



MEETING MINUTES
October 17, 2022
At the Metuchen Senior Center

PRESENT: Grace Shackney, Mark Harris, Deborah Kmetz, Catherine LaMoreaux, Meg Loftus Suchan, Lynne Mueller, John Sharp, Joanne Stern, Rick Perrine, Carmen Balentine, Nunzio Moudatsos, Mara Rosencrown, Dan Rosencrown

Meeting started at 7:40pm.

Grace acknowledges the Sunshine Law. Meg Loftus Suchan asked for a motion to approve the minutes from September 19th Arts Council meeting. Mark Harris so moved. The motion was seconded by Lynne Mueller and approved by all present.

FINANCIAL/BUSINESS REPORT: Grace Shackney - FOMA (Friends of Metuchen Arts)

Bob Diken was unable to join the meeting but Grace Shackney spoke on his behalf. FOMA continues to seek two new Board members who can help with fundraising. Grace read a report detailing FOMA's financials and upcoming programs. Mara Rosencrown spoke about the new website and how it is streamlined to interact with the MAC site.

PROGRAM DISCUSSION

- Grace Shackney read through the proposed programming and projected budget for 2023. Further discussions will happen in November with a vote in January
- The Dragonfly Theatre production was discussed for Spring of 2023. Members suggested reaching out to St. Lukes for a possible venue

EVENT REPORTS:

- **Sunday, October 16**, Great turn out for cornerstone Jazz at the Library featuring Latin jazz guitarist Alejandro Ataucusi and his band, Forbidden Tropics. The response was very enthusiastic.
- **Saturday, November 5, 1:00 p.m.:** ArtCycle Greenway Gallery Opening Celebration at the Trailhead on Middlesex Avenue
- **November 13, 2:00 p.m.:** Cornerstone Jazz at the Library featuring Multi-instrumentalist Scott Robinson and his Quartet.

OTHER REPORTS:

MDA Report: Lynne Mueller reported:

1. Dawn Mackey is the new Executive Director of the MDA.
2. MDA Board approved 3 Amendments to its By Laws and approved 2 individuals to replace the Metuchen Chamber and the Parking authority as voting members. One represents a "resident" and the other a "business."
3. MDA Strategic Plan is being updated. Grace Shackney, Judy Lee, Bob Diken and Lynne Mueller participated in a special zoom meeting on 9/27/22 with outside planner to provide MAC / FOMA perspectives for the MDA Strategic Plan.

4. Promotions: Dan Cea of MDA reported that Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce reached out to MDA that it has received a grant for publicity at NJ Transit stations. MDA has agreed to participate. Note: this is something MAC and FOMA should consider exploring. Rahway has a poster at Metuchen station with bold letters: "Rahway is Arts."
5. Upcoming Events/Promotion
 - a. October 15 Hispanic Heritage event
 - b. October 29 Haunted Downtown
 - c. November 26 Small Business Saturday

COMMUNITY EVENTS:

Nails in the wall exhibit will be open until dec. Their next exhibit is 'emerging'. Submissions are due for that Jan 1st. Keep an eye out for how to submit.

All business being concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:34pm. The next Arts Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 21st at 7:30pm.

Submitted by,

Meg Loftus Suchan, Secretary