



**2021-2022 MCC Governing Board
Regular Meeting
April 27, 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; Max Blacksten
- Board members absent:** Suzanne Le Menestrel; Ivy Chen
- MCC Staff present:** Daniel Singh, Executive Director; Holly Novak, Executive Assistant; Sabrina Anwah, PIO
- Guests:** Catherine Trauernicht; Debra Bissen (MPA); Catherine Nesbitt; ; Debra Butler; Jim Lawless; Camila Alfonzo Meza (Supervisor Foust’s office); Merrily Pierce; Paul Kohlenberger; Kathleen Gillette Mallard; Mr. Mallard; Alice Middleton; Sonjuiya O’Neill (MCA)

CONVENE MEETING

Chair Zamora-Appel convened a Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of the McLean Community Center on April 27, 2022, at 6:35 p.m. This meeting was open to the public attending in-person. The meeting was tape-recorded and required courtesy verbal announcement about audio recording was stated by the Chair. The audio recording will be made available to the public once Minutes are approved at the next upcoming Governing Board meeting - May 25, 2022.

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

APPROVE MINUTES

Minutes of March 23, 2022, Regular Meeting were reviewed. No changes were requested; accepted as written.

MOTION: To approve Minutes of March 23, 2022, Regular Meeting.
Unanimously approved by a vote of 8:
Barbara Zamora-Appel; Lisa Mariam; Bill Glikbarg; Carla Post; Melanie Sletten; Rasheq Rahman; Maria Foderaro-Guertin; Shivani Saboo – all voting “AYE.”
Suzanne Le Menestrel and Ivy Chen were absent.
Max Blacksten arrived late – he did not vote on this MOTION.

Minutes of April 12, 2022, Special Called Meeting were reviewed. No changes were requested; accepted as written.

MOTION: To approve Minutes of April 20, 2022, Meeting of the Whole.
Unanimously approved by a vote of 9:
Barbara Zamora-Appel; Lisa Mariam; Bill Glikbarg; Carla Post; Melanie Sletten; Rasheq Rahman; Maria Foderaro-Guertin; Shivani Saboo; Max Blacksten – all voting “AYE.”
Suzanne Le Menestrel and Ivy Chen were absent.

Minutes of April 20, 2022, Meeting of the Whole were reviewed. There are some changes to come; these Minutes will be reviewed and approved in May 25, 2022 Board meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

*Length of time to get a new program up and running: Iftar took 100 hours of staff time to produce a 2-hour event.

It was a complex event involving county permissions; coordination with county inter-faith office. As long as it is inter-faith and multiple community partners are involved over an entire year, it's fine. But we can't put all MCC funds toward one specific partner. *Question: Is there a written list of protocols that MCC staff must go through?*

ACTION ITEM: Executive Director Singh will document the steps that were needed for the protocol.

*June 4: memorial service for Robert Alden – who started MCC. The family preferred to have the memorial service at their church (Lewinsville Presbyterian) rather than The Alden Theatre.

*challenges of featuring local artists: Often we get requests for local artists (recent performance had only 94 attendees); Comparison metrics for Judy Carmichael (nationally-recognized artist) – 150 people.

*Rentals look great at OFC; they are starting to pick up at MCC. April looks more promising.

*Outreach for final phase of strategic plan: We will put up a DRAFT plan – still doing the prioritization exercise, then budget projections. Then meeting with elected and appointed county officials – then ready for the public to give input. Posters at McLean Day; online survey available on our website for 2 weeks; printed survey and an option for people to get the printed version. We will put it in Supervisor Foust's newsletter, Elaine Tholen's newsletter. Series of meetings with civic organizations, Fairfax County NextDoor channel, mailer to district residents. A request has come in for a public meeting. For a longer-term initiative, the MOU requires having a public hearing with a 30-day notice. The question is whether to do a language translation through the county's translation service (it will take a couple more weeks). Once the survey is final, we will request an estimate for language translation services.

Question: What about a timeline? When are we going to receive it? Will we have the DRAFT by McLean Day?

AMS never promised it; prioritization by last week; then budget aspect. It was on the last slide that AMS presented.

If we add the public comment meeting and various other things that have been requested, that timeline will be changed.

ACTION ITEM: Requesting a new timeline from AMS by next Friday, May 6.

*Sensory Day (April 27) – had 50 people attending at OFC. For a very niche program that no one else is doing in the community, it was a huge success.

*McLean Day *Question: What is the county health department advising?*

COVID-19 infection is spiking but they don't see it as a problem. We are operating business as normal. But if things change, we have the flexibility to work with the county health department to make appropriate adjustments.

UPDATE: WEBSITE REDESIGN **comments by Executive Director Singh and Sabrina Anwah, PIO*

Vendor = Kompleks Creative (based in North Carolina) <https://komplekscreative.com/>

GOALS OF REDESIGN (many improvements are needed): 1. Our current website is based on Joomla (content management). We need a smaller version – WordPress. WordPress is a well-supported platform for mid-size organizations; you can get developers to customize it. 2. One-click options: a major priority is not having to click two or three times to get to where you would like to go. Current configuration – introductory page, drop-down to performances, drop-down to comedy, music. 3. Some features are not available on the mobile version; not ADA-compliant. 4. Calendar feature is antiquated on current website (manual entry on the calendar). 5. Outdated: our current version is about 11 years old; best practice is to have it refreshed every 5-10 years to take advantage of new features. We refreshed it within the last 6 years to address getting the events on J-events using the current vendor in DC (FIONTA).

NEXT STEPS: Vendor has provided mock-ups of what it will be. The menu was done after a pixel on our website to study patterns of where people were going to first on our current website. We are discussing the menu of options that will be on the first page. Upcoming events will be a scrolling banner; "What's New" section; pulling in social media comments; footer has been streamlined; "About Governing Board" will display meeting dates.

DETAILED Q & A:

1. *Question: Have you been discussing search engine optimization?*

Yes – SEO is what we have been discussing most. That is a main goal – to make sure all events are coded, as well the static pages.

2. *Question: If doing the website redesign now, is it timely to have online voting also designed? Can we add that into the process so that it will be ready to go next year?*

The ENC will have to make recommendations for the new year – if online voting is what the committee requests,

3. *Question: How many mock-ups were you presented before you chose this one?*

They examined usage research and came up with this design; we are still working on it. We have not chosen a final design. It's a work-in-progress.

4. *Question: Do you have a plan for usability testing?*

The plan is to launch a test in July and have a final by August 2022 (when we start registering for fall classes).

5. *Question: What about mobile-optimized? Will it have all of that? Yes.*

6. *Question: What about the registration process? I asked years ago that we would make it easier for the end-user to use.*

Ovation Tix and Audience View will be coordinated. The current contracts with OvationTix and Audience View are not coordinated. Theater seating chart and different pricing for Orchestra and Balcony is not possible in ACTIV. We don't have one database that can handle both.

7. *Question: Where will the calendar be on this website? The current calendar only has events that are managed by MCC. When I first saw signs for Chocolate Festival, I looked on MCC website calendar. I only saw the signs, emails from people. Is there a policy?*

Yes – there is a communication and marketing support policy in effect now if MCC co-sponsors an event (such as AAUW fall book sales). But if it's considered a rental, then MCC doesn't put it on our website. Iftar was not on the calendar because it was invitation-only. There is inconsistency on the calendar.

Question: Whenever I want to see what happened last Saturday, there is nothing because the calendar is only forward-facing. Is that going to change? The calendar is forward-facing.

Opinions expressed: It's good to go backward

8. *Question: The colors look good; usability testing will be helpful. Make sure the color scheme is compliant with visually-impaired. Also language accessibility will be automatically linked to Google translation.*

9. *Question: Is it ongoing maintenance with the same company? Yes.*

10. *Question: Will there be a Twitter feed? Yes.*

11. *Question: You've collected specifics about utilization. But the reality is that whole measurement scheme needs to be continued. In creating a new thing, you discover aspects that are newly highly-utilized. Is there a way to evaluate and make changes going forward? Are we set up for changes to be made?*

Yes – we have Google analytics. we have a website maintenance contract and at all times we can make such changes.

Clarification by Executive Director Singh: If we need to re-order the menu based on usage, we can change it. It will not be locked-in place.

Clarification by PIO Sabrina Anwah: We also have a quarterly maintenance. They will tell us what has been operating well and what has not been, such as if people are having a hard time accessing. The evaluation continues.

12. *Customizable viewing of what I am specifically interested in: Opinion expressed: What would be great is when you make the decision if there is a log-in button to get my own view of events based on my preferences as a parent of young children.*

Focused discussion about rentals:

Question: Is the website vendor working on the rental forms, or will that stay the same?

Rentals were lower priority; we don't have it finished. In terms of how the tree will look, the priority is to be more visual: purchase a ticket right there in the immediate experience of the visual. The calendar will have a visual and an action item. CapitalOne rental info. has visuals of the rooms and capacity. We will make it more visual for people to register for that room on that page. Rentals are among the improvements; also adding staff photos.

Question: One issue we face is lack of information about the policy to rent. We request that information to be on the website.



In talking with Joe McGovern, there are five different categories (in-district; non-profit; out-of-district) and related variables. It will still be a form to fill out on the website and then MCC staff follows-up with the requestor to discuss specifics.

Question: Can I only rent once per month?... or... What if I want to rent for 52 weeks?

Clarification by Executive Director Singh: We can look at Reston Community Center to see how they handle it.

Comment by Chair Zamora-Appel: The incoming 2022-2023 Governing Board needs to look at the rental policy. When the two other website platforms come up for re-bid, roll all that in and consider one system that can do that.

PROJECTED TIMELINE: August 10 – everything on the actual website. Staff will be able to enter Fall classes once + theatre season. July will be a very busy month for the PIO office.

Question: Will the board be able to see the actual website before it goes live? Some of us would be willing to be beta-testers; feel free to sign us up. Absolutely!

Comment by Chair Zamora-Appel: Sabrina- great job!

Thank you. It is a group effort! MCC staff had an opportunity to give their comments to improve the design.

CHAIR'S REPORT

I want to congratulate Catherine Nesbitt for the work on Earth Day. How do we measure how much was recycled? Some people asked where activities were for kids. It offers a great opportunity for future planning. Sustainability has been a challenge to implement. It is something that future boards can sprinkle into other events--more opportunity for education

Several outstanding items:

1. Status of crisis communication plan. Two weeks ago, Sabrina gave Daniel a draft – based on what the county has in terms of presentation. That draft is a starting point – a possibility for how we can do it. How would we communicate to the board – text messages? Who would be speaking to the press?

Clarification by PIO Sabrina Anwah: There is not really one answer. If more than one agency is involved, then the county PIO office handles it. Question: Would it help if we gave you a plan? Lisa Mariam supplied a sample crisis comm. plan.

PIO Sabrina Anwah appreciates seeing examples. Crisis communication is not definite; it is fluid – it may include two county agencies, which determine the path. If just MCC... this is the path we would take. PIO is a daily operation – we would put together a DRAFT response and we would send a response.

2. Task List – has some outdated information. Please update it. It is a guide for what we are trying to accomplish. It would be beneficial for everyone on the board including the incoming new board – so they will know what we have been working on. SharePoint is a viewing sight but not editing; it is a county IT policy we struggle with every day. Board members will e-mail to Ms. Novak any updates.
3. Usability reports to address rental requests –. What are you programming? What are you planning?
4. Org chart – we recently became aware that the org chart for MCC staff was changed. The board did not review or approve it. That document falls under the Board's governance; any changes need to be approved. Chair Zamora-Appel highly recommends going back to the org chart from 2020. If we can add it to an agenda item to discuss it to better align priorities of the staff. Any significant changes must be approved by the board. We don't know what change was made... or why?
5. Strategic plan – The public input for this strategic plan (both in-person and virtual opportunities) to all residents was widely shared using social media channels, discussed at board meetings, word-of-mouth, a survey that received over 700 responses. The community has been aware of this plan; there has been feedback. Now we will present something to the public at a later date and the same things will be available to everyone – social media; enhanced outreach, word of mouth, McLean Day, discussion in meetings. We will have a public meeting. The board is doing what we can to move us to the next level.
6. Reminder: when MCC Governing Board asks staff to give reports, metrics, outcomes, it is so we can do our jobs. I highly appreciate what the staff has done but it would be better if we can have a more collaborative environment.



ELECTIONS & NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE *summary by Board Secretary Foderaro-Guertin

***increased participation:** both in the amount of candidates and ballots; 639 have gone out; we temporarily ran short of supplies. The postcard is fantastic and has built participation with 18K homes receiving the postcard. We've received questions about how names are shown on the ballot. ENC Policies & Procedures requires rotation of names so that we don't favor one name always at the top of the ballot.

***observing vote-counting:** We received one request to observe the vote-counting. The ballot arrives in the mail or you drop it off in the box. The next set of hands that handle it are people from LWV. There are multiple tellers in the McLean Day voting tent (10:30 to 5:00 p.m. Saturday, May 21) and a second group that comes to MCC on McLean Day night. Literally the vote goes from your hand to the League of Women Voters. We are inviting more people to participate so there is more scrutiny, which is fine. For candidates, orientation must focus on campaigning aspect.

Also, McLean Day takes all MCC staff's entire energy and focus. The night before is carnival rides – so it is a staff that is already skeletal that is putting on two events for two days in a row. To ask staff to open MCC to public observers is unreasonable – the vote counting will take late into the night. Last year it was nearly 10 p.m. before the count ended. MCC is closed on McLean Day – no staff to support the entire facility. We have 12 candidates – having 1-2 people with interests of those candidates would fill this room. These are the logistical challenges.

***campaigning protocols:** ENC Chair Foderaro-Guertin has been e-mailing to candidates asking questions. Yard signs, ask friends in neighborhood and do it on their lawns. Basic rule for campaigning: not in interior of MCC because we have guests coming for programs and events and we don't want to interrupt that aspect. We ask candidates to stand 40-feet away from entrance/programming as stated in the Elections & Nominations Policies and Procedures. There is still not a clear understanding by some candidates.

Question: Is the gazebo in McLean Central Park considered MCC? No – it is part of FCPA. The Earth Day event was a drive-thru and non-pedestrian event. Cars drove into the parking lot – so that made the 40-foot distance quite far away from the entrance. Also, you can't have trip hazards – no yard signs at entrance area of McLean Day. Chocolate Festival was a rental ; there was no campaigning allowed inside the facility. But you can absolutely be 40-feet away from the entrances and we encourage candidates to do so. MCC graphic is prohibited from being on any kind of literature.

ACTION ITEM: The new board should revise the orientation to give a diagram of where it is appropriate to campaign at MCC and OFC and events located elsewhere. Also, work closely with MCC staff to determine and notify the candidates which events are possible for campaigning and exactly where on the premises.

***role of ENC and all board members:** The ENC cannot support any particular candidates. However, as board members we reach out to our communities to encourage people to serve; as such, they will personally know some candidates. Seven to eight current candidates know former or present board members. But the election procedures specify that ENC committee members and MCC staff may not show preference toward candidates.

***Security presence:** McLean Day will have security coordinated by police, FCPA and MCC staff.

***Strategic Plan:** We are trying to figure out where AMS will do the public survey at McLean Day to gather feedback from Small District 1A-Dranesville residents. This is still to be decided.

***ongoing communication to candidates:** ENC Chair Foderaro-Guertin communicates often with the candidates!

Call for nominations for Executive Committee for 2022-2023 Governing Board:

Responsibilities of each office were read aloud as listed in the MOU (Chair; Vice-Chair; Secretary; Treasurer). All potential nominees must submit a statement to the ENC chair declaring their intention.

Parliamentarian and time-keeper positions exist; but traditionally we have not had those positions.

ACTION ITEM: If current board members are interested in running for Executive Officer positions on the 2022-2023 Governing Board, please send ENC Chair Foderaro-Guertin your intentions and she will share with all board members as soon as she receives them.



PROGRAMS & OUTREACH COMMITTEE *summary by Rasheq Rahman (designated committee representative)

On April 20, this committee meeting followed the AMS presentation on the Strategic Plan. 1. Questions on how the DRAFT strategic plan came together. It was through the public feedback as well as several sessions with MCC staff, who gave the operational side of the strategic plan. Board members decided we would like to give our own feedback and were providing that separately to AMS. 2. Conversation about the role of the Programs & Outreach Committee going forward. There may be a view of a different role for the board and perhaps other activities. Tabled the topic. Looking at how other exemplar boards operate.

AD HOC 50th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE *summary by Chair Lisa Mariam

Thank you to Bill Glikbarg for his efforts. We appreciate his graciousness in accepting Lisa Mariam as the new Chair. Lacking quorum to officially convene on April 20, it was a working group discussion. Community outreach to assemble the committee; Target organizations with invitations; some community members have volunteered and were able to attend the April 20 meeting.

NEXT MEETING: sometime in June.

Interested community members may reach out to Holly Novak .

CAPITAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE *summary by Board Vice-Chair Post

CFC approved funding for two repair issues:

1. Gas leak: three HVAC - 22 years old need to be replaced; cost is ~ \$50K for all 3 units + labor + rental of crane; emergency replacement approved by the county; it will happen in May 2022.
2. Executive Director Singh is working with architect Dennis Findley: roof and water issues behind MCC building; survey quote of \$23,770 approved for the repair behind the lower level entrance. P.O. approved - April 1; survey date will be known this coming week.
3. Dennis Findley helping with DRAFT letter to the civil engineering firm for the drainage solution; also helping with DRAFT letter to VDOT about stormwater runoff for flooding on Ingleside Avenue DRAFT letters ready for CFC meeting on May 11

FINANCE COMMITTEE *summary by Board Treasurer Saboo

Finance Committee has not met since the March 23 board meeting; and no further meetings will occur for this board term . Everything looks normal – MCC is still projecting to have a balanced budget. The fiscal calendar doesn't line up with our board cycle; we have two more full board meetings. Treasurer Saboo will meet with Comptroller Karra before the end of 2021-2022 Governing Board term and he will provide another summary.

OLD / NEW BUSINESS

Chair Zamora-Appel asked whether there were any topics of “Old” or “New” business to discuss. Nothing was mentioned as a further topic of discussion for 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 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. Ms. Novak on MCC staff has access to 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. (Remarks are shown verbatim.)

1. Catherine Trauernicht

I appreciate the opportunity to speak and I have three questions:

1. According to the MOU, there is to be an annual election day corresponding to the date of McLean Day. So I'd like to know: when and how the decision was made to implement early voting?

Comment by ENC Chair Foderaro-Guertin: I don't specifically know when, but it has been done and that's all we know. We'd have to look back in the Minutes historically.

Clarification by Ms. Novak: We did look at that this week and as far back as 2011 it was shown in the ENC Procedures. Sometimes it's called "Early Voting." As far back as 2011 it was called "Absentee Voting." During COVID-19 it became "Open Voting" because that was all that was available – no in-person. Then we went back to what we call "Early Voting."

Comment by Ms. Trauernicht: The MOU has not been amended to reflect that. So, there is no authorization for early voting.

Comment by Chair Zamora-Appel: There was a revision of the MOU in January 2007 and it has some items about the election.

Comment by Ms. Trauernicht: Yes – but there was nothing about Early Voting. I do have that Addendum. I would just like that to be stated for the record – there is no provision for early voting. And I think this needs to be addressed by the board as soon as possible.

2. Also, I'd like to know when and how the League of Women Voters was given the sole authority to count ballots? I can't find it in the MOU. The MOU as it was amended in 2007 just refers to that 'tellers are to be appointed.' Everyone is hearing the question now and it's fairly simple. Time is of the essence here because you have an election underway that is not authorized.

Vice-Chair Post said that now that you have raised the question, the Board can take your comments and look into it.

Comment by ENC Chair Foderaro-Guertin: Because the election is already started, any changes would have had to take place by the February 2022 ENC meeting. So, we can't change the process as it has already started.

Continued public comment by Ms. Trauernicht: Well, this is a conundrum, isn't it, when you have an MOU that lays out your responsibilities... and it's been violated.

Comment by a Board member: Well, this is valuable feedback that we can use in the future. But to the point – we can't change policy mid-election. That would not be fair to the candidates.

Continued public comment by Ms. Trauernicht: But you call can change the MOU.

Comment by another Board member: Also, I don't think it says that you can't have early voting. It may not have it in there, but it doesn't say that we can't have early voting.

Continued public comment by Ms. Trauernicht: Well, I know that the MOU is undergoing some revisions. And this needs to be clarified because right now, the election process is not according to the MOU.

3. And I wanted to address Maria's earlier comments that the Mou had somehow recommended the League of Women Voters. That caught my attention because they don't recommend anyone – they just refer to 'appointing tellers.' I am election officer, as many of you are. I've also done poll-watching. We understand the role of independent poll watchers as a recognized part of our republic's electoral process. So, I do not understand first of all, how you get the authority to deny observers to come in and observe the vote-counting process run by the League of Women Voters which is an organization with a discernable political agenda. In fact, the League, even on their website, refers to themselves as a "grassroots political network." You referred to the possibility of having so many people coming in as observers assigned to every candidates and that it would be too many. But when we talked on the phone... and by the way, you told me that the only reason for not having observers is that it had never done it before. I'm only talking about 2 or 3 observers – not even attached to any candidate.

Comment by ENC Chair Foderaro-Guertin: But we don't know where to cut it off...

Comment by Chair Zamora-Appel: Thank you for your comments. I think we've captured the questions.

Continued public comment by Ms. Trauernicht: These things need to be addressed before the election – there need to be observers – two or three observers at the counting on May 19 and May 21. You have no authority to deny citizens to come in as observers.



Comment by Board member: And I'm sure you have shared this with the Board of Supervisors because we have to work within the MOU.

Continued public comment by Ms. Trauernicht: No you don't – this is your MOU. And you have already violated the MOU and you haven't notified the Board of Supervisors. This is really troubling. Really troubling.

3. Jeffrey Shapiro

I just want to address the election integrity issue from maybe a different angle. I totally agree with Mr. Rahman - the election has started, so we're not going to be able to re-work it this year, at minimum. That's just common sense. But I do think... I've looked at the MOU as amended in 2007 and it's quite clear that it contemplates an in-person election, guaranteed privacy for the voter, and so on. So, it's pretty clear if you read that, that there is no authority in there for 'absentee ballot'... 'mail-in election season'... kind of the way it's being done now.

And what I want to suggest is that this could be a somewhat contentious election; maybe not. But I think the board and everybody has an interest in the community feeling that it is a fair election. I agree that the League of Women Voters is a partisan organization. They may have started out as non-partisan, but that was decades ago. So, I think there are some concerns about that because they are going to see the identity of the voters (in violation of the MOU, I believe) under the procedure because they've got to separate the envelopes. I think you guys had a discussion about this a few months ago. And regardless of that, it just seems to me that if you could be accommodating on some reasonable requests – putting reasonable restrictions on them, as appropriate, to allow people to observe or otherwise verify that things are on the up-and-up, I think it will build everyone's confidence in the election. And I would urge you... there is certainly no way to say "this isn't allowed" because you are already operating off of the MOU: you've gone from the MOU to begin with; it's all 'extra legal.' So, there is no reason you can't make reasonable accommodations. That doesn't mean 10,000 people get to come in the building. It may mean that there are some ground rules or some restrictions – nothing wrong with that. But do what you can. I'm just urging you to do what you can to allay fears and let people see what's going on, or otherwise verify that this election is being run fairly. So, that's my end point.

4. Kathleen Gillette Mallard

Good evening. Ms. Novak, thank you so much for giving me this opportunity to speak. I asked for it very late last night and received it today, so I am not prepared. But I did want to follow-up with Ms. Trauernicht and Mr. Shapiro's remarks about questioning of the MOU and the 'extra legal' aspects of it. It is a cause of concern not just for the three of us, but for many people in the McLean community. My husband and I have been in McLean for 40 years; we've attended so many wonderful events here.

The other concern I have is the One Fairfax policy that has been adopted through the Fairfax Board of Supervisors – it is not bringing us together as a "One Fairfax group." It is dividing us – especially in recent times when certain members of our community have been called white supremacists. And I know I'm repeating myself, but that was very damaging to our community (a direct quote by Executive Director Singh). Also, there have been several stories – in McLean papers and *The Washington Post* – I was interviewed by the author of that article. And I think I said things that were reasonable and logical – and he didn't quote me. Why? I didn't say anything that a cause for slander or criticizing the board. So, I thought that was very, very strange. I really think we need to look at some of the actions of our Executive Director... we're going into our Gay Pride month again. You have already come up with certain activities... I see one activity for July 4th – thank you. But I also see you're going to have a film: *La Cage aux Folles*. It's a French film but it is about transgender guys that want the stage – it's not a family movie. Why can't you all come up with something that is a family-oriented foreign film? You understand the concerns. Thank you very much. I'm sorry I get carried away but I'm incredulous that we're going down this path again. thank you.

5. Pamela Danner



I just have a brief comment; I actually was on this board in 1985. I just wanted to come and appreciate the ENC chair's comment about the concern with having the AMS strategic plan input being in the voting booth. Really – that is not an appropriate place (and I'm not even sure if that's where you plan to have it). But I would suggest that you really look at a way, maybe not even McLean Day – that is 5,000 or more people coming with families... I'm not sure that is the best way to get public input. That's my comment.

6. Deb Bissen (MPA)

Thank you to those of you who stopped by to the gallery before tonight's meeting to have a look at the 3D-solo exposition. We hope to do that for upcoming exhibitions as well. We have three solo exhibitions open now – all new artists to exhibit in our space, so it's nice to welcome a diversity of voices and artistic styles to our community. Two of the artists are from DC and one is from Arlington: Matt Pinney, James Stephen Terrell, and Melanie Kehoss. If you couldn't join us earlier, please stop by some other time. We are open Tuesdays – Fridays, from 1 to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We have our summer camps coming up – we have had success in getting kids registered, so we're excited about the turnout and looking forward to a fun summer. All of our camp teachers are FCPS art teachers, so we are excited to have a really strong line-up of teachers to work with the children this summer. We also are very busy with our ArtReach program – and we were part of the Sensory Awareness Day at OFC and we enjoyed doing that very much (we posted some photos on our social media) and thanks to the OFC and MCC staff as well. We are also part of McLean Day – a booth set-up to have a book making activity with our ArtReach director as well as one of our summer camp instructors. So, another good chance to talk to families. We also recently reached out to Longfellow Middle School to connect with them for an ArtReach activity based on our previous exhibition. So it's always nice to work with those communities as well. A fund-raising event is coming up in May (Spring Benefit Gala – which provides essential funding for our programming) – we are always grateful for the support of the community businesses that help us support that.

7. Sonjuiya O'Neill – liaison from McLean Citizens Association

Chair Zamora-Appel introduced Ms. O'Neill and announced she will be attending MCC Governing Board meetings – not in a speaking role, but if in the event that she will, she will be on the agenda. She is coming as our liaison to the MCA organization that many of us are members of.

Thank you for introducing me. I so much enjoyed listening to your plan, Sabrina, about the website update – that is a fantastic thing that we are doing for the community. I think it will bring in diversity of the type of people that use the McLean Community Center. I also wanted to mention that MCA is hosting kind of a 'meet-and-greet' talk with some of the candidates who are running for the MCC Governing Board next Wednesday at 7 p.m. So, if anyone would like to join, it's just a Q&A online event that MCA is hosting. I am excited to be here and I hope to meet you all individually.

8. Catherine Trauernicht

I have another question about the Earth Day contest: There is \$1,700 in prizes offered – are those prizes \$cash\$ coming from the MCC or are they coming from sponsors? \$1,000 for the home pollinator garden; \$500 toward the planting of a mature tree; \$200 toward a rechargeable battery's home conversion kit? It was in an e-mail that I received today. No one knows? Is it \$cash\$?

Clarification by Executive Director Singh: We are just receiving public comments now.

Clarification by Vice-Chair Post: We are in the "Public Comment" section and we're trying to follow protocol. So, if you want to submit your question, we will have it answered by the correct person.

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

1. Janet Tysse



From: Janet Tysse <janetyss@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2022 5:56 PM
To: feedback@mcleancenter.org
Subject: Request by Small District 1A Resident to McLean Community Center Board to change Monthly Meeting Location

Dear Board Chair Barbara Zamora-Appel:

I respectfully request that all future meetings of the **McLean Community Center Board** be held at the Alden Theater, within the McLean Community Center.

A change to the Alden theater will allow for greater community involvement. Currently, the MCC Board meets in a conference room that is inadequate to accommodate full citizen participation.

Please place this issue be on the agenda for your next meeting to be held on April 27, 2022.

Sincerely,
Janet Tysse
Resident - Small District 1A-Dranesville

2. **Katherine Kalis**

From: Nicholas Kalis <nkalis@kaliscompanies.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2022 7:15 PM
To: Kate Kalis <kateskalis@gmail.com>
Cc: Novak, Holly R <Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: Would send a quick one sentence email to Holly Novak - thanks.
Send it to holly.novak@fairfaxcounty.gov
Write...“For Inclusion in MCC Board Meeting Minutes

Dear Ms. Novak:
I want all future McLean Community Center Board Meetings held in the Alden Theater.

Katherine S. Kalis

3. **Jeffrey Shapiro**

From: Novak, Holly R
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 2:49 PM
To: Jeffrey K. Shapiro <JShapiro@hpm.com>
Subject: RE: Request by Small District 1A Resident to McLean Community Center Board to change Monthly Meeting Location

Dear Mr. Shapiro,

We appreciate your taking the time to share your comments regarding the venue and format of MCC Governing Board meetings. 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 to the Governing Board
McLean Community Center

From: Jeffrey K. Shapiro <JShapiro@hpm.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 9:45 AM



To: feedback@mcleancenter.org

Subject: Request by Small District 1A Resident to McLean Community Center Board to change Monthly Meeting Location

Dear Board Chair Barbara Zamora-Appel and all other Board Members:

I respectfully request that all future meetings of the **McLean Community Center Board** be held at the Alden Theater, within the McLean Community Center.

A change to the Alden theater will allow for greater community involvement. Currently, the MCC Board meets in a conference room that is inadequate to accommodate full citizen participation.

Please place this issue be on the agenda for your next meeting to be held on April 27, 2022.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Shapiro
Resident- Small District 1A-Dranesville

4. Elizabeth (Small District 1A-Dranesville resident)

From: Novak, Holly R
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 4:23 PM
To: libbs1994@yahoo.com
Subject: RE: MCC Board Location

Dear Elizabeth,

Thanks for confirming your address, which is in Small District 1A-Dranesville. We appreciate your taking the time to share your comments regarding the venue and format of MCC Governing Board meetings. 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: libbs1994@yahoo.com <libbs1994@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 11:33 AM
To: Novak, Holly R <Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: RE: MCC Board Location

On Mar 30, 2022 5:15 PM, "Novak, Holly R" <Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov> wrote:

Hello. Thank you for your comments. In order for your feedback to be seen by the MCC Governing Board, I must first verify if you are a resident of Small District 1A-Dranesville. What is your home address, please?

Holly Novak
Executive Assistant - McLean Community Center

From: libbs1994@yahoo.com <libbs1994@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2022 1:18 PM
To: Novak, Holly R <Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Subject: MCC Board Location



Hello Holly,

I am writing to request that the MCC Board meeting be held at the Alden Theatre. We need a more spacious place for the meetings to be held for accessibility. Thank you.

Best,
Elizabeth

5. **Margaret Klarman**

Dear Ms. Klarman,

Thank you for your questions about the McLean Community Center Governing Board election. I will respond as the primary staff member tasked with logistics of the annual election process.

The reason for creating different versions of the ballot is exactly as you pointed out - so that the same person's name does not appear at the top of every ballot. In fact, we make four different rotations of the candidate listing: Last Name A - Z; Last Name Random#1; Last Name Random#2; Last Name Z - A. The ballots are photocopied in sets of four so that literally each ballot is different sequentially; and there is no 'hand-picking' of who receives which ballot. Your household received two different versions of the ballot as the envelope was loaded randomly with the requested materials. Having four versions of ballot display is intentional for fairness of visibility for all candidates.

How the ballots are counted: All Early Voting ballots cast + in-person McLean Day (May 21) ballots cast will be hand-counted at MCC on the evening of May 21 by a team from the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area. It is a detailed physical process of hand-counting and tallying. The results of the election (adult and youth candidates) will be certified by the League of Women Voters that evening.

While it may not mirror every aspect of a typical public election, we try very hard to have accountability practices in place throughout the entire process of our annual Governing Board election.

Sincerely, Holly Novak - McLean Community Center

-----Original Message-----

From: Margaret Klarman <maklarman@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, April 24, 2022 9:51 PM

To: Novak, Holly R <Holly.Novak@fairfaxcounty.gov>

Subject: Ballots

Hello Holly,

We had questions about the ballots we received for the Board election. Our two person household received different ballots: one was in alphabetical order and the second was in reverse alphabetical order. Are there additional versions of the ballot or an equal number of the versions we received? How do you decide which version to send to voters/households? Do ballots need to be hand counted?

I have never participated an election with anything other than a standard ballot being provided to all voters. Is the purpose to mitigate the (theoretical) advantage of being at the top of the list of candidates? Why not use one ballot with a random selection for listing of candidates to avoid confusion created by multiple ballots?

We look forward to your response.
Margaret

ADJOURNMENT

With public comment having concluded, Chair Zamora-Appel asked for a MOTION to adjourn. It was unanimously affirmed and the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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