

# **McMillan Coalition for Sustainable Agriculture**

## **Governing Principles**

*Created November 2013; Revised March 2015*

McMillan Coalition for Sustainable Agriculture (“MCSA”) is an unincorporated non-profit citizens association formed under DC Code § 29–1100, inter-alia, also known as the Unincorporated Non-Profit Association Act of 2012.

### **Organization Mission**

The McMillan Coalition for Sustainable Agriculture (MCSA) was formed in 2013, to promote and support the conversion of the twenty acres of historic subterranean vaulted caverns, immediately beneath The McMillan-Olmsted Park, into a high- tech, high-efficiency urban aquaponic and agricultural farm, cooperatively operated and owned by the community. In relation to the international movement of adaptive re-use of historic sites, we support simultaneously restoring and protecting the 25 acre open public space above the caverns, making McMillan-Olmsted Park into a world-class public park, along the lines of Central Park in NYC. Further, we seek a development at McMillan Park which is green, sustainable, promotes cultural, educational, art and community building programs that won't have an adverse impact on the local environment, a “world class” destination for the District and our international visitors as well.

### **Organizational Objectives**

In support of the above Mission Statement, MCSA has the following strategic objectives:

1. Work collaboratively with like-minded individuals, organizations, and stake-holders to stop the preemptive destruction of the historic McMillan vaulted underground caverns, and massive over-urbanization of the National Register Historic site.
2. Provide testimony and advocacy to inform city council on the manifest benefits to the City and the community to be derived from a McMillan-Olmsted park and urban farm on North Capitol Street, in the heart of the Nation's Capital.
2. Educate the public on the significant benefits, job opportunities, and community improvement that would result from community and employee ownership of The McMillan-Olmsted urban farm.
3. Reach out to both the private sector and civil society to bring the resources and political will necessary to achieve our mission.
4. Create a destination for what will be a modern-day urban technological marvel to attract tourists and international guests garnering more popularity and income for the City.
5. We recognize the critical importance of preserving the clean-water filtration system at McMillan Park as a potential back-up for municipal clean water security. We are educating the community concerning existing and real threats to DC's safe water system, both natural and man-made, and the prudence of not destroying this amazing waterworks marvel which may prove critical to a sustainable future here in the District.

## **Partnerships**

The McMillan Coalition for Sustainable Agriculture is soundly basing our vision for a sustainable McMillan-Olmstead Park on the initiatives and models being explored and implemented by MCSA's organizational partners, Microventures Support, Inc., as well as The Family Fish Farms Network, Inc. which has started the Green Ivy City Alliance.

Both of these partnerships allow MCSA to leverage financial and in-kind resources, recruit interested participants, and most importantly to help guide MCSA on best practices to implement sustainable urban agriculture models and technology at the McMillan-Olmsted Park site. If the proposed McMillan PUD were to be approved by the Zoning Commission, MCSA's efforts and civic interest to preserve open space and the underground historic caverns will be lost. With the help of our organizational partners and the efforts of our members, MCSA is providing the City and the Zoning Commission an alternative to the proposed McMillan PUD project, one that can be as equally economical but far less environmentally- and community-adverse.

## **Governance**

The McMillan Coalition for Sustainable Agriculture was founded in 2013 by two key participating members, Mr. Daniel Wolkoff and Mr. Jerome Peloquin, residents of Ward 5 living close by the McMillan-Olmsted Park.

MCSA's purposes and activities are guided by participating members using a non-hierarchical consensus based decision making process implemented at in-person meetings and through phone surveys and email polling.

## **Governing Principles**

Per DC Code § 29–1100, inter-alia, the following governing principles take precedent in guiding MCSA to meet the objectives and mission of our non-profit citizen association.

### **Participants (Members)**

Any citizen living and/or working in the District and by which agree with MCSA's mission can participate through meetings, in-person and online, through social media, the signing of petitions, and/or otherwise being active in MCSA campaigns. There are no membership fees to participate and the level of one's activity in MCSA is determined by one's own chosen level of participation.

### **Facilitators (Managers)**

The Founders of MCSA are the original managers of this unincorporated non-profit citizens association per DC Code § 29–1100, inter-alia. MCSA managers will be known as Facilitators. Facilitators can call meetings and implement participant polls, can conduct business on behalf of MCSA if the business involves no financial expenditures by the group, can make legal representations on behalf of MCSA before administrative agencies and other legal entities, and may update MCSA participants about campaigns and

activities to participate in. Facilitators may be recalled from their position at anytime by MCSA participants. If a recall request is delivered to the MCSA list and there are no objections by any other MCSA participant, then the Facilitator is recalled and becomes simply an MCSA participant. Facilitators may also resign in writing at anytime by sending a note to the list of MCSA participants. Facilitators otherwise have no terms or term-limits. There shall be no more than three facilitators operating in good-faith at any given time. Facilitators swear to uphold the mission of MCSA as stated above.

### **Voting (Consensus)**

There are no strict rules on what issues/actions should or should not be voted on. The Facilitators are vested with many powers to conduct business on behalf of MCSA, and may choose not to seek consensus on most of their activities. However, when Facilitators reach controversial issues, and/or have to take atypical action, and/or otherwise determine that an issue/action has arisen that may be best to receive comments and consensus from MCSA participants, then the Facilitators may:

- Call for a public meeting to discuss the issue/action with the objective to reach consensus on what to do collectively regarding the issue/action;
- Use online social media, email, phone, fax, or any other form of reasonable communication to reach out to participants so to seek their consensus regarding the issue/action.

When MCSA is said to have "reached consensus" it means that no MCSA participant(s) have voiced or lodged an objection to the issue/action that is being proposed by the Facilitators, and/or proposed by other members of MCSA. Objections may be made in person or by other form of communication, including electronically and by phone. If any objection has been made to any specific issue/action, then there is not consensus and that issue/action cannot be implemented until all objections are retracted. These Governing Principles may be amended by Facilitators, only after consensus on the amendments have been reached.

### **Privacy of Data**

MCSA Facilitators may keep a list of MCSA members who are participating at any level of engagement with MCSA. This list must be kept private and secure unless ordered by a judge or administrative agency to be released, at which time a list may be prepared for review in as discrete a way as possible. MCSA petition campaigns serve as an exception to these privacy principles. Petition campaigns and the data collected may not be considered private even if there is data on the petitions of MCSA participants. Thus, MCSA petitions may be published in the public record as reasonably determined by the Facilitators.