



MEETING MINUTES
METUCHEN ARTS COUNCIL (MAC)
November 18, 2024 7:30pm
At the Metuchen Senior Center

Voting Members Present: Chair Mark Harris, Vice Chair Meg Suchan, Secretary Deborah Kmetz, Carmen Balentine, Carolyn Hamming, Terry Kohl, Nunzio Moudatsos, Grace Shackney, John Sharp

Auxiliary/Guests/Liaisons Present: Danny Adlerman, Robert Diken, Gary Freed, Lynne Mueller, Wendi Richards, Gitika Toteja, Mickey Waring, Katherine Wu

CALL TO ORDER:

- Chair Mark Harris called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm and acknowledged the Sunshine Law.
- Katherine Wu, a guest and a Metuchen PorchFest volunteer, was introduced and welcomed.

MINUTES: Secretary Deborah Kmetz asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. All voting members present at the previous meeting voted to approve.

PROGRAMS/REPORTS:

- Grace Shackney, Windows of Understanding: One artist will work with a group of Girl Scouts on a project about the environment. They have been introduced and have begun planning the project. Berkshire Hathaway will provide a \$500 stipend to the artist and MAC will provide \$250 for materials. The exhibit will be on display in February and March in the windows of Berkshire Hathaway.
- Meg Loftus Suchan, PorchFest 2025: The Borough gave good feedback for the 2024 PorchFest and are happy for MAC to do the event again, with some minor changes both parties have agreed are important. 9 people would be ideal for the committee, one per house to coordinate 2 musicians or groups per home.

LIASON REPORTS:

- Robert Diken/FOMA:
 - FOMA's new website was launched today with new colors and branding. The self-serve Community Calendar is live, and organizations have been given passcodes to enter their events.
 - Gala planning is underway for the March 8 event at Metuchen Country Club.
 - FOMA expresses a continued commitment to support MAC events.
- Lynne Mueller, Jazz:
 - Plans are underway for JazzFest to be held at Metuchen High School at the end of September.
 - There will be 4 concerts at the Metuchen Public Library and 2 at Hailey's Parlor
 - She is waiting to hear about some funding requests.
- Meg Suchan:

- The MDA has officially removed MAC as a voting member seat. Meg will continue to work with the Public Arts Committee.
- Parking downtown will be free on Main Street December 13-30.
- Communication with the MDA continues to be mutual and appreciated.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Mark Harris:
 - The Borough will let us know what our role will be in the 2025 celebrations for the 125th anniversary of the Borough.
 - Information is being sought for the repair and cleaning of the Oakland Ave. sculptural mural.
- 2025 program ideas brainstorming:
 - Meg Suchan: We will respond to everyone who submitted suggestions. If they took the time to submit, they may want to become active in the arts in Metuchen. We will try to find a home for each idea, either in a MAC-sponsored event or with a local arts organization.
 - Grace Shackney, recap of previously discussed ideas:
 - Cleaning the mural
 - Windows of Understanding
 - Possible Gallery Walk during Garden State Arts Weekend
 - Dragonfly Theater production of Our Town
 - Reading of the play about the soldiers at the Memorial Park
 - Reenact the first Borough Council meeting
 - PorchFest
 - JazzFest and Jazz events
 - Paint Out
 - Mark Harris:
 - Out Front Metuchen
 - Opera Go Lightly proposed by a teacher from Westerhoff School
 - Multicultural event proposed by Linda LaStella
 - Garden State Arts Weekend
 - Open Mic Nights support requested by Danny Adlerman
 - Terry Kohl:
 - May 4, Mexican musicians and dancers on the Plaza in conjunction with Meximodo. Other arts ideas to include are welcomed from FOMA and MAC
 - Mickey Waring:
 - Poetry event, maybe including music and/or dance
 - Carmen Balentine:
 - Space to show creations
 - Robert Diken:
 - Swing-a-Delic on the Plaza was very well received last time
 - Mark Harris: the executive committee will consider all of these ideas and the ones submitted online and from various community sources and come up with a list to present to the Borough and the MAC members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Terry Kohl: Rise Up Chorus production of Cosmos will be tomorrow at the Reformed Church and Sunday at Sacred Heart South Plainfield
- Carmen Balentine: check out the productions at 2 River Theater in Red Bank

- Grace Shackney: In January we will elect officers
- Robert Diken: Just Cause will perform at the Schoolhouse on December 7

ADJOURNMENT: All business being concluded, the meeting was adjourned by Mark Harris at 8:43 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 27, 2025, at 7:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deborah Kmetz, Metuchen Arts Council Secretary