artists). A huge groundswell of work has gone into this planning.

The founding documents of MPA and MCC – vision of our work with ArtReach is part of the genesis for why MPA would be the arts partnership within this greater community center. We envision a teaching environment built around our current exhibitions and master students for their curatorial programs. McLean Arts Society is always invited and will be more grounded in the community as a teaching space and professional gallery. This is prospective – no way will ground be broken in four years. From my management and consulting background, I am wide open to new ideas. We have now begun the creative process: What acoustics are needed? What could a ceramic studio be adjacent to? Figuring out how much it will cost. Zoning process has not started yet. We have yet to find out what we must adjust to (such as water drainage; tree canopy). Art is a healthy, healing and connecting, grounding force. To work together as a community is helpful.

Q & A: *Question: At this point what is the current vision of Clemyjontri? Some of us haven't seen that – what have you presented? Where are you starting from? You clearly have a vision – I have seen architectural drawings and a concept. We would love to see it to walk through at a future meeting. Many of us are interested in the notion of STEAM (STEM + art). That would be interesting to look at how to bring that in. How do we think about MCC programming? Maybe that is an area where we can continue to work on going forward.*  
*Clarification by Lori Carbonneau:* I can direct you through the FCPA PIO. Master planning process with the first public meeting in February 2020 and a whole series of meetings that are online. All communication goes through them.

*Clarification by Nancy Sausser:* ArtReach will be continued, pulling ideas and concepts from exhibitions that relate to the standards of learning in the schools. The students view the shows and have hands-on experiences with the art. That is an important part of our programming which goes with STEAM. Two basic themes: 1. Writing and literature; 2. Math & geometry. There is a broad range of ages, but fairly young. That is how we get art and STEM together. Clemyjontri – vision for land for outdoor programming that can have an overlay related to the environment. Many artists are doing work dealing with environmental concepts. We are planning on having a garden to grow natural dyes and relate to the fiber studio. STEAM is in that. One side has galleries, the other side has classrooms. We are working with the architect to describe ideal programming. We are still doing the research – to identify 20 different programs that are benchmarks in the area or in the disciplines. We are not in a concrete stage yet. We are anticipating really great acoustics!

*Question: Do you envision a studio where you display the art and a separate studio where you manufacture the art?*

Yes. We imagine professional galleries, inspiring the creation of art in classrooms, and the dream would be to have professional artist in residence onsite. They would have a space where they can work and create from beginner to advanced.

Comments about possible duplication relative to MCC spaces/performing arts:

*Question: It sounds like you are branching out into performing arts?*

No – however, this is an institution that is in a 100-year-old building. We can consider the future to have a space with good acoustics; a black box theater. Make sure it is a smart building. As we know, the arts are all melding into each other.

*Question: Have you thought about how the programming will differ between the gallery here at MCC and at Clemyjontri?*

Not really – we have different thoughts about a black box gallery. This is all dreams over several years; we can co-create it.



*Question: I just recently visited the Anne Marie Sculpture gardens in Solomons Island. The outdoor art area was really amazing. Big open space and rental space for a prom. Something like that would be great.*

*Clarification by Nancy Sausser: They have a partnership with National Gallery of Art. The art displayed is from the collection.*

*Comment by Lori Carbonneau: I'm excited about what does it mean for placemaking in McLean? How does public art play a role in that? I love all the banners on the light posts. How do we visually help know that you are in McLean? We have two opportunities where developers have asked MPA how to do public art.*

*Opinion expressed: Executive Director Singh has a lot of expertise on that. Our team here is well-versed in the arts from a theatrical perspective. This MCC Governing Board team will be able to partner with you. Maintain upstairs as a primary gallery. We love the idea of coming back and brainstorming.*

*Comment by Lori Carbonneau: To the outgoing board members - thank you very much.*

## **OLD / NEW BUSINESS**

Chair Zamora-Appel opened the floor to any topics of "Old" or "New" business.

1. A couple of weeks ago Shivani Saboo's grandmother was able to attend the ballroom dance class. She had an amazing time! It was catered to her age group. A big "thank you" to MCC staff and especially to Holly Novak – Shivani's grandmother loved the dance class! It was a free event and hassle-free.
2. We had representatives from the arts community. That is an important part of community-building. We are talking about targeting age groups. More recreational activities in the fall – maybe pickle ball or March Madness brackets next spring. Small programs like that would be a great additional focus.

*Question: For the sports arena – are we infringing on the FCPA? Is that really the role of FCPA rather than MCC?*

That's a good question- there is probably some space for MCC to step in. Staff would have a better idea of how to implement. I'm just asking for recreation to be incorporated more.

There is not a lot for young professional age level. This is a niche area that is lacking.

Nothing else was mentioned as a further topic for discussion this evening.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Procedure: Chair Zamora-Appel invited the public to introduce themselves and give verbal remarks if they wished. Some had requested in advance to speak. Those individuals were pre-verified as being a Small District 1A-Dranesville resident. Incoming letters are documented the same way – as being from a verified Small District 1A-Dranesville resident. MCC staff accesses the residential address database to provide this verification. Additional attendees tonight may request to speak provided they first state their residential address for verification as being tax district resident. Each person will be allotted three minutes to speak.

### **1. Dr. Melissa Sporn**

I am a clinical psychologist who lives and works in McLean. It is vital for people within the McLean community to have access to accurate representation of the diversity within our community and that includes LGBTQ individuals. Here are the community center the programs provided can educate others and destigmatize an otherwise marginalized and maligned group of individuals.

Transgender inclusion is a verb, not an adjective. And for transgender people it is a crucial component in feeling of belonging and safety. Our community likes to think of itself as inclusive. Many of us have signs that say, 'All Are Welcome Here.' That's a great first step, but it is not enough.



As a psychologist I applaud the work that MCC is doing by attempting to provide equal representation and programs that affirm diverse populations and positions.

Our LGBTQ youth are more than four times as likely to attempt suicide than their peers. (Johns et al., 2019; Johns et. al, 2020)

This does not mean, however, that LGBTQ identity itself is the cause of these challenges. Rather, these higher rates may be due to bias, discrimination, family rejection and other stressors associated with how they are treated because of their sexual identity or gender identity/expression.

The Trevor Project's 2021 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health found that 42% of LGBTQ youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year, including more than half of transgender and nonbinary youth. Transgender and nonbinary youth face elevated risk for depression, thoughts of suicide, and attempting suicide compared to youth who are cisgender and straight.

A 2021 peer-reviewed study by the Trevor Project's researchers, published in *Transgender Health*, found that transgender and nonbinary youth who reported gender identity acceptance by adults and peers had significantly lower odds of attempting suicide in the past year.

We are just beginning to learn and understand the transgender community and non-binary stereotypes we see so often represent a very limited, often inaccurate perspective of the trans community.

Transgender (or trans) is an umbrella term that covers a variety of gender identities including trans man, trans woman, genderqueer, agender, non-binary, trans-non-binary, gender fluid, and more.

I am here as an ally. Allies exist to strengthen the impact of advocacy by the community itself. My speaking here is an example of this. It is essential to hear from Transgender therapist who can more aptly represent the needs, impact and importance of having inclusion in programming in our community.

I want to leave you with some suggestions on how to be an ally:

- \* Get comfortable with being uncomfortable instead of becoming defensive.
- \* Breaking down the stereotypes that feed the fear we so often see represented in the adults in our community when they hear about a program that presents an alternative to cisgender.
- \* Speak up when you see injustice.
- \* Be quiet when someone is speaking to their experience.
- \* Hold space for others.
- \* Protect those who identify as LGBTQIA+.
- \* I encourage each one of us to talk to each other rather than at each other about our concerns, fears and also to become educated about the realities that we have been and are living in a very diverse community where LGBTQIA+ individuals live, work and thrive. Inclusion helps all of us feel the vibrancy of our community and the acceptance of all leads to the diminishment of barriers for all resulting in less isolation, discrimination and unjust fear.
- \* There was a time when people when people in communities like this one feared inclusion of programs that represented the Jewish faith, Black, Asian individuals, Irish, or... enter the minority of your lineage. Some of you here would not have been welcome... let's recognize that these same fear-based beliefs only limit us and stigmatize others. Let's try to work together to break through these walls of fear towards understanding, inclusion and compassion.

## 2. **Catherine Trauernicht**

I have submitted a couple of questions about the election and I have yet to receive a response. I understand



there was video-tape of the vote-counting. How and when will the videotape be made available to the public? And how and when will the worksheets be able to be reviewed? I am a taxpayer and it is highly insulting as a taxpayer. I asked a simple question. No one is going to answer me. This is not good. Executive Director Singh doesn't respond – what am I to do?

*Response by Board Chair Zamora-Appel:* Your comments will be recorded and someone will get back to you. Thank you for your comments. Someone will get back to you.

**The following public comments by Small District 1A-Dranesville residents were submitted in writing in advance of this meeting.**

**1. Merrily Pierce**

Dear Merrily,

We appreciate your taking the time to share your comments regarding timely information to the public about events happening at MCC.

Your comments will be shared with the McLean Community Center's Governing Board.

All MCC Governing Board meetings are open to the public. You can view the board schedule on our website at: <https://mcleancenter.org/about/governing-meetings/meetings-agendas>

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Holly Novak

Executive Assistant - McLean Community Center

**From:** M Pierce <for\_transit@aol.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, April 28, 2022 2:13 PM

**To:** Bárbara Zamora-Appel <bgzamora@gmail.com>

**Cc:** Novak, Holly R <Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov>

**Subject:** Advance notice

Hi Barbara,

**RE: Advance notice of MCC events**

I shared your experience of searching on the MCC Website for information on the Chocolate Festival when I sought to check out the time and could find no mention anywhere.

There should be somewhere in the MCC policy documents something about adequate and timely notice of events open to the public at the Center. This should apply to all events held at the Center, not just those sponsored by the MCC. No one should have to paw through the site to find the relevant information especially when you are trying to be there on time.

That said it was good to see the Center filled with happy families buying and eating chocolate.

Best and thanks.

Merrily Pierce

**2. Dick Porter**

From: dick porter <[dickporter17@gmail.com](mailto:dickporter17@gmail.com)>

Sent: Friday, April 29, 2022 2:20 PM

To: Novak, Holly R <[Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov)>

Cc: Joyce Porter <[joyceporter29@gmail.com](mailto:joyceporter29@gmail.com)>

Subject: MCC Elections

Hi Holly: please forward this message promptly to the Board subcommittee that is overseeing the ongoing election.

Dear subcommittee members. I was out of town and unable to attend the Board meeting this past Wednesday. I understand that there was some limited discussion, but not much detail, regarding the counting of ballots. I also understand that the League of Women Voters will do the opening and counting of ballots.

I want to emphasize the importance of allowing independent observers from outside of MCC to be present when ballots are being opened and counted. My suggestion is that you invite the McLean Citizens Association to send two representatives to observe the count.

Why are observers necessary? As a community institution it is critical that MCC's processes, particularly its elections, be fully transparent so that MCC can enjoy the support and confidence of the full community. Decisions this past year by the current Board have, unfortunately, created a divide in the community. We don't need another controversy, and the presence of observers should go a long way toward insuring public confidence in the integrity of the election process. Indeed, the number of ballots that have been requested and will likely be cast makes clear the interest of the Small District 1A community in this election. The interest far exceeds any election that I can remember.

One person I know who attended Wednesday's meeting said that they were told that observers could not be present because of capacity limitations in the counting room and because of the fear of disruption. Neither point makes any sense. You obviously have any number of rooms that can handle the vote counters and a couple of independent observers. As far as security is concerned that seems to me to be an irrational concern, but one that can easily be addressed by having one or two security personnel outside the room where the ballots will be counted. You certainly have utilized security personnel at past Board meetings, although their presence was not needed.

So, please reconsider the question of how the counting will be observed and, if you are not prepared to alter your position on observers, please advise me in writing why that is the case.

### 3. Catherine Trauernicht

*(e-mail response sent 5/5/22)*

Dear Ms. Trauernicht,

MCC has engaged the League of Women Voters to assist in the MCC Governing Board Election for more than 10 years.

Absentee Voting is an established practice set out in our MOU with Fairfax County (link on MCC website): <https://www.mcleancenter.org/images/MCC-MOU.pdf>.

The dates offered for Absentee Voting allow for maximum participation by tax district residents.

The MCC Governing Board election is nonpartisan.

Sincerely,

**Holly Novak**

*Executive Assistant*

McLean Community Center

**From:** Cathy Trauernicht <cwtrau@verizon.net>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 4, 2022 12:12 PM

**To:** Novak, Holly R <Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Singh, Daniel <Daniel.Singh@fairfaxcounty.gov>

**Subject:** Re: Questions from last night's Board meeting

Hello, Daniel and Holly. It's been almost a week since I sent my questions following the Board meeting, as I was requested to do. I would appreciate answers by close of business today.

Thank you for your attention and courtesy.

Cathy

On Apr 29, 2022, at 10:31 AM, [cwtrau@verizon.net](mailto:cwtrau@verizon.net) wrote:



Good morning, Holly. When can I expect answers to my questions?

Thank you very much for your guidance,

Cathy

On Friday, April 29, 2022, 10:27 AM, Novak, Holly R <[Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov)> wrote:

Dear Ms. Trauernicht,

We appreciate your taking the time to share your comments regarding the Governing Board election process. All community feedback is valuable and will be taken into consideration.

All MCC Governing Board meetings are open to the public. You can view the board schedule on our website at: <https://mcleancenter.org/about/governing-meetings/meetings-agendas>

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Holly Novak, Executive Assistant - McLean Community Center

**From:** cwtrau@verizon.net <cwtrau@verizon.net>

**Sent:** Thursday, April 28, 2022 6:23 PM

**To:** Novak, Holly R <[Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov)>

**Subject:** Questions from last night's Board meeting

Hi, Holly. I look forward to the Board answering my questions from last night's meeting.

Just to reiterate them:

A) When and how was the decision made to implement Early Voting?

B) When and how was the League of Women Voters given the sole authority to count ballots?

C) Given the long-accepted practice of allowing independent observers at election vote counting in the Commonwealth of Virginia, why will the Board not allow two or three independent observers during the counting of votes for the MCC Board? Such independent observers would not be affiliated with any of the candidates.

The excuses given by the Chair of the Elections Committee regarding independent observers are not rational and not acceptable.

I look forward to a reply as soon as possible.

Thanks, Holly.

Cathy

**From:** Cathy Trauernicht <cwtrau@verizon.net>

**Sent:** Monday, May 2, 2022 4:29 PM

**To:** Maria Foderaro-Guertin <[mariamccboard@yahoo.com](mailto:mariamccboard@yahoo.com)>

**Cc:** Zamora-Appel, Barbara <[Barbara.Zamora-Appel@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Barbara.Zamora-Appel@fairfaxcounty.gov)>; Singh, Daniel <[Daniel.Singh@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Daniel.Singh@fairfaxcounty.gov)>; Novak, Holly R <[Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: Board meeting follow-up

Thank you for your reply, Maria. The MOU provides for a single day of election to coincide with McLean Day. There is no latitude given to the Board to administer a different election procedure, other than to amend the MOU.

Absentee ballots are not the same as Early Voting.

It would seem that the Board has not taken the appropriate steps to provide for Early Voting. Changing voting from a single day to an extended period of early voting would significantly alter the MOU and, thereby, require a public hearing



followed by a vote of the Board to amend the MOU, which then would be submitted to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for final approval.

Thank you for your attention,  
Cathy

On May 2, 2022, at 4:09 PM, Maria Foderaro-Guertin <[mariamccboard@yahoo.com](mailto:mariamccboard@yahoo.com)> wrote:

Dear Cathy,

Thanks for your comments at the last board meeting and this email. The ENC is following the MOU and Amendment regarding this year's election process, available on our website here: <https://www.mcleancenter.org/about/governing-meetings>. This document gives the ENC the latitude and parameters to set the election policies and procedures. I have pasted the language regarding absentee ballots below for your convenience.

**5. Elections Committee:**

a) Issues a press release with the names of all candidates to be placed on the ballot and their qualifications as summarized from the resume presented by each candidate. Includes the process for requesting Absentee Ballots and the final date for acceptance of completed Absentee Ballots.

We request that all comments be presented in writing or at the May 25<sup>th</sup> board meeting's public comment portion. All feedback is valuable to us, and we will pass it along to the next ENC to address. We are grateful for your continued support and commitment to MCC.

Sincerely,  
Maria

On Monday, May 2, 2022, 07:56:15 AM EDT, Cathy Trauernicht <[cwtrau@verizon.net](mailto:cwtrau@verizon.net)> wrote:

Hello, Barbara and Maria. I wanted to follow-up my remarks at last Wednesday's Board meeting by asking if you would agree to meet with me to discuss the way in which the current election process is operating.

Perhaps you share my disappointment that we did not have time for a discussion at the Board meeting. My hope is that by meeting together, we might pursue an amicable resolution to differences of opinion.

Thank you for letting me know about your availability to meet.

Sincerely,  
Cathy

**4. Catherine Trauernicht**  
(*e-mail response sent 5-5-22*)  
Dear Ms. Trauernicht,

The Earth Day prizes will be awarded from the MCC general programs budget.

The MCC Governing Board has made sustainability a key goal for educating and motivating the public.

Sincerely,  
**Holly Novak**  
Executive Assistant - McLean Community Center

**From:** Cathy Trauernicht <[cwtrau@verizon.net](mailto:cwtrau@verizon.net)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 4, 2022 12:14 PM

**To:** Novak, Holly R <[Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov)>; Singh, Daniel <[Daniel.Singh@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Daniel.Singh@fairfaxcounty.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: MCC Earth Day Contest



Hello, Holly and Daniel. After last week's Board meeting, Daniel asked that I email my question regarding Earth Day to Holly. It's been almost a week now, and I have not received a response. I would appreciate the answer to my question by close of business today.

Thank you for your courtesy,  
Cathy

On Apr 29, 2022, at 11:25 AM, [cwtrau@verizon.net](mailto:cwtrau@verizon.net) wrote:  
Hi again, Holly. Just making sure you saw my questions, which Daniel asked me to email you.

Thank you,  
Cathy

On Wednesday, April 27, 2022, 11:50 PM, Cathy Trauernicht <[cwtrau@verizon.net](mailto:cwtrau@verizon.net)> wrote:  
Hello, Holly. Daniel Singh asked that I email you with my question about the MCC Earth Day Contest.

Apparently, the MCC is awarding a \$1000 prize toward a home pollinator garden, \$500 toward the planting of a mature tree, and \$200 toward a rechargeable batteries home conversion kit.

Where are monies coming from to award these prizes?

Thanks for your guidance,  
Cathy

## 5. Catherine Trauernicht

McLean Community Center goes rogue                      May 6, 2022      *Fairfax Times*

Dear Editor,

It's election season in McLean. Early voting is underway to elect three new members of the McLean Community Center Board. There's a problem though: the MCC is not authorized to conduct early voting. According to the publicly available Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which governs the Center, "The Governing Board shall establish an annual election day, which will correspond to the date of McLean Day." This year McLean Day is May 21. But early voting began March 16 and runs through May 18. Early voting is offered in person at the MCC or by mail. Neither method of voting is included in the MOU. I brought this up at the MCC Board meeting tonight (April 27), asking when and how the decision was made to implement early voting for Board elections. No one could answer my question. I also asked when and how the League of Women Voters (LWV) was given sole authority to count the ballots. Again, no one could answer my question. There is no reference to the LWV in the governing documents regarding elections, only reference to the appointing of "tellers." The Board member who chairs the Elections Committee said that the League of Women Voters had been designated to count the votes because it is a nationally recognized, non-partisan organization. I challenged the Board to visit the LWV website, where they openly declare they are a "political grassroots network," and then tell me they are non-partisan. According to the governing documents, here are the responsibilities of the "tellers" in the MCC election process: Open and close the elections, certify the qualifications of each person voting, assure that each voter votes only once, assure that voters may vote in privacy, and tally the votes and present them to the election committee chair along with the names and addresses of all persons voting. This places an enormous responsibility on the vote counters. The League of Women Voters – a self-described "political grassroots network" – has been designated to count the votes, but no one at the Board meeting could explain how that happened. This means the LWV will open the ballot envelopes and see each voter's name, address and how (s)he voted. Given that independent poll watchers are a recognized part of our Commonwealth's electoral process, I asked that there be a few (perhaps 3) independent observers to watch as the LWV counts the votes. This request seemed to flummox the Elections Committee Chair, who declared earlier in the meeting that the Center simply could not accommodate extra people in the building while votes are being counted. McLean voters, we have a problem. Our taxpayer-funded Community Center is running an early voting election that does not appear to be authorized by its governing documents. Furthermore, it has designated the partisan League of Women Voters as the sole authority to count votes. And, apparently, the Board will not allow outside, independent observers to watch the vote count. There are 12 candidates running for positions on the MCC Board. Every one of them should be concerned about the way in which the election is being conducted. 1) There is no authorization for "early voting" in the Center's governing documents. 2) The partisan League of Women Voters will be in charge of the vote counting. 3) No independent outside observers will be allowed in the building when League representatives are counting the votes. What could go wrong?





C. W. Trauernicht  
McLean

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

Chair Zamora-Appel announced that this meeting would now transition into “Closed Session.” She read aloud the following MOTION to go into “Closed Session” and took a vote on it:

#### **Motion Going into Closed Session:**

**Chairperson or designee:** I move that the McLean Community Center Governing Board go into Closed Session, pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) for the purpose of discussion, consideration or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of the McLean Community Center Governing Board. The subject matter to be discussed and considered is the job performance review of a specific member of the McLean Community Center staff.

**Vote to go into “Closed Session”: Approved by a vote of 10**

Barbara Zamora-Appel; Lisa Mariam; Bill Glikbarg; Rasheq Rahman;  
Carla Post; Melanie Sletten; Maria Foderaro-Guertin; Shivani Saboo;  
Suzanne Le Menestrel; Ivy Chen— all voting “AYE.”  
Max Blacksten was absent.

After the MOTION was stated aloud and voted on, all members of the public and MCC staff were asked to now please exit the room. Only MCC Governing Board members remained in the room.

**Closed Session began at 8:34 p.m.**

**Closed Session ended at 9:43 p.m.**

#### **RECONVENE INTO PUBLIC SESSION**

Chair Zamora-Appel announced that the public and MCC staff were now welcome to re-enter the room. The cleansing MOTION to reconvene into Public Session was stated aloud by Chair Zamora-Appel and a vote was taken to come out of “Closed Session:”

#### **Motion Coming Out of Closed Session:**

**Chairperson or designee:** In accordance with Virginia Code Section 2.2-3712, I move that the members certify that, to the best of each member’s knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only the public business subject matter as identified in the motion by which the Closed Session was convened was heard, discussed, or considered in Closed Session.



**Vote to come out of “Closed Session”:** **Approved by a vote of 10**  
Barbara Zamora-Appel; Lisa Mariam; Bill Glikbarg; Suzanne Le Menestrel;  
Carla Post; Melanie Sletten; Rasheq Rahman; Maria Foderaro-Guertin;  
Shivani Saboo; Ivy Chen – all voting “AYE.”  
Max Blacksten was absent.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Zamora-Appel asked for a MOTION to adjourn; it was unanimously affirmed. The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted – Holly Novak, Executive Assistant