2020-2021 MCC Governing Board
Public Hearing on FY2023 Programs
followed by:
Regular Meeting
March 24, 2021 - 7:30 p.m.
*virtual on ZOOM  ZOOM Meeting ID: 817 619 39845  Password: 559547

MINUTES

All Board Members were Present: Suzanne Le Menestrel; Maria Foderaro-Guertin; Carla Post; Barbara Zamora-Appel; Terri Markwart; Ivy Chen; Tyler Jensen; Melanie Sletten; Carole Herrick; Raj Mehra; Bill Glikbarg

MCC Staff Present: George Sachs, Executive Director; Holly Novak; Mike Fisher; Jennifer Garrett; Sarah Schallern Treff

Guests: Robert Jackson (McLean Citizens Association); Lisa Mariam; Paul Kohlenberger; Deb Bissen (MPA); Rasheq Rahman

Public Hearing on FY2023 Programs

CONVENE MEETING
The following Motion by Programs & Outreach Committee Chair Maria Foderaro-Guertin 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.

The Public Hearing on FY2023 Programs of the McLean Community Center convened on March 24, 2021 at 7:32 p.m. using ZOOM meeting technology, which enabled Board members, MCC staff, and the public to participate virtually.

ADOPT AGENDA  The Agenda for the Public Hearing was adopted by acclamation.

Programs & Outreach Committee Chair Foderaro-Guertin welcomed members of the public in attendance and stated that this meeting is being audio-recorded. This is an opportunity for residents of Small District 1A-Dranesville to contribute their ideas and suggestions about classes and programs for consideration at MCC in FY2023.  MCC budget and programming for FY2023 = July 2022 through June 2023

Clarification by Mr. Sachs: To help the public engage in offering ideas and comments about programs to be visualized and potentially implemented in FY2023, MCC developed an online survey.  We received many good comments back from tax district residents; those results will be shared this evening by Mike Fisher, MCC
General Programs Director. There was a steady reply on the survey: this may be how people are expressing themselves preferably nowadays (they may or may not get online to attend this virtual meeting tonight). Last year, it was the time of sudden closures due to COVID-19 – on March 13. **We didn't hold the annual public hearing on programs in 2020** A Special Called Meeting of the Board happened instead [to discuss emergency-related topics]. Moreover, ZOOM was not functional at that point.

The following sequence will be observed for all ideas being brought forward by the public:

- Each person with a desire to share their input will be given an opportunity to speak. The Programs & Outreach Committee Chair will recognize one person at a time. Those wishing to give a verbal comment – **please raise your hand on camera** so that we see that you wish to express a comment.
- Written comments may be submitted to the committee Chair (in addition to, or in lieu of speaking). Email is the preferred method for submitting such written comments.
- The Executive Assistant will include all verbal and written comments in the meeting Minutes.

**What will we do with the comments received in this Public Hearing?**

- All issues addressing programs will be reviewed for discussion at upcoming Programs & Outreach Committee meetings.
- If it is not a program-specific recommendation, but rather a matter for MCC staff operations, the Board Chair will indicate which department is responsible for addressing the feedback presented.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Foderaro-Guertin transitioned to MCC General Programs Director Mike Fisher, who read aloud all comments submitted in writing through e-mails and comments of responses to the online survey:

**Written Public Comment** *submitted via e-mail on February 28*

**From:** Melanie Sletten <mel_sletten@hotmail.com>
**Date:** February 28, 2021 at 2:52:41 PM EST
**To:** “George A. Sachs” <George.Sachs@fairfaxcounty.gov>
**Cc:** Maria Foderaro-Guertin <maria@mccboard@yahoo.com>
**Subject:** Possible Free Program Suggestions

I am convinced that The Center can reach a broader section of McLean residents by offering less expensive classes and trips. One way to do this would be to tap **FREE resources. I have provided contacts in some cases; in other cases you might need to do some research to identify speakers. Those with asterisks near their names have presented through the Arlington 55+ Program. I offer them to you although with a little research I suspect you could find a McLean resident/business owner to address the subject.**

“Rightsizing” (possibly Jocelyn Anderson, 703-532-3912)

“Preparing Your Home for the Market”

“Staging Your Home to Market It”

“Discount Travel Tips”

“Home Fit: Smart Solutions for Making Your Home Safe and Comfortable as You Age” (AARP offered this presentation as a FREE class at the community center 10-15 years ago)
“Lifelong Learning Options” (Ollie, Osher Lifelong Learning, Encorelearning, free online university classes, museum/organization webinars and podcasts)

First Aid Training (possibly the Red Cross, or a Community Emergency Response Team trainer)

“Tips for Safer Cyberspace”

“What You Should Know before Hiring a Contractor” (Virginia Board for Contractors, 804-367-8511)

“Home Sharing: Benefits and How-To” (presented as part of a panel discussion at the community center 10-15 years ago by the Golden Girls Network)

“McLean Community: A Village for All Ages” (www.mcleancva.org)

“Suddenly Single” (Martha Bodyfelt, *Certified Divorce Coach)

Establish a Walking Club to meet at the Tysons Mall

“How to Prepare for Your Hospital Stay and Beyond” (James Meenan,* Director of Case Management, Virginia Hospital Center)

McLean History Discussion Group (Carole Herrick)

“Wills and Trusts” (Daniel Leonhardt *from American Family Estate Planners)

“Contracts for Continuing Care Retirement Communities” (Ed Zetlin,*Elder Law Attorney)

“Roth vs. Traditional IRA’s” (Donald Walters* of Voya Financial Services)

“Online Games for Fun and Mental Stimulation”

more presentations by the nutritionist at Giant

“Games and Locations for Children’s Birthday Parties”

“What Financial Records to Store and for How Long”

Garden Topics: Outdoors or House Plants (vpc@fairfaxco.onmicrosoft.com.)

These are some suggestions that come to mind. I would be happy to brainstorm with you as well.

Melanie Sletten

Online Survey - Public Comments *17 survey respondents TO-DATE; read aloud into these Minutes

What programs would you like to see offered at the McLean Community Center, The Alden Theatre, and/or the Old Firehouse Center?

programs for senior citizens.

Programs for elementary school age.

theatre.

Movies, plays and concerts in the Alden Theatre.

Talks or seminars.

Bus trips to local sites of interest as well as overnight trips.
I like the programs currently offered, and my children (and I) have attended various classes at the MCC and OFTC. The staff at OFTC are so great!

I have often thought it'd be good to have more "old time" community events especially for teens and young adults. Hayrides, etc. come to mind for the fall, and then I thought it'd be so great if there could be an ice skating rink somehow somewhere on the MCC grounds or somewhere in McLean. I know that's a big one, but overall these type of "old time" outdoor activities are great. For example, that McLean Holiday parade is great as are many of the offerings, so no complaints.

I also wish the OFTC activities and could be more advertised especially to the private schools in the area. Not sure if they are promoted via the FCPS elementary, middle and high schools but that could be done. OK thank you!

After school and youth programming
Evening adult programs
Historical presentations regarding the area.
Photography "field trips", especially for wildlife.
Cooking classes for kids and pre-teens
Theater classes for kids
More art classes!

Would love to see more art classes for adults and children, concerts and performances of all kinds, more summer camps, the flea market is a great idea. A really great addition would be programs for Girl and Boy Scouts, to help them do badges and community services activities. Basically, keep up the good work!

I have a two-year-old and am very interested in programming for him that is face-to-face instead of virtual. I think he would really enjoy music classes and physical activity classes.

Music!!! And fun, perhaps musical, plays. A cooking class.

Classes during the school day for moms with school age kids - exercise, cooking, art, art appreciation, wine appreciation social media, lessons, and/or a book club. Or speakers during the day on child rearing topics - how to help kids with interpersonal relationships or anxiety or encouraging them or studying or dealing with social media with them...

At the Alden concerts from up and coming or on the way down bands could be fun. School Field trip performances like dance troops or orchestras.

We would love to see more plays for adults at the Alden Theatre as well as a return of the wonderful Travelogue series that was discontinued several years ago. The Alden Theatre is beautiful and should be used to present more performances and longer runs of shows. Booking in Union productions would also be a great idea instead of having to drive to the Kennedy Center and pay ridiculous prices for parking. MCC classes are way overpriced even with the resident discount. Please consider arranging event and travel outings for seniors and not just teens as we are the ones paying the taxes!

My children are grown and the only thing I do anymore is work a booth at McLean Day for the DAR. One day, I hope to take cooking classes and knife skills classes.

environmental programs (to inspire kids and adults alike)

fix it cafe
cooking classes
gardening programs
exercise for adults

art classes for adults and kids

Travel for seniors and women.

Movies, especially musicals.

Lectures by our smart neighbors. Like the history of the CIA. Why is it here?

When did McLean go upscale? We were once a working-class community.

I would like to set up a “Girls who code” club at MCC for girls in elementary to high school. It is free classes. I have been a McLean resident since 1988. Thank you.

Salmy Gheblawi salmyhg@gmail.com

More senior programs, and more drive-through theatre geared towards adults of all ages.

craft and brew; international dance performances with lessons; programs that address community issues including dialogues to help people with varying political views; Cooking and Cocktail classes with local chefs; Tour de McLean bike ride; Virginia wines class with bus tours on vineyards; language classes with culture; Lunar New Year celebration; Earth Day all year - what really happens to your recycling? How can you take care of your lawn without chemicals? Potomac River watershed and creeks in McLean; Poetry slams, Improv; Comedy shows; Invite local residents to talk about their work i.e. financial advisors, CIA, Homeland Security... Garden tours; History of McLean with tours of local sites; Who were the original inhabitants of McLean - native American culture; Adult recess - bocce ball... check out equipment and play in Central Park. Artist-designed mini golf. Programs with visual art, dance and music on a shared theme. Set up tents and have more outdoor programs and classes.

Q & A: about mechanism of the online survey; total data collection:

Question: You said there were 17 respondents; when did you pull them down off the internet? Earlier today (3/24/21).

Ms. Post has heard from some people whose comments seem to be missing. She requested to have the copy of the electronic survey spreadsheet sent to Board members (with any personal information from the public redacted) and reflected in the Minutes of this meeting.

Clarification by Ms. Schallern Treff: There were other areas probed in this survey; perhaps those answers were in other parts of the survey: What interests you most about the McLean Community Center, Alden Theatre and The Old Firehouse Center? What virtual programs would you like to see continued?

CHAT question: Is it typical to receive 17-18 responses for the annual Public Hearing on programs?

Clarification by Mr. Sachs: Typically, we hardly get any public responses- maybe only 1 or 2. We have been trying to develop ways to encourage more people to engage in giving us comments. The idea of the survey being available this time has made people more comfortable – rather than attending a meeting in-person or sending comments by e-mail or other means. We have some action- which is positive!

Clarification by Mr. Fisher: We get different response rates for different types of surveys, in how we promote and submit them. This is obviously an online survey emailed out to everyone in Linx. With other surveys in our programs (such as kids in 5th and 7th grade dance -at the door on the way out) out of 250 attendees, we will get 100 survey responses. It matters how MCC is delivering the survey as to the response rate.

Clarification by Chair Foderaro-Guertin: It was electronically available; it was spread around on various ListServes.
Question: What was the mechanism for the survey? Because I was trying to get as many people as possible to fill it out; and when I was sending the link direct from MCC via text, people were getting a reply error message saying that they had already taken this survey. I would go back to the MCC site, re-copy it and re-send it; but there clearly was some problem. It was identifying an IP address that was associated with new people as we forwarded it. MCC is definitely missing some input.

Clarification by Chair Foderaro-Guertin: Just have the people forward their comments by e-mail. The ideas that have come through with the responses have been huge! There was a lot of replication of items that people would like to see. I like the ice-skating rink idea! We will go through it and review. Alden Theatre came up.

ACTION ITEM: The survey responses (Excel spreadsheet) will be sent to the Board tomorrow.

Opinion expressed: I’m impressed that a couple of respondents obviously spent time thinking about it and had good ideas. I was very impressed by the kinds of responses we got; I wasn’t so much frustrated by the number of responses.

Chair Foderaro-Guertin said we are definitely going to address this at the next Programs & Outreach Committee meeting – categorize, isolate, and try to see what we can do. People have ideas! Because of the access electronically, it gave members of the public enough time to think about it thoroughly (and then type it).

Comment by Board Chair Le Menestrel: When I first got on the Board, we had all talked about going into the community and approaching people [meet them where they are]. After an event (McLean Day; Alden Theatre performances), we could have iPads to do a survey right there to get more community input immediately.

Clarification by Ms. Schallern Treff: The Alden Theatre has been doing that method for years. Regarding the earlier comment; we will get about 60 people responding to a survey after a sold-out performance. But the responses are not as in-depth or well thought-out (compared to these online survey responses for the Public Hearing on FY23 Programs).

Question by Chair Foderaro-Guertin: Would it be possible to formulate the Alden Theatre questionnaire in the same format as we had for the Public Hearing on FY23 Programs?

Yes, definitely. And especially if we were mandated by the Governing Board to ask particular questions. After a while, [the iPad immediate survey method] wasn’t giving us the information we were looking for.

ACTION ITEM: Chair Le Menestrel: MPA has asked if they could receive the survey results as well.

CHAT question: Was this survey sent to all McLean residents or only those who have taken part in an MCC activity?

It was sent to as many people as possible – available on MCC website; e-newsletters and Constant Contact. It was also sent out by Board members to their ListServes. Respondents didn’t have to participate in any activity or be enrolled in anything. It was available to anyone.

CHAT question: One solution is to make sure that everyone who takes part in a class activity should be asked about the activity. That might increase the response rate.

Clarification by Mr. Fisher: Anyone who takes a class at MCC is going to receive a survey at some point. We are already using iPads at McLean Day and have been doing so for a while.

Question by Chair Le Menestrel: But are they the same kind of questions that were asked on this survey?

Clarification by Mr. Fisher: The questions asked on the iPad at McLean Day are targeted toward that program itself (specifically) – and less global about the entire structure of OFC and MCC.

Clarification by Chair Le Menestrel: So, maybe we could tack-on some extra questions. . .
Comment by Board member Ms. Sletten: The other thing I would like to add to consideration for programs is: having a ping pong table(s) at MCC building! The ping pong table at OFC is only available to adults at selected hours (prior to COVID-19). I wondered if having ping pong at MCC building would be a possibility? Ping pong can be played by anyone at any age who is in good health, so I think it’s something we might want to consider. Thank you!

CHAT question (from Board member Tyler Jensen): I would like to support the ping pong table idea – it’s really the best sport!

Verbal public comment from attendee Lisa Mariam: I had the long list! If there are any in particular you would like me to comment on… I was just brainstorming while filling it out. I also heard in some of the other responses that there is some repetition of things that MCC is doing.

Comment by Chair Foderaro-Guertin: Because programs have been shut down or are on ‘virtual’, it seems like nothing exists. But with the re-opening and restrictions eliminated, more programming will start up. Some classes are held during the day for Moms and kids [for younger children]. Obviously, for school age kids, right now would be great – during a day when all kids are off (Monday). But on a normal school day, you’re not going to have school-age kids – only toddlers.

Question from Lisa Mariam: Most immediately, (well before FY23) when you are able to: have tents and do more outdoor programming, so that people can get back to doing in-person activities outside (such as art classes). Have you explored setting up tents so that there would be more options?

Clarification by Chair Foderaro-Guertin: The space requirement (capacity limits) outside is an issue. But there have been activities that have been outside: Drive-thru Drama was awesome!

Comment by Vice-Chair Post (to people who were texting during this meeting): This survey was widely advertised: Connection newspapers and a lot of public information. It just points to the fact that we don’t get a very good response rate. So, what we need to do in the future is bring the survey to the people – we’ve got to get out into the community: going over to Giant Food, etc. We have to bring MCC to the community… going into the churches and into the community clubs. 18 responses is definitely not enough. Last night I was trying to text it to as many people as I could; and we put it out on our ListServes. But it’s sad that more people are not interested in filling it out. This is their opportunity.

Comment by Chair Foderaro-Guertin: Honestly, I think the problem is that everyone is just holding tight at home. In a normal year, all activities would be in-person and we would be able to interact. But I think people are hunkered down right now; there is a lot of trepidation about even trying to attend things in person. There is conflict in my house and in neighbors’ homes: everybody weighing whether to do any travel… get in any type of activity or groups.

Comment by Vice-Chair Post: But this isn’t really about doing stuff right now… it’s about dreaming for the future. That’s what we need to convey to people: What is your dream for the future of events at MCC? And maybe we’ve failed on that… last night, I was telling people: the sky’s the limit – tell us what you want!

Comment by Chair Foderaro-Guertin: But it’s hard to do in-person surveys right now. I agree that we should go out into the community – but it would be hard to do right now. If you go into churches or grocery stores, you will get more of a response because of being there in-person. Right now, I don’t do that.

Comment by Board member Bill Glikbarg: I don’t know about everyone else; but literally, I’m afraid to go to the places I typically go to. I don’t want to stop and talk to anyone. I’ve been fully vaccinated at this point… and it’s still scary. I don’t think I’m exceptional in that. All the stuff I read says that’s typical right now.

Comment by Chair Foderaro-Guertin: I think we definitely have to do that [get out into the community]. But how much participation will we get by going out in the field and people not even wanting to get near us? I think we
did well with the responses we’ve had – because in the past, we hadn’t gotten even this much. But given the situation we are in… I think we’re all in agreement: we have to get out in the community. A lot of suggestions are really exciting!

More verbal comments from the public:

Comment by Lisa Mariam: I just wanted to share that I do think visibility is an issue. I found, in going around to my neighborhood to get my candidate petition signed, I was really surprised by how many people: 1. Did not even know that we have a community center! or, 2. Didn’t know what was happening at MCC. When I explained to them about the programs, they were excited about it! And I think they will end up participating. But that really stood out to me – that there was a general lack of awareness.

Summary by Chair Foderaro-Guertin: We do have to get the word out. [Family involvement] goes in phases; but this past year is not really a pattern. We appreciate everyone’s ideas and we do want to get a lot of this going. We will hopefully soon talk about what we can and can’t do.

CHAT comment (from Rasheq Rahman): Have you explored creating electronic newsletters for different demographics (i.e. parents of young children vs. seniors)? It sounds like folks just suggested activities based on their life stage. It might be nice if activities were better communicated based on life stage. There is always so much going on at MCC, but it’s hard to keep up.

Clarification by Chair Foderaro-Guertin: On the MCC e-newsletter, it covers everything that’s happening.

continued comment from Rasheq Rahman: It does feel like there is a lot there. I’m a parent of young children – so if there was a “here’s what’s going on for elementary school kids this week” message – literally cut-and-paste the activities and quarterly brochure (Program Guide). I look at that Program Guide once at the beginning and sign-up for something. But there’s always great stuff going on. I just don’t know about it in advance. But I don’t know what the rules are in terms of privacy – whether when I sign-up, do I have to give my demographics? Can you ask for my demographics? I don’t know.

Response from Mr. Fisher: MCC currently has several different newsletters that are targeted to specific interests and align with the demographics – but targeted communication is a great idea.

Follow-up question to Mr. Rahman from Ms. Schallern Treff: I’m wondering if the weekly e-newsletter were divided by groups: families; young kids; young adults; senior adults. Maybe have a Table of Contents to click on to take you to each sub-group? Would that be helpful?

Continued comment from Mr. Rahman: I think that would be a great way to start. If you do analytics: What is being used? From hearing peoples’ comments, to my untrained ear it sounds like people want a lot of seniors programs. That’s fine; that’s a demographic and I’m sure they have the time. But that’s why a lot of my questions are around: Who are you asking? What is the focus? Is it from people who are taking classes (current users)? Because they have a different perspective than someone who is unfamiliar or who has been here quite a long time ago as more engaged.

Comment from Chair Foderaro-Guertin: I like your idea of having a ‘front page’ with links to a different demographic, or to activity interests.

Comment by Vice-Chair Post: Yes - that’s smart. Because whenever you sign up for a website now, you can put in your specific interests and focus. That is a great idea. Thank you.

Question by a Board member: Would we get into trouble if we asked “personal” questions: Are you retired? Are you working? Do you have young children? Just some crude statements so we can see maybe a little bit of motivation for their suggestions. Or is this stepping over the line?

Comment by Vice-Chair Post: As long as [such questions are] ‘optional’ - it is their choice (not required).
Comment by Chair Foderaro-Guertin: I think it is comments from people who are going to take interest in a specific field. We had a lot of requests for art classes (in several peoples’ comments); Alden Theatre shows – leveraging our ‘convenience’ vs. driving to the Kennedy Center. **There are definitely ideas that are worth considering; it’s just a matter of finding logistics, time and money.**

Comment by Board member: I joined a group called “Next Door” and now I’m getting hundreds of requests for dog training. I didn’t hear that [dog training] today; but I’m seeing lots of people asking for it! But there was no mention of this in the comments. People are getting dogs because they are housebound.

Comment by Board member, following-up on Mr. Rahman’s point: For FCPS, when you sign up for “Keep in Touch” you check-off: “I want to know about…” (among 20 options). Then, whenever a press release or information comes out about a topic, you receive it; it is tailored to you. If MCC were to separate the newsletter… the good news is that MCC has so much going on - but the bad part is: the thing I’m particularly interested in might be at the bottom of the newsletter. The newsletter we are doing is awesome, as are the targeted ads on Facebook. But in today’s age, with Constant Contact information, people who are interested should be able to sign-up. Maybe we should do individual press releases or a weekly topical news summary (for pre-K; elementary school age kids, etc.). It’s an ‘Opt-in’ where the person chooses what information to receive.

Comment by Chair Foderaro-Guertin: Yes - that would give you the most up-to-date information about that interest.

**Further comment by Mr. Rahman:** I would also second Mr. Glikbarg’s point about “NextDoor” – it’s a very trusted source. Fairfax Co. Police Dept. posts information through NextDoor – it’s a very trusted source. I trust Next Door because know it is my neighbors and trusted sources. If there is some way, using your software, to get every activity… or more MCC communication into the NextDoor feed, that would actually be useful for marketing purposes.

**ACTION ITEM:** Comment by Vice-Chair Post: An app with notifications would be ideal. We posted it on NextDoor but it would be great for PIO Sabrina Anwah to do a future follow-up.

**ADJOURNMENT** *(and transition)*

Having concluded reading all written remarks into the record, Chair Foderaro-Guertin thanked members of the public who participated in this ZOOM meeting and those who submitted written comments. These ideas will be taken into consideration. The Public Hearing on FY2023 Programs officially concluded at 8:14 p.m.

Programs & Outreach Committee Chair Foderaro-Guertin transitioned to Governing Board Chair Le Menestrel to convene a Regular Meeting of the MCC Governing Board - which immediately followed.

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

**CONVENE MEETING**

Board Chair Le Menestrel convened a Regular Meeting of the MCC Governing Board at 8:14 p.m., continuing the protocol of the virtual meeting on ZOOM.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Le Menestrel welcomed members of the public participating in this portion of the meeting and invited them to introduce themselves and express personal comments if they wish. There were no public comments.
BOARD DEVELOPMENT

Chair Le Menestrel welcomed Robert Jackson, president of McLean Citizens Association, who gave the following remarks:

Thank you for inviting me. It was very interesting to listen to all the things that people were interested in having MCC do. In different stages of life, you use MCC for different purposes (most recently for me, for the last 15 years, it has been going to meetings). MCC is a wonderful place to hold meetings.

McLean Citizens Association has been around since 1914. MCA was also instrumental in getting the land where MCC sits. **What is MCA doing now?** 40-person board and several committees: Budget & Taxation; Education & Youth; Environment; Parks & Recreation; Transportation; Tysons; Membership; Planning & Zoning (looking at land use cases). This year, we have a new committee that’s looking into the possibility of whether McLean has the right form of local government: Should we look into becoming a town or city?

**What are the big issues this year?** McLean Community Business Center (CBC) Task Force has met for slightly more than 2 ½ years and are now finalizing the language for the plan. There will be a hearing before the Fairfax County Planning Commission on April 28, and before BoS on May 12. Not everyone has the same vision of what downtown McLean should look like. Some people would like to see it more developed; some people want to see it less developed. Some people are more interested in transportation issues; school issues; environmental issues. Stormwater management is a big issue: storm water is going everywhere. The CBC will cause a lot of flooding because it will have so many impervious surfaces. **Resolutions:** MCA is considering a resolution on how well the county addressed our concerns; we are discussing that at our April 7 meeting. MCA will also have a resolution on the county budget and the tax rate. We look at all the land use cases in greater McLean are - if someone is going to propose a re-zoning or a special exception, MCA generally reviews those cases and submits comments. For about six months, MCA worked on a resolution about “495Next” (which was the completion of the express lanes up to American Legion Bridge which will inter-connect with what Maryland has announced they are going to do). MCA did a lot of work on stormwater issues there, and environmental issues, as well as the transportation issues. MCA wrote a letter expressing disappointment in FCPS botching the roll-out of distanced learning this year. Sometimes, we can get somewhat critical. MCA is looking at issues in Tysons – very active in the Tysons Plan and we have been monitoring it. MCA looks at the land use cases on McLean side of Route 7 - pushing for parks and fields in Tysons. MCA has been critical of the estimates: we think Fairfax County is under-estimating the amount of students that would be attending public schools from Tysons. So we have been pushing them to do a better job. So basically, MCA is involved in about everything that is going on in McLean – dealing with the state legislators; dealing with our county officials.

MCA will have its Annual Meeting on May 20 - on ZOOM and live-streamed. Fairfax County Executive Bryan Hill will be our special guest. MCC Board is invited to participate in this upcoming meeting.

**Q & A:**

*McLean becoming its own city (expense implications):*

**Question by Chair Le Menestrel:**  *What is the case MCA would like to make for creating our own town or city?*

MCA is just trying to elicit the pros-and-cons: Is this a good idea? What would the costs be? What we hear the most from people is: We’d like to control our own destiny. Fairfax County is getting so big and it’s not responsive as it would be if McLean were a community of 50,000 residents. There are a lot of financial aspects: Do we have enough tax base to do this? What are the costs for police? schools? fire stations? There is a statute in the Virginia Code that is about to expire that says: no new cities can be created. Virginia is somewhat unique in that ‘cities’ are not part of counties: if you are a “city” you are on your own – an independent city (like Falls Church, Manassas, Manassas Park, Vienna, Fairfax). MCA is just trying to gather the facts; and then
as they assemble facts, MCA will reach out to other groups: Chamber of Commerce; PTA’s; various faith communities – to have a broader look at: What should McLean look like to go deeper into the 21st century?

Question: It’s interesting that that is the topic - because I would think that, in order for McLean to have all the services provided by the county, that’s going to be mighty expensive!

That’s one of the issues we have to look at – is this economically feasible? Would anyone want to join us? (What about Great Falls/ Tysons)? There are a whole lot of issues. Rather than come up with any set formula or set conclusions, MCA is doing fact-finding and gathering input from their members: What is working? What is not working? One of the big complaints is - it’s felt that, if McLean were a city and running its schools, the over-crowding at McLean H.S. would not have lasted as long as it has. It took years to get FCPS to even come up with a way to even look at boundary changes. McLean (as well as Oakton and some other areas) has the highest class sizes in the county. So, there are a whole lot of issues. Would McLean be better-off setting our own destiny? But then at the same time, can we afford to do it? This is not a plan to cut taxes; and maybe people don’t [want to cut taxes]; but we’re looking at it.

*Ways for MCC Board to partner with MCA:

Question: How can MCC Governing Board partner with MCA, in general?

One of the great things is that MCC Board member Raj Mehra is also on the MCA board. You are welcome to attend our meetings (people attending each other’s meetings is important). No matter what we do, the McLean Community Center is going to remain a key part of McLean. I recall years ago, I had friends visiting from Bethesda, MD and they commented how amazing the MCC facility is! When my kids were younger, they attended events, camps, yoga classes – it was all very important and very much appreciated.

Recommendation from Vice-Chair Post: Rob - I hope you will send our “Public Hearing on FY21 Programs” survey out to all your members!

Absolutely! Send us the stuff to our Membership Committee and we will send it out to our members. We are also working on this new “McLean Today” website (one-stop shopping) for the whole community. It’s a constant effort: we’ve been around since 1914 and there are a lot of people who don’t know us. Sometimes people confuse MCA with the McLean Community Center. This is my second spin as president and people confuse us with the local government (thinking that they pay my salary)!

*McLean becoming its own city (diversity implications):

Question: When you say the idea of McLean being “its own entity” – I worry about diversity. Fairfax Co. is a huge county and it, in-and-of-itself, is very diverse; but McLean is not. I wonder if we are cutting ourselves off from a diverse body and diversity of thought - into a kind of ‘bubble’ of what is many times seen as “very wealthy."

Sure – that’s great. I think those are some of the questions. In terms of diversity of opinions – sit through one of our board meetings sometime - with 40 people: MCA does have a lot of diverse views. But is this [McLean becoming a city] something that people want to do? And this is not the first time; I understand that this got started in the 1940’s, and 1950’s; and went back in the 1970’s. And people have looked at it in different ways. But people may decide: No – we’d rather stay a part of Fairfax County. Or maybe we’d like to split the county East/West… or North/South. There are a lot of people in a lot of parts of the county that have similar views: (in Chantilly or Annandale, or Alexandria… or wherever) that they’re just not listening to us. And people are just asking the question: Is Fairfax County too big? Supervisors John Foust and Dahlia Palchik are very responsive – but they have 120,000 – 130,000 constituents.

Question: And have you been speaking with Falls Church – which has that model?

MCA is talking with Falls Church; also the Town of Leesburg (which has wanted to become its own city for a long time).

Question: Regarding the point just made about “diversity” - that is why I am a part of the community: because I have a
data-driven background and I look at the numbers and the growth. Rest assured that there is a lot of need. My vision and involvement is to have an actual strategic plan that shows all the questions that Robert Jackson just mentioned. This has been done 3 or 4 times before - where McLean has sought to find an independent-type environment. There isn’t a whole lot of history that is written; there are no actual reports that I have heard exist. Looking at all of that, if we do an analysis – look at pros-and-cons and the actual numbers, we would be in very good shape. In the last 107 years, McLean has changed drastically. Someone mentioned that it used to be a very small type of community. It has changed. What is the strategic plan for the next 5-10 years? What are the priorities as a community (aside from trying to look for a new way of being ‘independent’ (that just seems to be one of the priorities for now)? But looking at the next 5-10 years - after 107 years, where has McLean been? Where does it think it is? And where do you think it will go from here?

The main thing MCA sees is to work with other groups and our government officials on a totally non-partisan basis to protect and enhance the quality of life for people. Of course, that means different things to different people. But MCA is interested in our environment… transportation… one of the plagues of living in McLean is cut-through traffic. Our neighbors in Maryland are trying to avoid getting on the Beltway until the last minute, so they drive through our neighborhoods. And then McLean residents can’t get out of their own neighborhood. That problem will be back because traffic is already up now. School overcrowding is another issue: the situation at McLean High School was really bad - a lot of trailers. MCA has been pushing for sidewalk and trail maintenance. MCA has been pushing for pension reform (Fairfax Co. has two pension plans – regular + supplemental plan); teachers have the Virginia state retirement plan and a supplemental plan. Those supplemental plans are deeply in the hole; massive un-funding. How do they address that with current spending? Lack of competitive wages for police, teachers and other employees – sometimes we are falling behind, but costs (because of these pension plans) are a lot higher. MCA is looking at land use. Downtown development: What should downtown look like? How do we get 2/3 acre park as a gathering space in downtown McLean? Quality of life issues are what people are interested in. McLean is an older community – we are aging. The needs are different than in some other areas [of the county]. We’ve got a lot of people who have come here from a lot of places around the world. How do we make sure to integrate people onto our MCA board? Our board is a lot more diverse than it was when I first became president in 2007. It’s really great to see people come in and say: “You know, I have only lived here for three years but I’m really interested and I want to be a member of the Education committee, or the Budget & Taxation committee. MCA is trying for diversity.

Mr. Jackson appreciated the invitation to speak to MCC Governing Board and will be glad to address any future questions.

LEGACY PRESENCE OF OFC

Paul Kohlenberger, former Chair of MCC Governing Board, has been observing the future planning for downtown McLean (known as CBC Development Plan, which is being coordinated by Fairfax County). Mr. Kohlenberger identified an issue of potential impact on the parcel where The Old Firehouse Center is located. OFC provides varied and well-received programming for all ages, and especially for young teens in our community. To preserve the legacy of this significant historical milestone building, Mr. Kohlenberger suggests that a letter signed by the MCC Governing Board be submitted to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Two key issues: 1. Preserving OFC; 2. Having an accessible pedestrian bridge over Route 123 to get to the McLean Community Center from the CBC (downtown area of McLean).

Chair Le Menestrel thanked Mr. Kohlenberger for bringing this issue to the attention of the Board. A DRAFT letter written by Mr. Kohlenberger was distributed prior to this meeting and now it is time to consider adopting a MOTION to proceed to send the letter. Chair Le Menestrel thinks it looks good as currently worded; no changes were suggested. Ms. Herrick proposed the MOTION; it was seconded.
MOTION: MCC Governing Board produces a letter of support to preserve the enduring presence of The Old Firehouse Center in its present location in downtown McLean, to be maintained as a legacy in Fairfax County CBC development plans, and to support the concept of a pedestrian bridge over Route 123 to connect the downtown area with McLean Central Park.  **Unanimously approved.**

ACTION ITEM: The letter on official MCC Governing Board letterhead will be delivered as directed.

APPROVE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 24, 2021 GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
Chair Le Menestrel asked if there were any suggested revisions to Minutes of February 24, 2021 Regular Meeting. No changes were requested; a motion was made to approve the Minutes as written; it was seconded.

MOTION: That the Minutes of the Governing Board Regular Meeting on February 24, 2021 be approved.  **Unanimously approved.**

CHAIR’S REPORT / EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
The Executive Director search is almost finished and an official announcement will be made soon. An offer has been made; all paperwork with Fairfax County is in the process of being finalized (not done yet!). No formal announcement will be made until all of that is completed. Fairfax County HR processes are more complex than the non-profit sector.

An invitation has gone out for the celebration of George Sachs’ retirement: Sunday, May 2 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at McLean Central Park (the following day at same time is also reserved at the park as a ‘rain date’). Chair Le Menestrel has been working with Executive Committee, Ms. Novak and Mike Fisher to plan the event. The number of people allowed to gather outdoors will go up next month, so we will be properly utilizing that space. There will be a short formal program; details will be shared soon.

Executive Committee is also working on a Sponsorship policy, which will be ready for review and discussion at the April Governing Board meeting. Ms. Zamora-Appel and Ms. Post are working with Mr. Sachs on a revised DRAFT. Facilities usage was also discussed. Mr. Sachs and Mr. McGovern are evaluating the interior courtyard to see if it is conducive as an event space (including availability as a rental). Some concerns have arisen and MCC staff is determining whether the interior courtyard can be future utilized in a way that would meet all requirements.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT  A written report detailed the past month’s activities and accomplishments.

Internal Alignment:
- To follow up from last month, we did not hear back from Virginia Hospital Center or Fairfax County Health Department as to whether the MCC space was a viable space as an alternate COVID-19 vaccine location. Perhaps it is not a need at this time; but they know we are here and the offer still stands, if-and-when needed.
- Theatre Technician Deion Roulhac has completed certification as a COVID-19 Compliance Officer. Jeffery Virchow (The Alden staff) will receive certification in April - which will affirm that MCC’s plans will incorporate the latest protocols once in-person programming returns to The Alden Theatre.
- We are working on dates to facilitate American Red Cross Blood Drives at MCC throughout the year (every two months, working around our class programs). Thanks to Vice-Chair Post for the
contact person, who has been an excellent resource to work with. We are going to make this happen!
It will be a nice way to serve our community. We will publicize these offerings as soon as dates are set.

- The Old Firehouse is happy to announce the hiring of Teen Center Manager and Camps Director positions. **Aaron Green is the new Teen Center Manager**, bringing excitement to his focus on youth development through recreation. **Sheletta Anderson is the new Camps Director**, who brings excellent enthusiasm in working with children and providing memorable fun experiences through MCC camp programs.

**External Alignment:**
- **Classes:** In February MCC had 66 class offerings - both virtual and in-person, with a total attendance of 204. Up-coming in March is a Self-Defense class (12 registered for in-person outdoors); registration for a COVID-19 Vaccine Registration Tutorial class is also underway.

- **Youth Events:** **Spring Fest** is March 27th from 10am to 1pm. It is a sell-out at 65 registered families with 124 children to receive goodie bags with Easter eggs and crafts! There will be a traditional egg hunt and photo op with Easter Bunny and Chick. Participants used Sign-Up Genius for time slots to keep things safe and spread-out.

- **Girls on the Run** will resume on March 21 and go through May 16. 40 have registered; they will be put into three teams, with six volunteer coaches.

- **(coming up) Father Daughter Silent Disco Dance on April 30th** from 7pm – 8:30pm. This is an outdoor silent disco with DJ, glow products and socially-distanced dance space in MCC parking lot.

- **Old Firehouse Center:** is still offering Learning Connection Program. February- 5 students; 4 students are registered in March. We are closely monitoring the interest and need of this program as schools return to in-classroom teaching.

- **Virtual Family Bingo** was held on February 19th with 30 participants and multiple winners - with great prizes arranged in themed baskets creatively designed by MCC staff.

- **Virtual Family Trivia** on February 26th had 18 participating family teams with top teams receiving prizes. Public comment feedback: “It was better than expected….and it was so much fun!”

- **Virtual Glow Party** on Friday March 19 went well for this first-time attempt: 42 kids enjoyed the fun.

- **(coming up) Virtual Family Trivia (March 26); Spring Break Trips (March 30 – April 2)**

- **(coming up) Special Events: Earth Day** on April 17th from 9am to 12noon. Community shredding, recycling, free tree saplings and pollinator seeds given out. Wheels to Africa will also be on-site to collect old bicycles.

- **Performing Arts:** **MLK podcast** wrapped up on February 18 with a total of 100+ participants over the six weeks. Plans are underway for Season Four and taking the suggestion of having fewer sessions. The Alden presented a **Doktor Kaboom virtual performance** on February 21 and 22 - full of jokes and science experiments that families could do together. Public comment: “Bonding with kids while doing something educational, they forgot they were learning and just had fun!” The Alden also presented **“The Joshua Show”** virtually on March 13th. This interactive show is geared toward our youngest audience members and reinforces social and emotional learning. **Unruly Theatre Project** teen
improv group continued its exceptional programming with virtual performances, workshops, and first ever mid-year auditions - which added four new talented teens to the group.

Financial Stewardship:
On February 23rd Fairfax County Real Estate Division of Department of Tax Administration sent us notice of 2021 McLean Community Center Assessed Values. In comparison with last year, our budgeted tax revenue will likely increase about $318,000.

ELECTIONS & NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE
Logistics of Earth Day drive-thru voting were discussed at the March 8 meeting. Ms. Markwart will re-send Sign-up Genius for Board members to work as ‘customer relations’ presence for the drive-thru voting at Earth Day and McLean Day. LWV will help with the vote-counting on McLean Day (May 15). As is typical, there was a flood of candidate packets coming in at the last minute on Friday, March 12!

CANDIDATE ROSTER: 5 adults; 5 McLean High School students; 3 Langley High School students. All were duly-qualified by ten valid signatures of Small District 1A-Dranesville residents.

Write-in: We had one inquiry later from a McLean High School student wanting to run as a ‘write-in’ candidate. According to our rules, adults or students may run as a “write-in” candidate, but they must receive at least ten votes from Small District 1A-Dranesville residents in order to be counted in the final vote tally.

Decided not to run: two adults and four youth did not return their candidates packets (deciding not to run).

Disqualification because of insufficient signatures: one student attempted to turn-in her candidate packet at 4:58 p.m. on Friday, March 12; however, she did not have enough Small District 1A-Dranesville signatures. She had been notified the day before that the signature count was insufficient. Mr. Sachs and Ms. Novak were very kind (Ms. Markwart observed the interaction on Friday, 3/12). The student attempted to get more tax district resident signatures at the very last minute, but not even enough of those extra signatures qualified. By waiting until the last day, this youth lacked necessary time to get more qualified signatures before the deadline.

As a new protocol this year, ENC Chair Markwart talked to each person directly who picked up a candidate packet. That may have contributed to a positive result of having so many qualified people running in the election. Ms. Markwart met many of them in person at their photo shoot; several chose to stay on-site to participate in the Candidate Orientation hosted on ZOOM.

Videos: March 8 ENC meeting discussed the idea of producing videos of each candidates. It had not been mentioned to the candidates prior. When Ms. Markwart called the candidates, she informed them about doing a video. We then received an e-mail from a parent with questions about the video. Another student who was going to do the orientation by ZOOM was also surprised, as it had not been previously announced to the candidates. This was problematic; Mr. Sachs, Ms. Anwah, Ms. Novak and Ms. Markwart realized that the video idea was not viable. They made a quick decision on Fri., March 12 to cancel the videos. This is a lesson learned. The idea of a video of each candidate had been intended to take the place of the Friends of MCC “meet-and-greet” event which was not held this year nor last, because of COVID-19 restrictions. If it is decided to produce candidate feature videos next year, it will be important to inform everyone in advance, with appropriate guidelines.

Candidate Orientation: Saturday, March 13 (an updated PowerPoint from last year). Separate orientations for adults and youth – each lasting one hour. There was great participation and thoughtful questions by the candidates. Tyler Jensen and Ivy Chen developed an excellent InfoGraphic for the youth campaigns. Former MCC Board member Megan Markwart joined the ZOOM call to answer questions and encourage the students.

Question: Were any questions asked by candidates that were not referenced in the FAQ’s [in adult candidate packet]?
No—it seems like nothing came up. Clarification by Mr. Sachs: Everyone seemed to follow along easily. Nothing seemed a point of confusion. The questions were: When would they get the list of organizations?

Clarification by Chair Le Menestrel: The only thing that came out for the adult candidates was: clarifying that the MCC Governing Board doesn’t “run” McLean Community Center. I tried to delineate the roles of the Governing Board vs. MCC staff. I don’t know if that’s helpful or not, but I just wanted them to have more of a sense of what their role would be.

Opinion expressed: That’s really a great point, because all of us thought that we would have a direct impact on programming—in such a way as: “Elect me from my neighborhood…and I will go tell the McLean Community Center what you want.” However, it’s more about providing governance; policy; and those types of things. That perhaps should be a question/answer added to the FAQ’s document.

Chair Markwart expressed special thanks to PIO Sabrina Anwah and her team for a great job in getting the word out about the MCC Governing Board election! This generated great interest, especially from the youth! It has been excellent response from the candidates and the public. Sabrina Anwah is awesome!

Open Voting: Based on Ms. Foderaro-Guertin’s suggestion at ENC meeting on March 8, Ms. Markwart viewed the MCC website to check the election information and confirm that all links are working: candidate information is up and people have access to it. Open Voting went live last Wednesday, March 17: people can phone; send an e-mail; use the online link to request a ballot; or walk-in to MCC to pick up a ballot (and ballots for their own household).

Results so far: As of yesterday, 70 adult ballots had been requested; 19 youth ballots had been requested. Ms. Novak is doing an excellent job keeping everything organized. Candidate photos are now on the MCC website; Facebook, Instagram, Twitter are the most-used social media handles. Many candidates have created their own dedicated e-mail address. It is an interesting and lively campaign season!

All Board members echoed thanks to Ms. Novak for sending out the ballots to them which have been received already by mail! Board Chair Le Menestrel thanked ENC Chair Markwart for all her efforts. It seems like the election process is going really well despite all the ongoing COVID-19 circumstances.

NO candidate physical presence at McLean Day event (poster photo instead):

The only other question during orientation: Are you sure that the candidates won’t be present at McLean Day this year? This is a change from the tradition of McLean Day. We assured them that there would be a poster photo representation of each candidate. Clarification by Mike Fisher: It will likely be a 144-character Tweet statement + picture on a posterboard (for each candidate). Since they won’t have videos nor additional opportunity to address people directly—rather than a full-size image waving, the 144-character Tweet-style statement will be one more opportunity for candidates to distinguish themselves individually to the public.

Mr. Sachs encouraged everyone to look at the statements from each candidate; they are really impressive! It is encouraging to see a good understanding of their reason for wanting to serve on the Board.

Make voting process more prominent on MCC website:

Question: On the MCC website, finding out how to vote is difficult. On the front page could we say: "Please vote—here’s how you can get a ballot" rather than trace down through the statements of the candidates? The first time it didn’t come up. The home page has the circles across the top and scrolls through to click here… to vote. It’s the first thing you will see at www.mcleancenter.org.

Suggestion by Ms. Post: It would be nice to put a stationery “vote” button instead of a moving carousel.

Clarification by Chair Markwart: I’m torn because we started voting this past Wednesday and continues until May 15—which means the only thing the public will see prominently on the website for two months is “VOTING.”
Opinion expressed: Put a fourth stationery box at the top: “Calendar”, “Register” “Rentals” - add a box for “Voting” – as a quick way to get to the voting/candidate selection. Something quick and small.

Chair Le Menestrel again thanked ENC Chair Markwart. She said it seems like everything is going pretty well.

CAPITAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE
CFC did not meet in March. Chair Post and Ms. Sletten will meet with Mr. McGovern on Friday to talk about the pollinator garden.

NEXT MEETINGS: Thursday, April 8 at 6:00 p.m. (on ZOOM)
Thursday, May 6 at 6:00 p.m. (on ZOOM)

PROGRAMS & OUTREACH COMMITTEE
Programs & Outreach did not meet in March.
NEXT MEETING: Thurs., April 8 at 7:00 p.m. (on ZOOM)

Q & A about McLean Day planning: Saturday, May 15, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Question: Could MCC staff give an update on the concept; can you provide more clarity?
Clarification by Mike Fisher: McLean Day will feature active displays (carnival-oriented theme). We are now trying to sign contracts/performance agreements for the performers (circus-style acts): stilt walker; juggler – all seen from your car; visually-stimulating acts, entertainment, music - progressing on a driving route through MCC parking lot. There will also be drive-thru voting opportunity; cotton candy will be passed out. We are contracting with the various performers to provide entertainment for the entire duration.
Question: Drive-thru Drama required people to register – so you knew how many people were expected, to anticipate traffic. Is pre-registration going to be required for McLean Day? Or is it just going to be however many people show-up? It’s worrisome because that road has no sidewalks. If cars are backed-up, it will definitely cause traffic problems.
This will be an open-ended drive-up event. Because it’s a primarily a timeframe to facilitate the Governing Board election voting, we don’t want to limit the number of participants who are able to come through – therefore, no registration timeslots. We are planning how to manage traffic -engaging volunteer organizations to assist. We will make sure not to clog-up anything in the neighborhood. No stopping; it’s a continuous slow drive through the MCC parking lot. Traffic is something we are well aware of, and actively trying to mitigate.
Questions: Is that something the Scouts could volunteer for? Because we want Small District 1A-Dranesville people to vote, if there is any way we could try to focus on 1A-Dranesville district residents: they could vote and they could also help.
Especially high schoolers - I noticed at the MPA concert that there were some high school kids helping with the traffic. New volunteers into the roles are always welcome. MCC utilizes Volunteer Fairfax (everyone is registered through that system for the entire of Fairfax Co.) We are always looking for new volunteers and we always direct them to sign-up through Volunteer Fairfax. The county has asked MCC to utilize the Volunteer Fairfax system. We do try to target local people.
Question: In addition to helping with drive-thru voting, could MCC Board members do other tasks to help? And do Board members need to go through Volunteer Fairfax in order to assist with Earth Day or McLean Day?
Clarification by Mike Fisher: No, your assistance with drive-thru voting can be on Ms. Markwart’s Sign-up Genius; there is no need to access Volunteer Fairfax for that.

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Finance Committee did not meet in March. NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, April 20 at 7:00 p.m. on ZOOM
OLD / NEW BUSINESS
No other topics were mentioned for discussion this evening.

ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business, Chair Le Menestrel adjourned the Regular Board meeting at 9:15 p.m.

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