



MINUTES

METUCHEN ARTS COUNCIL

Date: Monday, February 24 2020

Location: Metuchen Borough Hall - Second Floor Conference Room

Present: Bob Diken, Terry Kohl, John Sharp, Lynne Mueller, Sheri-Rose Rubin, Tobi Santagado, Deb Kmetz, Mark Harris, Adam Fensterheim, Lucianna Mallozzi, Judy Lee, Carolyn Hamming, Nora Pagel and Steve Reuter

SUNSHINE LAW ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

-Bob called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm and acknowledged the Sunshine Law.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 27, 2020 MEETING

-Bob stated that Grace sent out the Minutes from the last meeting and then asked those present to read them and then comment. Lynne commented on a misspelled name and sent other corrections to Grace. Bob asked for a motion to accept the Minutes. Lynne made a motion to accept the Minutes with correctios. Tobi seconded. All in favor.

FINANCIAL/BUSINESS REPORTS

Financial Update – Terry (See Attached)

- The grant from the County was received in the amount of \$5,500.
- There is no money yet from MAX until we know what classes will occur.
- To date, there is no money received from the Westerhoff School but they are fully committed and we expect to get \$7,500 – same as last year.
- Bob also mentioned that we have not received our funding from the Borough yet.
- Once all monies are received, we will look closely at the amount spent on promotion and advertising.
- Steve asked how much money may be spent by an individual without approval. The amount is \$300. Steve said a new projector is need. Nancy bought a new projector and it will be used for the MAX program.

FOTMAC-501c3 Update – Bob

-John Wiley, our attorney, sent a final draft of the Constitution & By-Laws for the FOTMAC (Friends of the Methuen Arts Council). Sheri-Rose and Grace have reviewed it. The attorney will tell us how to register the organization with the State.

-We need to decide on benefits for members that join FOTMAC.

New Website – Bob

-The current website crashed. Using “Square Space”, Bob constructed a new website. The new website will be: metuchenartscouncil.com. Bob will meet with Charly and Nora, if available, on Wednesday to further develop the site.

-We want to add all social media on the new website.

2020 PROGRAMS

Updated Schedule Review/Calendar Card – Bob (See Attached)

-The MAC events will be separate from the MAX events.

-You need to be an Admin to post on Facebook.

-Steve stated that the Chamber of Commerce is planning once again to do a Community Calendar to include all events happening in Metuchen.

-John requested the Metuchen Country Fair on Saturday, October 3, 2020 be added to the schedule.

Education/Support

MAX Update – Bob

-Classes for the new MAX program have been slow to start. Perhaps more marketing was needed and the classes could have started at a later date. There is no “sunk” cost for this new endeavour.

Artist Gathering – Mark

-The Artist Gathering will meet this Thursday at 7pm at the Metuchen Senior Center. Joe Castronova will be the speaker.

Music

Jazz Events – Lynne

-This Sunday, March 1st Cornerstone Jazz will be at the Old Franklin School featuring Sylvia Cuenca Quartet/ on May 1st, the MAC will sponsor a Louis Armstrong Jazz Assembly at the Metuchen High School. The Metuchen Jazz Fest is scheduled this year for Saturday, June 13th. There will be the Metuchen High School Jazz Band, the Westerhoff School and then the Headliner band (TBA).

-Lynne is looking to find for an all female band to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Women’s Suffrage.

Franklin Fest – Steve

-Last year there was a theme, this year it will be more eclectic.

-Last year there were 15 bands, this year it will be closer to 12.

-Steve has several leads.

Classical Events - Judy

-An “East Meets West” Bollywood Chamber Music Program with the NJSO will be held at the First Presbyterian Church on Friday, April 3rd. Judy and Grace are going to meet with the owner of the Kabob Factory to discuss further ideas for this event.

-Cody Grabbe has some ideas that he will discuss at a future meeting.

-Westerhoff Concert Faculty & Community Chamber Music Concert will be in October at the First Presbyterian Church.

Metuchen Rocks - Steve

-This Summer Concert Series will be held on the Metuchen Plaza at 7pm on July 11th and August 8th.

Singer Songwriter – Bob

-The new Singer/Songwriters Series will begin on Thursday, March 5th at 7pm at the Old Franklin School. It is posted on Facebook.

Visual Art

Tiny X Project – Bob/Tobi

-Bob has gotten many questions regarding this project. There seems to be some confusion among the general public.

-Tobi plans to send out a confirmation letter to address concerns about this project.

-It was suggested that Mark invite Tobi & Charly to the next meeting of the Artists Gathering to explain this project. Sheri-Rose invited Tobi to the March 9th Borough Council Meeting to discuss this during the Public Comment period.

-Steve brought up the question of the judging of the object that will be selected. Discussion followed. The general public will be able to choose one object of the four objects that are being considered. The committee will make the final decision.

ArtCycle – Bob

-This event will be sometime in September – 2 possible dates being considered.

-Bob and Charu have discussed some early ideas using recycled materials again.

Performance

Story Telling – Bob

-The first of the Fireside Stories will be held at the Old Franklin School on Saturday, March 21st beginning at 7pm. The Metuchen Mirror will do a feature article on this event in their March issue.

Woman's Dance - Tobi

-Mignolo Dance will perform at St. Luke's Church on Saturday, March 7th. A portion of the proceeds will go to Women Aware – an organization that supports those suffering from domestic violence.

NEW BUSINESS

MDA Liaison Report – Mark

-Mark submitted the schedule of events for MAC and the flyer for the Tiny X project.

MDA Public Art Report - Mark

-The next public meeting will be in April.

-Linda LaStella has a short term idea for the children's mural that was painted at the last MetFest on the side wall of the convenience store. Status of the mural depends on the construction of the bank at the corner of Main and New Streets.

-Tobi had an idea for a bus trip to Jersey City. to see the city, visit an art museum, have lunch and go to a performance of Mignolo Dance.

-Bob mentioned that Stephen Powers who created the murals for downtown Metuchen was recently recognized in The Vatican News for a project he worked on with the Super Nuns that got him an audience with the Pope.

(See:<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2020-02/super-nuns-talitha-kum-day-prayer-human-trafficking.html>)

Farmers Market Collaboration – Bob

- Bob met with Nelson Li and asked what we could do with the Farmers Market. Nelson generously donated a 10x10 area each week for an artist to display and sell their work. The market is opened 24 weeks of the year. When inside at St. Luke's Church, the Nails in the Wall Gallery will be opened to the public.
- Nelson has a \$350 stipend to offer to an artist that will paint new signs for the Farmers Market.
- The MDA declined the offer to take any of the weeks offered by the Farmers Market so Arts Council will be open for all weeks

Street Banner Idea with Human Relations Committee

- Sheri-Rose would like to see the MAC to something with the Human Relations Committee to show diversity in the town. A possible suggested idea would be to have street banners with photographs of Metuchen residents – both present & past.
- Steve would like to see something done for the south of Main Street.

NJSO Full Band and Fireworks Show – Bob

- The Mayor will hold a special event on Saturday, June 27th on the Metuchen Plaza with the NJSO Full Band and a Fireworks Show. The \$40,000 cost for this event will be paid for entirely by a grant from Hackensack-Meridian Health. A separate committee nominated by the Mayor will organize this event with the help from the Arts Council and the MDA.

TEAM VOLUNTEER SIGN UP STATUS

- Bob asked that people turn in the Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet that Grace handed out a previous meeting.

NOTE: Just prior to adjournment, Adam came up with an excellent idea to use the marquee and the two poster windows at the FORUM Theater to advertise all social events occurring in Metuchen. All were in favor of this idea.

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:33pm.

Minutes submitted by:

John Sharp
Acting Secretary