

**McLean Citizens Association  
Board of Directors Meeting  
March 4, 2014 Sign-In Sheet**

**Officers (6)**

President	Sally Horn	Present
First Vice President	Glenn Harris	Present
Second Vice President	Armand Weiss	Present
Treasurer	Bill Crosby	Present
Recording Secretary	Kate Probst	Present
Corresponding Secretary	Marisa Zalmanis	Present

**Board Members Representing Associations (20)**

John Adams	Georgetown Pike & Potomac River	Present
Donald Borcharding	Brookhaven Forest Villa	Absent (exc)/Jim Hermens
Steve DelBianco	Franklin Area	Present
Bill Denk	El Nido	Absent (exc)
Louis (Bud) Freeman	McLean House North Council	Present
Jane Greenstein	Chesterford	Present
Francesca Gutowski	Lynwood	Present
Bonnie Heebner	Madison of McLean	Present
Ron Hutchinson	Evermay	Absent (exc)
Bruce Jones	Lemon Road	Present
Tom Patton	Hamptons	Absent
David Pritchett	Treeline	Present
Jim Robertson	Evans Mill Pond	Present
Suzanne Samuels	Langley Oaks	Present
John Schaefer	McLean Broyhill Estates	Absent (exc)
Behram Shroff	McLean Hamlet	Absent (exc)
Dale Stein	Millwood of McLean	Present
Jim Turner	McLean Hunt	Present
David Wuehrmann	Ellison Heights-Mt. Daniel	Present
Betty Yu	Kirby Road	Present

**Board Members At-Large (14)**

Ted Alexander	Present
Roshan Badii	Present
Jeff Barnett	Present
Tom Brock	Absent (exc)
Frank Crandall	Absent (exc)
Andrea del Vecchio	Present
Louise Epstein	Present
Darren Ewing	Present
Animesh Gupta	Present
Rob Jackson	Present
James Phelps	Present
Jane Scott-Jones	Present
Patrick Smaldore	Present
Mark Zetts	Present

**McLean Citizens Association  
Board of Directors Meeting**

**March 4, 2015 Minutes**

Guests who signed in: Merrily Pierce of MCA Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee, Catherine Lorenze of MCA Education Committee, and Brian Trompeter of the *Sun Gazette*.

**Call to Order**

Ms. Horn called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm, verified there was a quorum, and reminded everyone to sign in.

**Approval of November Minutes**

The February minutes were unanimously approved by a voice vote.

**Report of the Treasurer**

The February Treasurer's report was unanimously approved by a voice vote.

**Report of President/Executive Committee**

Ms. Horn provided a number of updates to the Board:

*Upcoming meetings*

March 11<sup>th</sup> – MCA is co-sponsoring a meeting that will feature Joe Mondoro, Deputy Director of Management and Budget for the County, and Kristen Michael, Assistant Superintendent of Financial Services for FCPS, to discuss the proposed 2016 budget. The meeting is being co-sponsored with Supervisor Foust's and Janie Strauss' offices. Ms. Horn encouraged people to attend, as the meeting will provide important information for the budget resolution we will be considering next month.

March 24<sup>th</sup> - MCA is co-hosting a forum with a number of local organizations that will feature presentations by Robert Vickers, Chairman of the Fairfax County Tree Commission and Keith Cline, Director, Urban Forest Management Division to discuss what can be done to protect McLean Tree Cover.

The only other large meeting currently scheduled in the next few months will be the May 27<sup>th</sup> annual membership meeting.

*Nominating Committee*

At the Winter Membership meeting, members approved the technical change to the Bylaws regarding the composition of the Nominating Committee to conform the

Bylaws to the Annual Membership meeting decision; we will now have three Board members and two non-board members.

The proposed members of the Nominating Committee are: Jim Phelps, Chair; Jim Robertson and Louise Epstein from the MCA Board, and Dan Alcorn and Nyka Feldman, general (non-Board) members. The motion to approve the nominating committee was unanimously approved by voice vote. Ms. Horn reminded the Board that we need to get the slate of officers to the printer by April 15<sup>th</sup>. She encouraged all Board members to consider if they would like to serve on the Executive Committee, and to let the Nominating Committee know.

Ms. Horn announced that both she and Dr. Weiss will be stepping down from the Executive Committee. If anyone on the Board has suggestions for people whom they want to recommend for the Executive Committee, please let someone on the Nominating Committee know. Ms. Horn reported that she, along with the current Executive Committee, will be planning an orientation session for new Board members, as well as discussing future MCA strategy.

Ms. Horn reported that Bill Denk is leaving the Board as he is moving to Great Falls, outside the MCA boundary. He also is stepping down as MCA's representative to the MPC. She has asked him if there is a member of his HOA who will step in for him for the rest of his term. Armand Weiss has agreed to fill out the rest of Mr. Denk's MPC term.

Ms. Horn reminded Board members to renew their MCA membership, if they have not yet done so.

Glenn Harris thanked all those who have submitted their articles for the next newsletter. He said that the newsletter should be completed in the next week or so.

Ms. Horn and Mr. Smaldore welcomed Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department (FCFR&D) Battalion Chief, John Price. Mr. Price is in charge of six of the fire stations in our district. He informed the Board that the Fire Department has a program called "Safety In Our Community (SIOC)" and that, as part of that program, they go out and check smoke alarms in residence. He urged all to let him know if they have any questions or concerns. His email is: [John.Price@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:John.Price@fairfaxcounty.gov).

## **Budget and Taxation**

Dale Stein reported that the committee is focusing on the Advertised Budget, and that the next meeting of the committee will be Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30. At that meeting, the Committee will be discussing a draft budget resolution. He encouraged anyone who has any thoughts about that resolution to contact him, and to attend the next committee meeting.

He reported that the committee is likely to support:

- The County Executive's proposal to retain the current 1.09% real estate tax rate, and
- The allocation of funds between the county and the school system.

Mr. Stein said the committee may also encourage the Board of Supervisors to broaden and diversify the County's tax base by working toward:

- A more favorable allocation of state funds to the County, including in particular the allocation of state funds to the schools,
- Higher cigarette taxes,
- Meals tax referendum, and
- Re-evaluation of fees received by the County to ensure they cover out-of-pockets costs and are competitive.

In addition, the Committee is likely to encourage the county to protect the County's Triple A bond rating by reducing future pension costs and expanding cash reserves.

Finally, Mr. Stein noted that the Committee is likely to encourage fuller enforcement of County Ordinances related to occupancy and grass height.

### **Education and Youth**

The Board discussed the proposed resolution prepared by Louise Epstein regarding class sizes in Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). Ms. Epstein provided a brief overview of the resolution, which commended FCPS Superintendent Garza for the steps she is taking to address concerns about class size, urged the School Board to approve a recurring funding of \$4.9 million starting in FY 2016 to reduce the number of very large elementary school general education class sizes and to modify general education staffing formulas to reduce the wide disparity in average class sizes within the FCPS elementary, middle and high school categories. The resolution also urged the Board of Supervisors to collaborate with the School Board in evaluating the impact of FCPS staffing formulas and policies on the FCPS operating budget and Capital Improvement Program

Ms. Horn opened the floor to questions of clarification. A number of "friendly" amendments were suggested and adopted to improve the clarity of the language. A motion was made to revise Resolution 2(d), so that it would not recommend a minimum average class size for elementary schools. This motion was defeated.

The motion to approve the resolution as amended, passed by voice vote, with one opposed, and one abstention.

### **Environment, Parks & Rec.**

Mr. Harris provided a summary in Ms. Pierce's absence regarding EP&C activities:

- The February 12<sup>th</sup> issue of the *Sun Gazette* carried a story about MCA's two resolutions supporting proposed increases to park fees;

- The Fairfax Park Authority is hoping to invite the new Fairfax County Chief of Business Development, Aimee Long, to a future meeting;
- In February, the committee discussed the Dead Run Stream Segments 2/3 Restoration;
- The committee will be putting together a meeting with Turkey Run Road residents and Supervisor Foust's office to discuss a development application to build four homes on over 6 acres adjacent to National Park Service land; and
- As Ms. Horn mentioned earlier, the MCA is co-hosting forum to discuss how to preserve the McLean Tree Canopy on March 24<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Horn reminded the Board that both Ms. Pierce and Mr. Crandall will be stepping down as co-chairs of this important committee. She encouraged any Board members who are interested in chairing or co-chairing this committee next year to contact her.

## **Membership**

Armand Weiss reported that we have received 297 dues payment so far this year and that we currently have 539 members.

Dr. Weiss announced that this year McLean Day will be on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, and that we are, as usual, in need of volunteers to staff the MCA booth. This year, our chair will be Animesh Gupta, assisted by Pat Smaldore. Dr. Weiss passed around a sign-up sheet for shifts. Dr. Weiss reminded all committee chairs to update the activity reports that we put up at the booth. He also noted that Glenn Harris and the Membership Committee are developing a new poster for the booth that addresses the question "Why Join MCA?"

The Board agreed to move forward with getting MCA T-shirts, at a cost of \$15 per shirt. Dr. Weiss reported that the Membership Committee will coordinate orders from Board members and that the next newsletter will include information on the availability of the T-shirts.

## **Planning and Zoning**

Mark Zetts reported on recent P&Z activity.

- Sunrise came to the February P&Z meeting to discuss their proposal to build a new facility at the intersection of Westmoreland Street and Kirby Road. There was a good turnout from the Community, as there is a lot of opposition to the proposal. P&Z also has a number of concerns about the planned facility, particularly the size and mass of the building as seen from the homes on Westmoreland, and will be following this issue. The committee asked Sunrise to bring drawings on the proposed landscaping and transportation improvements when they return to P&Z, most likely on April 28.

- For the second month in a row, the Committee discussed the noise ordinance, which is of concern. The proposed ordinance is expected to be advertised in April for a public hearing in May.
- Mr. Zetts plans to present information on the proposed noise ordinance at the April Board meeting.
- MCA is considering cohosting a public session on the noise ordinance in late April with Supervisor Foust's office.

## **Transportation**

Jim Robertson reported they had a meeting with the Manager of the Airport Authority's Noise Office, and that the Committee will meet with them again in the near future to discuss aircraft-related noise topics for a later broader community meeting.

## **Tysons Liaison**

Rob Jackson reported that they met in February with Michael Caplan of the Tysons Partnership, who gave the group an overview of the Tysons Development. At the March meeting, someone from the County Parks Department will be there.

**Public Safety Liaison** – nothing to report.

## **MCC Liaison**

Mr. Zetts reported that the MCC will be presenting information about the planned expansion to P&Z at the March 31 meeting.

## **McLean Planning Committee**

Francesca Gutowski reported that at the February MPC meeting, they discussed proposed rezoning of the Ashby, which is seeking to convert some of their commercial space to residential. She also reported that the MPC is rewriting the bylaws.

## **McLean Revitalization Corporation**

Roshan Badii reported that they have had a number of meetings about streetscape projects in the CBC, and that the Listrani Peninsula at the intersection of Old Dominion and Chain Bridge Rd is going to get a face-lift. Different design concepts based on a limited budget are being reviewed.

She also reported that the Fairfax County land acquisition group is preparing appraisals and instruments needed for the transfer of very small parcels of land privately owned between the sidewalk and street in the CBC to be used for future landscaping improvements. The hope is that the owners will dedicate the parcels for the CBC landscaping improvements, as they did for the undergrounding utilities project.

## **Fifty-Plus Liaison**

Jim Phelps reported on a recent proposal for the County to purchase and use the "SMART911" software. The "SMART911" software system could be used to contain health and medical data on all participants, and all county residents could participate. The system would be used by first responders to let them know what they will encounter when called to a residence.

Various county organizations have been briefed on the software has been briefed on the software's capabilities and costs, including several County Supervisors, some county staff, and the Fairfax County Long Term Care Coordinating Council (LTCCC). Supervisor Cook (Braddock) made it a Board Matter and submitted it to the Health and Human Services Committee for review. Supervisor Foust's staff was briefed on the software on Feb 24; Patrick Smaldore and Jim Phelps were at this briefing.

The system can be used to identify health/medical issues with people of all ages (infants through Senior Citizens.) Mr. Phelps suggested that the MCA put together a small group to evaluate the issue and draft a resolution. Anyone who is interested in serving on the committee should contact him at [James.S.Phelps@cox.net](mailto:James.S.Phelps@cox.net). Ideally, the group evaluating the system/concept should be knowledgeable in both pediatric and geriatric health/medical issues.

The SMART911 concept appears to be a good idea. However, there are areas that need clarification, such as:

- 1) Is the SMART911 software being offered for sale/license or is the SMART911 System run by a contractor and being offered as a service?
- 2) Where does the County staff stands on this, are they interested in the concept in general, or the actual SMART911 system?
- 3) Should MCA endorse, presumably by resolution, the proposed SMART911 System, endorse the concept, or not endorse either?
- 4) If purchased, is the County prepared to publicize it to the extent necessary to make it useful, and have they investigated what this kind of outreach and publicity would cost? This could exceed the cost of the system (\$100,000 per year).
- 5) Since the SMART911 system is currently in use in other jurisdictions, Mr. Phelps strongly suggested that before moving ahead, the County should contact these other jurisdictions and get their sense of the costs and benefits of the software, and ask if it is possible to quantify the benefit from using the system.
- 6) Determining what advantages the Smart911 system has over the current system.

### **Old Business/New Business**

Ms. Horn reminded the Board to spread the word about the MCA Teen Character Award.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm.

**The next MCA Board meeting date is April 1, 2015 at 7:30 pm  
at the McLean Community Center.**

**McLEAN CITIZENS ASSOCIATION**  
**TREASURER'S REPORT**  
4-Mar-15

<b>Checking Account</b>					
	<b>DATE</b>	<b>CHECK #</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>BALANCE</b>
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	2/4/2015				<b>\$7,579.90</b>
<b>Additions</b>					
	12/30/14		Dues (Paypal)	\$28.83	
	2/6/15		5 history books \$25.00 and dues (checks) \$60.00	\$85.00	
	2/20/15		MCC returned deposit check 1204 uncashed	\$100.00	
	2/23/15		Dues (checks)	\$3,810.00	
			Total: Additions	\$4,023.83	<b>\$11,603.73</b>
<b>Deductions</b>					
	2/6/15	1229	KKP Business Solutions for 167 membership mailings	\$395.97	
	2/20/15	1230	KKP Business Solutions for table cloth \$576.37 and membership renewal mailings \$1,075.87	\$1,652.24	
	2/20/15	1231	Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce for 2015 dues	\$200.00	
			Total: Deductions	\$2,248.21	
			Checking Total Current Value		<b>\$9,355.52</b>
<b>Certificates of Deposit</b>					
<b>CD NUMBER</b>	<b>RATE</b>	<b>REPORT DATE</b>	<b>MATURES</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	
3000102773	APY 1%	1/17/15	1/17/15	\$5,947.55	
3000102774	APY .3%	1/30/15	3/2/15	\$5,777.00	
3000103064	APY .3%	2/2/15	6/12/15	\$5,946.73	
			CD Total Current Value		<b>\$17,671.28</b>
			<b>Net Worth (Checking+CD)</b>		<b>\$27,026.80</b>

Checking account and certificates of deposit are at SONA Bank in McLean.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Crosby, Treasurer

## **McLean Citizens Association Resolution Class Sizes in Fairfax County Public Schools**

March 4, 2015

**Whereas**, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) staffing formulas and administrative practices result in a wide range of general education class sizes; and

**Whereas**, in allocating teacher positions to elementary, middle and high schools, FCPS voluntarily uses three needs-based staffing formulas for general education (including Advanced Academic) and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) teachers, and

**Whereas**, FCPS uses separate formulas to allocate special education teacher positions to schools, which distinguish between types of disabilities (Category A and Category B) and their severity (Level 1 and Level 2), where the more severe disabilities are designated as Level 2; and

**Whereas**, Level 2 special education students, who generally are pulled out of the general education classroom for more than half the day, currently are excluded when counting the number of pupils in general education classes; and

**Whereas**, FCPS general education staffing formulas reflect the maximum allowable average general education class size for elementary, middle and high schools; and

**Whereas**, FCPS general education staffing formulas budget for maximum average general education class sizes per school of 26.75 at the elementary school level, 27.5 at the middle school level, and 30.5 at the high school level; and

**Whereas**, FCPS reports a much lower actual county-wide average class size for each of these three levels, and specifically a county-wide average class size at the elementary school level of 22.3, a county-wide average middle school class size of 24.6, and a county-wide average high school class size of 25.6; and

**Whereas**, there is a wide range of average class sizes at the elementary, middle and high school levels in FCPS; and

**Whereas**, although the county-wide average elementary school class size (excluding Level 2 special education students) for FCPS schools is 22.3, seven of the nine elementary schools in the greater McLean area have average class sizes of between 23.5 and 25.8, and only two have lower average class sizes;

**Whereas**, by school, the average class size for each McLean-area elementary school is:

- 23.9 (Chesterbrook),
- 25.8 (Churchill Road),
- 24.7 (Colvin Run),
- 23.5 (Haycock),
- 25.3 (Kent Gardens),
- 22.1 (Lemon Road),

- 24.6 (Franklin Sherman),
- 25.8 (Spring Hill),
- 21.4 (Westgate); and

**Whereas**, although FCPS does not publish data on average class sizes at each middle and high school, given the FCPS staffing formulas for middle and high schools, the average class size at each FCPS middle and high school in the greater McLean area is likely to be closer to the budgeted maximum class size for that level, rather than to the lower county-wide average class size for that level; and

**Whereas**, FCPS currently has over 1,000 elementary school general education classes with 20 or fewer students, excluding Level 2 special education students; and

**Whereas**, over 800 of those general education elementary school classes with 20 or fewer students have zero or one additional Level 2 special education students; and

**Whereas**, the fact that schools in the greater McLean area have consistently had larger average class sizes and more very large classes than the county averages, including many elementary, middle and high school classes with 30 or more students, raises questions of fairness; and

**Whereas**, the number of students qualifying for free or reduced-price meals (FRM) is used to allocate teacher positions and other resources to schools; and

**Whereas**, in FY 2015, FCPS received:

- 1) \$16.6 million in Title 1 federal grants, which FCPS used to fund 147 positions, including 104 Title 1 teachers and 6 instructional coaches at 40 elementary schools with a high percentage of students receiving FRM,
- 2) \$4.8 million in state grants to cap Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class sizes at about 40 elementary schools with a high percentage of students receiving FRM; and

**Whereas**, in FY 2015 FCPS spent:

- 1) \$43.1 million of local funds to hire an additional 492 teachers and other employees to work at elementary, middle and high schools where more than 20% of the students qualify for FRM,
- 2) \$80.3 million to hire over 800 employees to provide English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) services at 196 schools, of which \$14.8 million is funded by federal and state grants and \$65.4 million is funded by local tax revenues,
- 3) \$4.3 million in local tax revenues on the Priority Schools Initiative-2 program, to provide additional instructional coaches, training, substitute teachers and other resources to 35 low-performing elementary and middle schools; and

**Whereas**, FCPS has almost 1000 trailers, many of which are located at schools that have one or more classes with 20 or fewer students; and

**Whereas**, FCPS does not have sufficient construction bond proceeds to fund all the necessary renovations on existing schools plus proposed additions and new schools planned to accommodate projected future enrollment; and

**Whereas**, changing the general education staffing formulas to reduce the number of small classes would reduce the amount spent on needs-based staffing, the number of students assigned to trailers, and potentially reduce the need for future additions and new schools; and

**Whereas**, the FCPS FY 2016 Advertised Budget includes \$3.1 million in recurring funding for:

- Aides at some schools that otherwise would have 1st through 3rd grade classes with 28-30 students or 4th through 6th grade classes with 31 to 35 students,
- Teachers at some schools that otherwise would have 1st through 3rd grade classes with 31 or more students or 4th through 6th grade classes with 36 or more students; and

**Whereas**, the FY 2015 Mid-Year Budget Review included one-time, non-recurring funding for a \$0.8 million increase in the FY 2016 countywide staffing reserve, to provide additional teachers to elementary schools with large class sizes; and

**Whereas**, the FY 2015 Third-Quarter Budget Review may include one-time, non-recurring funding for an additional \$1.0 million increase in the FY 2016 countywide staffing reserve, to provide additional teachers to elementary schools with large class sizes; and

**Whereas**, in the FY 2013 Final Budget Review, the School Board voted to provide recurring funding, not one-time funding, for an additional 0.5 resource teachers at each of thirteen specified Title 1 elementary schools; and

**Whereas**, the FCPS Superintendent, Dr. Garza, has implemented new policies to improve the accuracy of school-based projections for student enrollment, which are used to determine the initial number of teachers and other employees allocated to each school; and

**Whereas**, the FCPS Superintendent, Dr. Garza, has announced her intention to reallocate teachers in September 2016 based on actual enrollment at each school; and

**Whereas**, the FCPS Superintendent, Dr. Garza, has announced her intention to issue a regulation with transparent rules regarding the allocation of positions from the staffing reserve; and

**Whereas**, FCPS Superintendent Dr. Garza has directed regional assistant superintendents to scrutinize carefully future requests by principals to trade classroom teacher positions for other positions, when such trades would result in unduly large class sizes;

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the MCA:

1. Commends Dr. Garza for:
  - a. Taking steps to improve the accuracy of school-level projections, which are used to allocate staff positions and also affect infrastructure decisions,
  - b. Implementing policies to reallocate teachers based on actual enrollment,

- c. Directing the regional assistant superintendents to exercise oversight over principals who request “trades” of classroom teacher positions; and
2. Urges the School Board to:
    - a. Include in the FY 2016 Approved Budget the \$3.1 million in recurring funding to reduce the number of very large elementary school classes, regardless of the amount of the FY 2016 transfer from the County,
    - b. Substitute \$0.8 million of recurring funding for the \$0.8 million of one-time funding in the FY 2015 Mid-year Budget Review to reduce the number of very large elementary school classes,
    - c. Substitute \$1.0 million of recurring funding for the \$1.0 million of proposed one-time funding in the FY 2015 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Budget Review to reduce the number of very large elementary school classes,
    - d. Modify the elementary school staffing formula so that each school’s budgeted average general education class cannot be less than 21 students or more than 25 students, including Level 2 special education students assigned part-time to those general education classes,
    - e. Direct FCPS staff to estimate the savings and costs from making these changes to the staffing formula for elementary school general education classes,
    - f. Establish a new goal of ensuring that average class sizes for schools within each of the elementary, middle and high school categories are consistent, to the extent practicable, within FCPS,
    - g. Direct FCPS staff to publish data on average class sizes at each middle school and high school annually, and to post such data on the FCPS web site; and
  3. Urges the Board of Supervisors to collaborate with FCPS in evaluating the impact of FCPS staffing formulas and policies on the FCPS operating budget and Capital Improvement Program.

*Approved by the MCA Board of Directors  
March 4, 2015*

Cc: Jane Strauss, Dranesville District School Board Member  
John Foust, Dranesville District Supervisor  
FCPS School Board Members  
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors  
Dr. Karen Garza, FCPS Superintendent  
Kristen Michael, FCPS Assistant Superintendent for Financial Services  
Edward Long, County Executive  
Joseph Mondoro, Fairfax County Deputy Director of Management and Budget