



MEETING MINUTES

July 18, 2022

At the Metuchen Senior Center

PRESENT: Grace Shackney, Luciana Mallozzi, Lisa Hyman, Carolyn Hamming, Helen Geary, Nunzio Moudatsos, Lynne Mueller, Robert Diken, John Sharp, Joseph Castronova. Carmen Balentine, Wendy Richards

Meeting started at 7:41pm.

Grace acknowledges the Sunshine Law. Grace Shackney asked for a motion to approve the minutes from June 20, 2022 Arts Council meeting. Lynne Mueller so moved. The motion was seconded by John Sharp and approved by all present. a

FINANCIAL/BUSINESS REPORT: Bob Diken – FOMA (Friends of Metuchen Arts)

Bob Diken reported that FOMA is seeking sponsors and raising money for Jazz Fest. Bob distributed FOMA Artist Membership Info card featuring various levels. FOMA is targeting people who would see this as a marketing opportunity. There are two patrons that have come in at \$1,000 and a few others interested. We have some traction.

Funds for Jazz Fest will come from FOMA as well as the Arts Council's regular funds. The next FOMA board meeting is July 28, 2022. Bob encouraged those who are interested in getting involved to contact him.

Grace encourages everyone to make a donation at any level to reinforce the activity and support of the Arts Council.

PROGRAM DISCUSSION - IDEAS FOR 2023 MIDDLESEX COUNTY GRANT APPLICATION

Grace Shackney reported that the Letter of Intent for the county grant is due by August 20, 2022. Our last county grant was \$6,350 for the ArtCycle Greenway Gallery. The following ideas were submitted for discussion for the 2023 grant:

- (From Charu Bakshi) The commissioning of artists to paint significant homes and other structures in Metuchen plein air on a specific date. Tours would be organized to see the artists at work. The work would become a "history" exhibit in one of our galleries and become part of a permanent collection at Borough Hall. Joe Castronova suggested: Make a list of the houses or places in Metuchen and set up miniatures of the houses.
- (From Lisa Hyman) A mural on the side of the Green Drop building on the corner of Lake and Amboy Avenues. Lisa said she will investigate who owns the building and make a contact.
- (From Robert Diken/Lynne Mueller) Using Central Jersey Jazz Fest as a model, form a "Middlesex County" Jazz Fest joining with Woodbridge and New Brunswick for a 2023 Jazz Fest in Roosevelt Park Theater in September of 2023. (Middlesex jazz event).
- (From Bob Diken) An ArtCycle Round 2 of artwork along the Greenway. Grace Shackney thought that we need to get the first round of the Greenway gallery up before asking for more money to expand it. It might make for a better ask for 2024.

The Executive Committee will review all suggestions and make a recommendations for a vote by email.

REQUESTS FOR 2023 PROGRAM SUPPORT:

The following request for program support have been received:

- Mignolo's SPRING FOR SPRING Dance Festival – This is an annual event inviting dancers to apply to participate. There would be two shows on the Plaza planned for June 3, 2023. As of this date, an unspecified amount from the Arts Council would go toward paying participants.

- A “Moth” style Storytelling Program at the Old Franklin Schoolhouse proposed by Metuchen writer and producer April Salazar – Preliminary budget is \$775 to be offset with ticket sales.

These requests will be put on the list for consideration and be discussed further as we structure our budget for 2023.

EVENT REPORTS:

- June 28th – John Messenger Quintet at the Metuchen Library: This was performed outdoors and attracted an audience of more than 100. Many were current and former students of John’s as well as members of our regular Jazz audience.
- July 20 - Jazz Night in the Parlor at Hailey’s featuring The Harry Allen Trio: Lynne reported that 23 tickets are sold out of a maximum of 30. Tickets are available on line for \$30. There will be a 2 drink minimum and specials on food and drink as it is taking place during restaurant week.
- July 28 - Community Chamber Music Concert at the Library. It was recently decided that it would not be outdoors but will be held in the Library Community Room. Seating is limited to 60 people. Masks are optional. This is a free event but registration is required.
- September 3 - Metuchen Rocks! On the plaza with the Lonesome Pines band. Hope for good weather.
- September 10 - Jazz Fest on the Plaza with Bobby Sanabria and Metuchen Dance Center and Metuchen High School with John Messinger. Speak with Lynne if you want to help with Jazz Committee.
- October 16 - Cornerstone Jazz at the Library featuring Latin jazz guitarist Alejandro Ataucusi and his band Forbidden Tropics.

Other reports:

ArtCycle Outdoor Greenway Gallery Progress: Grace Shackney reported that the artists have been selected and commissioned. Everything is moving forward. Rick Leer (Director of Parks and Recreation) wants to see where we are putting the art and alternative locations. He wants the art in a safe place. Artwork is due August 20th; installation will occur in September/October. A ribbon cutting is planned for October 22, 2023.

Rotunda Gallery Report: (Joe Castronova) Menacing Nature goes up tomorrow July 19. Four artists presented and central theme is the way that humanity and nature are in push and pull all the time (explores our relationship). It will be up through September. There will be a reception, date to be announced. Joe would love some help and we’ll need a new curator for next year. It’s now that we need to start looking for Joe’s replacement.

MDA Report: Lynne Mueller reported that the MDA surpassed \$1million in grants secured. MDA Strategic Plan is being updated. Imagination Alley The have received a grant of \$100,000 to update Imagination Alley. Consultants will survey members of the community. Trash has been a problem in the Alley. Regular cleaning is included in the revitalization plan.

MDA Public Art report: Nothing to report here.

MDA Community Events:

- It’s restaurant week until July 25.
- September 17 - Wrestling event on the Plaza
- November 26: Small Business Saturday

Adjournment: 8:58pm.

Submitted by,

Carmen Balentine, in the absence of Secretary Meg Loftus