



MEETING MINUTES
METUCHEN ARTS COUNCIL (MAC)
July 15, 2024 7:30pm
At the Metuchen Senior Center

Voting Members Present: Chair Mark Harris, Secretary Deborah Kmetz, Carmen Balentine, Carolyn Hamming, Terry Kohl, Nunzio Moudatsos, Grace Shackney, Joanne Stern

Auxiliary/Guests/Liaisons Present: Victoria Chala, Marisol De Los Santos, Jonah Lopez, Lauren Lopez, Lynne Mueller, Wendi Richards, Judy Tyndall, Julia Win

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Mark Harris called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and acknowledged the Sunshine Law.

PROGRAMS/REPORTS:

- Mark Harris: the Mignolo dance event is set for Oct. 6 on the Plaza
- Lynne Mueller: 2nd annual JazzFest is in production. Load-in will be at 3pm on Saturday, Sept. 28. Volunteers will be needed and arranged for closer to the event date. Rain location is MHS Auditorium.
- Grace Shackney: Ball in the House a capella concert will be in Pederson Park at 7pm August 2nd.
- Marisol De Los Santos: PorchFest will be on Sept. 21. There are 16 artists at 8 locations.
- Terry Kohl: As of July 1, Rise Up Chorus will be part of the newly formed Rise Up Community Arts, presenting something every month.
- Mark Harris: Brandon Uhlig at Borough Hall said the website is being constructed and should be live around Labor Day.
- Deborah Kmetz: John Sharp and she are working on the Gallery Walk for Sunday, Oct. 13.
- Mark Harris: Volunteers have been requested to walk around the Mayor's Hip-Hop Concert wearing event t-shirts in case anyone attending needs anything.
- Mark Harris: The Chalk Walk may be happening during the August 18 street fair. Meg Suchan and Julia Win will discuss some possibilities for staffing and logistics.

LIAISON REPORTS:

- Lynne Mueller's **Jazz report:**
 - The Bruce Williams Quartet will perform at the Library on Oct. 20
- Meg Loftus Suchan **MDA report** via email, read by Mark Harris:
 - The Art Committee is planning a lantern installation for Lunar New Year 2025. There will be a call for artists the design lanterns and possibly a kids' component.
 - Dawn Mackey is moving forward with plans for a design committee - this is to stay in line with the best practices of the Main Street of America. The Main Street of America will be doing a very standard audit of Metuchen within the year, so there is continued focus on making sure that all policies/practices are by the book.

- The Metuchen Olympics are Saturday, July 27 12-3pm on the Plaza. Lots of specifics weren't given but I was told to expect absolute foolishness including places for people to compete for a chance to place on a podium.
- The Metuchen Jazz Fest on Saturday, Sept 28th will be preceded by Metuchen Pops: a pop art, pop up celebration with small happenings in stores and storefronts along Main Street. Dawn Mackey thanks the Arts Council again for their willingness to okay the day at the behest of the Borough so as to save the Police force from calling in their people for two separate events. Metuchen Pops will be from 11am-4pm. Dawn Mackey will make sure any events with music/noise will observe the start of our quiet time for sound check for Jazz Fest.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Julia Win is looking for a place to hold a pop-up event on Sept. 28, which is Worldwide Day of Play. Work continues on the creation of a children's museum.

MINUTES: A quorum now present, 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Deborah Kmetz: Nails in the Wall Gallery at St. Luke's is currently hosting an exhibit of environmental artwork by Carolyn Obert. Hours include Wednesday evenings 6:30-8:30
- Carmen Balentine: Metuchen Milers Running Club will have a table at the Farmers Market on July 27

ADJOURNMENT:

All business being conducted, the meeting was adjourned by Mark Harris at 8:28 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 19 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deborah Kmetz, Metuchen Arts Council Secretary