



MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 26, 2020  
7:00 p.m. via Zoom Conferencing

PRESENT: Bob Diken, Carolyn Hamming, Mark Harris, Deb Kmetz, Judy Lee, Lynne Mueller, Nora Pagel, Grace Shackney, John Sharp, Charly Santagado, Tobi Santagado, Nancy Goldberg, Patti Ackerson, Kashka Celinska, Adam Fensterheim, Catherine LaMoreaux, Kat Davis, Sheri-Rose Rubin Sam McDonald.

WELCOME:

Chairman Bob Diken opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with a welcome to all present and acknowledged the Sunshine Law open meeting practice. Judy Lee introduced Sam McDonald who is a Metuchen resident and Judy's colleague at the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. Sam expressed an interest in the work of the Arts Council.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 21, 2020:

Bob Diken asked for a motion to approve the Arts Council minutes from September 21, 2020. Mark Harris so moved. The motion was seconded by Judy Lee and approved by all present.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Bob Diken and Nancy Goldberg confirmed that the income as of October 26<sup>th</sup> is \$20,589 which includes grants, donations, and Borough funding. Program expenses are expected at \$16,889. There is a projection of a carry-over of \$3,700.

2020 PROGRAM REVIEW:

- **The Metuchen Arts Exchange Classes** – Kat Davis reported that the program launched virtually with Lisa Hagman's Theatre Classes and Charly Santagado's movement class as listings. More offerings will be listed in January. Registration is through the Borough's new on-line system which is working fine. All class fees have to be approved by the Borough Council before they are listed.
- **MANIFESTED DESTINY Dance Program** scheduled for November 14 & 15 – Charly Santagado reported that this program will be held in Plaza parking garage. There is room for 20 cars as well as individual socially distanced seating. Arrangements have been made with John Manzo to provide snack boxes for audience members. Tickets are \$25 on line and \$35 at the door and can be purchased at <http://mignolo.dance>
- **Tiny X Public Art Project** – Charly reported that five artists have been commissioned to create five different tiny art representations of Metuchen. She is in talks with Metuchen Public Works about installation. She created QR codes for each piece that, when activated, will have information about the artwork and the artist.
- **NJSO Bollywood Concert** – Judy Lee reported that the concert has been recorded and will be aired on line on November 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. The concert will have live moderators and a question and answer session with the audience at the end of the performance. Registration is required in advance through our website. Judy played a piece of the recorder concert to give all those present an idea of how it will look and sound.
- **Jazz History Assembly at Metuchen High School** – Lynne Mueller reported that the presentation will be prerecorded with a live moderator and a question and answer session

for the students via Zoom. The scheduled date is November 30<sup>th</sup>. It will be accessible on the Borough's Facebook page and on Metuchen's cable TV station 15. Details will be circulated in the Jazz Newsletter.

- **Windows of Understanding** – Bob and Adam Fensterheim reported that we are on track to participate in this public art project along with New Brunswick Arts Council, Mason Gross School of the Arts and the Highland Park Arts Council. Artists renderings are due the second week of November. Fifteen artists are participating in the Metuchen program. The social and civic agencies they are paired with include the First Presbyterian Community Food Pantry for the theme of food insecurity; the Metuchen First Aid Squad for the theme of public health; Women Aware for the theme of Trauma and recovery; the Edison Greenways Group for the theme of climate change; and Kiddie Keepwell Camp for the theme of youth engagement.
- **Galerie Westerhoff:**
  - Bob reported that the **Born in Quarantine** show consists of four videos of the artists' interviews about their creative process during quarantine. The videos are on our Facebook page.
  - **ArtCycle** – Bob reported that this collaboration with Westerhoff will involve 10 artists painting over discarded road signs. The themes will be unity, diversity and # One Metuchen. The signs will be installed in the spring, possibly on the Senior Center building. Westerhoff contributed \$500 toward the artists stipends.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- **Middlesex County grant** application – Grace Shackney reported that, after consultation with our grants writer and our county representative, we applied for a \$5,500 grant for Jazz Fest 2021. She thanked Lynne Mueller for her efforts to pull all the elements together. The funding will allow Jazz Fest to continue to have a jazz education element. We will be notified by the beginning of January as to whether we have the grant. Jazz Fest would be slated for the fall of 2021.

#### REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- MDA Liaison Report – Mark Harris reported that the consultant who was hired by the Borough to do a feasibility study for the Forum Theatre will start conducting community interviews shortly.
- The MAC Merch section at Boyts Drugs has been selling local artists work. There will be a turn over of artists taking place soon.
- Tobi Santagado announced the soft opening of the Mignolo Dance Studio will take place sometime in November/December.
- Catherine LaMoreaux announced that Dragonfly Arts is doing on-line play readings every Wednesday night at 8:00 p.m. Check their website for details.

All business being completed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Submitted by

Grace Shackney, Secretary  
Metuchen Arts Council