



MEETING MINUTES
METUCHEN ARTS COUNCIL (MAC)
Sept. 16, 2024 7:30pm
At the Metuchen Senior Center

Voting Members Present: Chair Mark Harris, Vice Chair Meg Loftus Suchan, Secretary Deborah Kmetz, Lenore Boyarin, Carmen Balentine, Carol Gaffney, Carolyn Hamming, Nunzio Moudatsos, Grace Shackney, John Sharp

Auxiliary/Guests/Liaisons Present: Joel Branch, Marisol De Los Santos, Brianne Ludlow-Molnar, Lynne Mueller, Wendi Richards, Tobi Santagado, Dylan Thurston, Gitika Toteja

CALL TO ORDER:

- Chair Mark Harris called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and acknowledged the Sunshine Law.
- Gitika Toteja, a guest and a Metuchen watercolor artist, 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:

- Mark Harris: Volunteers are needed for PorchFest
- Tobi Santagado: Mignolo Dance will perform on the plaza on Oct. 6, with public dance events to follow during the week of Oct. 6-13 at their studio. Thank you to the Arts Council for their help.
- Lynne Mueller: Jazz Fest volunteers are needed for the event and production. Four groups will perform. Thank you to Grace Shackney for the press releases. The rain location will be Metuchen High School.
- Grace Shackney: Windows of Understanding volunteers are requested to work with Grace Shackney and Bob Diken to produce the event. Several exhibit locations are being considered.
- Meg Loftus Suchan: PorchFest Volunteers are welcome to help, but all of the locations are at least minimally covered. Marisol De Los Santos is working on media. Bob Diken reported via email that FOMA is set to pay the musicians.
- Mark Harris: The old MAC website has been shut down, and social media sites will shut down on or about Oct. 1. The new Borough site is up and running, and things are going smoothly with getting information posted.
- Carol Gaffney: Metuchen Community Paint-Out is scheduled for Oct. 13, 1-4pm at Thomas Pond. Metuchen residents and art instructors Billy Secombe and Ed Wetzel will paint and provide assistance to anyone who requests it. Attendees will bring their own materials.
- Mark Harris: the Chalk Walk, originally scheduled during the street fair that was rained out, has been cancelled and may be revisited in the future.

LIAISON REPORTS:

- Lynne Mueller's **Jazz report**:
 - The Bruce Williams Quartet will perform at the Library on Oct. 20
 - Thank you to Wendi Richards and Brianne Ludlow-Molnar for help with the JazzFest Port-a-potties.
- Bob Diken **FOMA report** via email:
 - They are finalizing the grant application for Metuchen Classical.
 - New Instagram handle for FOMA is @FriendsOfMetuchenArts
 - They are developing a new logo and website.
 - Bob has developed a new calendar of arts events, being tested now.
- Meg Loftus Suchan **MDA report**:
 - They are planning a public art display of Chinese Lanterns for early 2025. Artists may submit a concept drawing and some will be chosen to create the final works for the display.
 - Metuchen will be 125 years old on March 20, 2025.
 - Sept. 28 will be Metuchen Pops, with artists selling their works at tables throughout the district.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Mark Harris: Linda LaStella has requested assistance in getting the ceramic mural on Grove and Oakland (by the tennis courts) cleaned and minor repairs done. This is the 10th anniversary of the first side being installed. Mark will research pricing.
- Mark Harris requested everyone to think of groups we may reach out to as possible projects for 2025. An announcement will be posted to social media.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Deborah Kmetz: Nails in the Wall Gallery at St. Luke's Episcopal Church had a successful exhibit opening. All are welcomed to visit during office hours or by arrangement.
- Lenore Boyarin: Stitch & Bitch knitting and crochet club will meet at Beans and Bread on Oct. 17, 7pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

All business being conducted, the meeting was adjourned by Mark Harris at 8:17 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 21 at 7:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deborah Kmetz, Metuchen Arts Council Secretary