



MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 21, 2020
7:00 p.m. via Zoom Conferencing

PRESENT: Lynne Mueller, Mark Harris, Luciana Mallozzi, Deb Kmetz, Judy Lee, John Sharp, Bob Diken, Grace Shackney, Cody Grabbe, Terry Kohl, Kat Davis, Nancy Goldberg, Sheri-Rose Rubin, Mickey Waring, Adam Fensterheim.

WELCOME:

Chairman Bob Diken opened the meeting with a welcome to all present and acknowledged the Sunshine Law open meeting practice.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM AUGUST 25, 2020:

Bob Diken asked for a motion to accept the minutes from August 23, 2020. Lynne Mueller and Kate Davis submitted several corrections. Lynne Mueller moved to accept the minutes with the corrections. The motion was seconded by John Sharp and approved by all present.

FINANCIAL/BUSINESS REPORTS:

- Budget – Bob Diken reported the following:
 - Total income for 2020 - \$20,089
 - Total 2020 expenses past and anticipate (as of 9/20) - \$16,212
 - Carry over to 2021 - \$3,877
- **Friends of the Metuchen Arts Council 501C3(FOMAC)** – Bob and Kat Davis confirmed that our application to become a 501c3 is on track. We should have the designation within six months. A logo is being designed. In the meantime, a small board of three was formed from the founding committee that includes Kat Davis, Lynne Mueller and Bob Diken. They will be looking for individuals with fundraising connections to expand the board. They are open to suggestion from Arts Council members.

2020 PROGRAMS:

- **MAX Update** – Kat Davis reported that four teachers are lined up for zoom classes that will start in early/mid October. She has been working with Nancy Goldberg to up-load the registration on line. The prices of the classes require an ordinance change.
- **New MAC Signage** – Bob reported that a new, portable Arts Council banner is being designed.
- **Music:**
 - **Music on New Street** – Grace Shackney reported that we had musicians on New Street every weekend in August and will continue with the program through the end of September. The restaurants and their patrons have been very appreciative. The musicians were happy for the stipend, the exposure and the opportunity to play live. Grace expressed that it was a rewarding experience working in partnership with the Borough Improvement League and Metuchen Downtown Alliance.
 - **NJSO Bollywood Concert** – Judy Lee reported that NJSO will tape the string quartet plus percussionist performing the Bollywood music. The taping will take place at the Mignolo Dance Studio. The concert will be streamed on Friday, November 6th at 7:00 p.m. The evening will include a live moderator who will introduce the music and answer questions from the audience. The concert is free but will require registration. A link for registration will be on our website.

- **Jazz History Assembly at Metuchen High School** – Lynne Muller reported that we have scheduled date of November 30th to present the Anderson Brothers program featuring the music of Louis Armstrong. We are waiting for more information from the School regarding feasibility.
- **Visual Arts:**
 - **Tiny X** – Bob and Nancy Goldberg reported that four entries have been received and accepted. QR codes will be created and will appear on each piece for information scanning. Each artist will receive \$100. The objects will be placed by the Main Street train bridge, Borough Hall, the Library and Metuchen High School.
 - **Windows of Understanding** – Bob Diken reported that this program is well underway. Cluster meetings for the paired social service agencies and artists are schedule through October. Artists’ statements and designs are due mid-November for review. The artwork of the artists assigned to Metuchen is scheduled to be installed at the Metuchen Library Gallery on January 11th. January 18 is the kickoff with virtual programming in Metuchen, Highland Park and New Brunswick. Community conversations about the art and the five agencies will be scheduled by the Metuchen Human Relations Committee through the end of March.
 - **Gallerie Westerhoff Collaboration** – Bob reported that as many as 12 artists will be asked to participate in the “Born in Quarantine” show. Artist interview will be video-taped by Metuchen Media and put on Facebook and our website.
 - **Artcycle** – Bob reported that artists will be invited to paint on old road signs using the theme be “#1 Metuchen.” There will be a virtual showing and then a public installation.
- **Performance** – Bob reported that permission from Nexus has come for the Mignolo Dance Company to perform *Manifest Destiny* in the Pearl Street Parking Deck on November 14th and 15th. Tickets can be ordered on line. There will be one charge per car or for one of 40 single seats.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 2021 Grant Application – Grace Shackney reported that our grant proposal for a post-pandemic, multi-genre program was approved by the County. However, she expressed her concerns that the program we proposed would be too expensive and technically complicated for us to produce. She is also concerned that we cannot predict when live performances will be reinstated over the course of 2021. She is currently struggling to get this year’s granted programs converted to on-line presentations. After some discussion, it was decided not to pursue the County grant as submitted. We will ask our grant writing consultant about how to proceed.
- MDA REPORT – Mark Harris reported that, while some storefronts have been vacated, the MDA reports that new tenants are coming in. There are no plans for public events at this time and no report from the MDA Public Art team. It was noted that Imagination Alley needs to be cleaned and the lighting restored. PSE&G is working on the back parking lot lighting and DPW will clean the alley. Preparations are being made for the restaurants to have outdoor heaters to accommodate outdoor dining as far into the winter as possible.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Merch Mart at Boyts – Bob reported that the artists featured at Boyts have been selling. The owner wants to expand the shelf space with more local art work.
- An art and home goods store is opening up in the Brass Lantern space. The owner, Edna Epelu, is interested in working with the Arts Council to host events and exhibit art.

All business being complete, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Submitted by,
Grace Shackney, Secretary
Metuchen Arts Council