



MEETING MINUTES
April 17, 2023
At the Metuchen Senior Center

Members Present: Lenore Boyarin, Joel Branch, Robert Diken, Carol Gaffney, Carolyn Hamming, Mark Harris, Deborah Kmetz, Judy Yin-Chi Lee, Nunzio Moudatsos, Lynne Mueller, Rick Perrine, Mara Rosencrown, Grace Shackney, John Sharp. Guests Present: Danny Adlerman, Julia Win

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

Grace Shackney introduced a guest, past ArtCycle artist Julia Win.

Judy Lee asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the March meeting. Lynne Mueller mentioned that she would give some minor corrections to Meg Loftus in writing. Lynne Mueller moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Lenore Boyarin seconded. The motion was approved by all members present.

PROGRAM REPORTS:

- **Jazz Festival** (Robert Diken, Lynne Mueller, Grace Shackney): Lynne reported that plans for Metuchen's part in the 5-city jazz weekend are progressing. The subcommittee is exploring logos and artists. Robert explained that 5 towns are participating in the jazz weekend, which is funded in part by a Middlesex County grant. Edison will host on Thursday night September 28, Perth Amboy Friday night, New Brunswick Saturday afternoon, Metuchen Saturday evening, and Woodbridge Sunday. Each town will pay \$1,000 toward professional advertising of the five events. Judy Lee encouraged everyone to volunteer and spread the word as thousands of people are expected to attend the Metuchen event on September 30. Lynne said that the Metuchen High School Jazz Ensemble would perform as part of the event. Robert added that they are looking to bring a more diverse audience to the event by including youth. All agreed it is hoped that other towns follow suit in including young people, but each town makes its own decisions about what it will do.
- **Jazz at the Library** (Lynne Mueller): Lynne reported that the previous event was very successful. The next event will be the Billy Hart Quartet on April 30, 2023. The 70 free tickets sold out quickly on EventBrite and an overflow area will be available to hear (but not see) the music. A waiting list has been started.
- **Plein Air Painting event**: Robert Diken reported that the subcommittee is looking at places and dates, tentatively October 14, 2023, with a rain date of October 21. Five historical places will each host one or more artists, professionals and amateurs, who will paint the location as they see it. Being considered are: Tommy's Pond, Old Franklin Schoolhouse, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, and several historic houses. The Farmer's Market has requested to host a painter as well. The subcommittee is debating whether to commission artists or to offer prize money. Someone at each location will oversee the crowd and painters. Grace Shackney said Tyreen Reuter may attend the next subcommittee meeting representing the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society to help locate private property owners who may be willing to participate.
- **Summer Concerts** (Grace Shackney): Grace reported that summer concerts will be held on the plaza on July 15 and September 30, 2023. She has contacted our audio engineer from Big Noize to set up the sound for both concerts. There was much discussion about summer concerts. The MDA will sponsor a Mayor's Concert Series. It was agreed within the council that the more arts in town the better, regardless of the sponsor. It was agreed that MAC desires to cooperate with the MDA, and Grace expressed appreciation that the MDA director had reached out to her to make sure certain

MDA events would not conflict with MAC events. A meeting between the new MDA director and the MAC executive board (and eventually the MAC membership) will be arranged at the earliest convenience of all parties.

REPORTS:

- **MDA Report / MDA Public Art Report** (Grace Shackney): MDA is working on posters for the Forum Theater windows. In the meantime, they will repair and ready the space. They are looking for suggestions for sites between the train station and Angie's restaurant where art may be appropriate.
- **ArtCycle Student Exhibit** (Grace Shackney): the exhibit has been moved from the Hungarian Center to the Metuchen Senior Center. It has travelled to these two places because of a water pipe break at its intended display area, the Rotunda Gallery in Metuchen Borough Hall. When repairs to the Rotunda Gallery are complete, a hanging system will be added. Robert Diken requested that Rick Perrine make a poster explaining that the gallery is being repaired, to which Rick agreed. There was discussion about the student artists visiting the seniors at the Senior Center to talk about their art. The council agreed this would be a good idea, benefitting all involved. Carol Gaffney will contact Ashley Jay, Arts Coordinator for Metuchen schools, to try to arrange a field trip.
- **FOMA** (Robert Diken): Robert reported that the FOMA board voted to support MAC with \$6,000 in 2023. FOMA is also sponsoring (not financially) Sketch Nights at Hailey's Parlor, the third Wednesday of every month. FOMA will have a tent at the June 11 Spring Street Fair to hand out information. Lynne mentioned that there will be a jazz concert at the library the same afternoon at 2pm. Robert reported an uptick in interest in FOMA board membership, with interviews in progress. Mark Harris mentioned having difficulty locating the donations area of the FOMA website. Robert explained that the website is in the midst of being reorganized.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Chalk Festival** (Julia Win): Julia presented an idea to collect used pizza boxes, paint them black, and have children decorate them with sidewalk chalk. Hiring artists or adult volunteers to create chalk art on the sidewalks was also suggested. The area in front of Borough Hall was suggested for the project. After much lively discussion, the council agreed that the idea had promise, and Judy Lee requested a written proposal from Julia in order to move forward.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Lynne Mueller - April 29, 2023 - Jazz Band finals at Metuchen High School.
- Grace Shackney - April 29 - sculpture exhibit opening at Bowery Arts.
- Danny Adlerman – April 28 Open Mic Night at the Old Franklin Schoolhouse. Open Mic takes place on the last Friday of every month at the Old Franklin Schoolhouse.

ADJOURNMENT by Judy Lee at 8:47pm

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by

Deborah Kmetz (in the absence of Secretary Meg Loftus)

THE NEXT ARTS COUNCIL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, MAY 15, 2023