



**McLean Citizens Association Resolution
Clemyjontri Park Revised Master Plan Proposal
November 15, 2021**

Whereas, Clemyjontri Park, located at 6317 Georgetown Pike in McLean, Virginia 22101 is a 18.7 acre Countywide Park that opened in 2006 and features a unique playground where children and adults of all abilities can play side by side; and

Whereas, Fairfax County approved the Clemyjontri Park Master plan in 2002 which reflected the vision of donor Adele G. Lebowitz and community input and called for establishing the park in perpetuity, inclusion of a large “barrier-free” playground with carousel, picnic pavilions, and a trackless train, no athletic fields, and special events to be implemented in a phased approach; and

Whereas, Phase 1 of the Phased Development Approach was completed in 2006, including the playground, picnic, a main parking lot, and a stormwater management facility; and

Whereas, Phase II of the Phased Development Approach was completed in 2019, including a secondary parking lot addition, an additional bioretention area, transitional screening, and improvements to trails; and

Whereas, Phase III of the Phased Development Approach calls for development of the Lebowitz home area and gardens, and specifically calls for 1) preserving the Lebowitz house as a local history museum and/or as rental space for special events, 2) identification of natural and cultural resources worthy of protection, 3) potential uses for small scale private and public functions and special events, 4) garden areas and a gazebo or pavilion structure, and 5) capacity to conduct special events with non-amplified music; and

Whereas, on December 17, 2020 the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) presented a proposed Master Plan Revision to the public which included a proposal for a new Arts Center through which the McLean Project for the Arts (MPA) would seek to engage the community through visual inspiration and hands-on, creative expression; and

Whereas, MPA is a non-profit community arts organization founded in 1962 that engages over 25,000 community members annually and works in partnership with FCPA, Fairfax County, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), and many non-profit, public, and private organizations; and

Whereas, at the December 2020 presentation, MPA explained that it would seek to use the proposed Arts Center to provide art galleries and studios to offer art instruction to students, allow for specialty classrooms with dedicated art equipment, outdoor access for nature-based educational programming, and outdoor public art; and

Whereas, on October 28, 2021, FCPA conducted an in-person public comment session and again presented its proposed Master Plan revision, emphasizing that any partner would need to apply for the necessary permits and secure them prior to selection; and

Whereas, at the October 2021 public comment session, attendees offered a number of comments regarding the importance of adequate vegetative buffer screening for adjacent residential areas, the size and height of the proposed new building, significant bamboo infestations in the Phase III area, questions concerning the need for the Arts Facility, and the adequacy of proposed parking facilities to accommodate expected Arts Center visitors and playground users; and

Whereas, stormwater management on the park grounds is a critical challenge, and, while it has been addressed in earlier phases with a large bioretention area, a rain garden, and vegetative buffers, the construction of the Arts Center building would add significant impervious surfaces to the park grounds; and

Whereas, it is unclear whether the FCPA, or a private partner, or both, will be responsible for the maintenance for the facility; and

Therefore, be it resolved that, the MCA supports the initial concept of Phase III provided that local history programming be included and MCA has an opportunity to review the stormwater, invasive control, tree and screening planting, parking, and safe access plans in advance of implementation as the project moves forward.

Approved by the MCA Executive Committee of the Board of Directors November 15, 2021

McLean Citizens Association, PO Box 273, McLean, Virginia 22101

cc:

John Foust, Dranesville District Supervisor

John Ulfelder, Dranesville District Planning Commissioner

Tim Hackman, Dranesville District Park Authority Board

Jai Cole, Executive Director, Fairfax County Park Authority

Judy Pederson, Senior Information Officer, Fairfax County Park Authority

Doug Tipsword, Park Planner, Fairfax County Park Authority

Jane Edmondson, Chief of Staff to Supervisor Foust

Ben Wiles, Dranesville Supervisor's Staff

Lori Carbonneau, Executive Director, McLean Project for the Arts

Clerk to the Board of Supervisors

Clerk to the Planning Commission