



MEETING MINUTES
September 18th 2023 7:30pm
At the Metuchen Senior Center

Members Present: Lenore Boyarin, Bob Diken, Carol Gaffney, Carolyn Hamming, Mark Harris, Deb Kmetz, Meg Loftus Suchan, Nunzio Moudatsos, Lynne Mueller, Rick Perrine, Wendy Richards, Mara Rosencrown, Grace Shackney, John Sharp, Joanne Stern, Judy Yin-Chi Lee

CALL TO ORDER: Co-Chair Judy Lee called the meeting to order at 7:35pm and acknowledged the Sunshine law.

Meg Loftus Suchan asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous month. Lynne Mueller gave some notes that were added to the minutes. With those additions included, Nunzio Moudatsos made a motion to approve the revised minutes, seconded by Mark Harris.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION:

Grace Shackney announced that this is the time of year that we start thinking about events for the upcoming year. She listed some potential programs with preliminary dates. She also shared a draft budget that would leave a total of \$7,550 that would need to be raised if we moved forward with the programs that were discussed. There will be more program and budget discussions to come in the October and November meetings.

Potential Event Ideas for 2024:

- Chalk Art event – at the Spring Fair in May 2024
- Mignolo Dance Event/grant proposal – May 19 on the Plaza (Grace has reserved this date on the Plaza)
- High School DJ Event – June 21 or 28 on the Plaza
- Summer Concert Series
- Middlesex County Jazz Festival, the end of September
- Meg Loftus Suchan and Lenore Boyarin said they had contacts with bands who might want to perform.
- Mark Harris mentioned that the pocket park might be a great place to host an event.
- Bob mentioned further consideration of some other kind of visual art event.
- A gallery walk idea was proposed by John Sharp, this was met with enthusiasm by the group
- Mara Rosencrown talked about a story telling event.
- Meg Loftus Suchan mentioned asking people on Facebook what they might want to see as far as programming
- The group also discussed possibilities for a film festival

PROGRAM REPORTS:

- Middlesex County Jazz Festival (MCJF) Metuchen -Sept. 30: Lynne Mueller reported that things are moving swiftly and smoothly. She and Bob Diken spoke about the logistics of the event, the volunteers that will be needed as well as contingency plans. Lynne Mueller passed around copies of the flyer which showed events happening in all 5 towns of the MCJF.
- Faculty Chamber Music Concert: Judy Lee spoke about this event, In partnership with the Westerhoff school of music. She has been working on getting logistics moving regarding programming, they are hoping to do it in November.
- Painting-Out Event at Farmers Market – Bob Diken said they decided to streamline this event, to be held on October 14th into a simpler idea. Artists will gather at the Farmers Market, registration is required. He said if they have a positive response to this event, they will consider doing it again in the future.

REPORTS:

- FOMA REPORT: Bob Diken reported that the Westerhoff School renewed their annual donation of \$7500. The group discussed an appropriate way to send a thank you and to celebrate their 25th Anniversary. He also mentioned that the First Annual FOMA fundraiser will be held at the Metuchen Inn on October 29th.
- MDA Report: Meg Loftus Suchan reported that there will be a town wide tea party this Saturday, 9/23. There will also be a panel discussion with author Varsha Bajaj, creator of Kavi the American Girl Doll on Thursday, 9/21. The Downtown Rumble wrestling event is scheduled for October 7th, (Lynne Mueller commented this is the same day as the Library Book Sale).

Announcements:

- Grace Shackney let the group know she was invited by Dawn Mackey and Melissa Perlstein to look at the Johnson Atelier on the Grounds for Sculpture to get an idea of other sculptures to bring to Metuchen. More details on that will be forthcoming.
- Deb Kmetz announced that the opening of “Home: Security/Insecurity” at Nails in the Wall Gallery, A Ministry of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, will take place on Saturday, September 23rd, 2pm to 4pm.

ADJOURNMENT

All business being conducted, the meeting was adjourned by Judy Lee at 8:51pm. The next Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 16th at 7:30pm.

Submitted by,

Meg Loftus Suchan, Secretary