



## MEETING MINUTES

May 16th , 2022 at 7:30pm  
Metuchen Senior Citizen Center

PRESENT: Aaron McCoy, Carmen Balentine, Deb Kmetz, Joel Branch, John Sharp, Judy Lee, Grace Shackney, Bob Diken, Lynne Mueller, Mara Rosencrown, Mark Harris, Natalie Clark, Meg Loftus Suchan, Nunzio Moudatsos, Wendi Richards, Terry Kohl, Dan Rosencrown

### WELCOME:

Co-Chairs Grace Shackney and Judy Lee opened the meeting at 7:35pm with a welcome to all and acknowledgement of the Sunshine Open Public Meeting Act.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup> 2022 MEETING:

Meg Loftus Suchan asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Terry Kohl so moved. The motion was seconded by Deb Kmetz and approved by all members present.

### **FINANCIAL / BUSINESS REPORTS**

- FRIENDS OF METUCHEN ARTS COUNCIL (FOMA) REPORT (Bob Diken): Bob spoke about the name change from FOMAC to FOMA "Friends of Metuchen Arts". He reports a \$7k account balance and spoke on the ongoing work to the FOMA promotional video with June 1<sup>st</sup> set as their anticipated kick off. They continue to work on their branding/social media campaign.

### REPORTS

- ARTCYCLE OUTDOOR GALLERY (Grace Shackney/Meg Loftus). The Call to artists has yielded 12 submissions so far and the ArtCycle team will review them in the coming week. Sign posts are being ordered. The signs have been delivered to the Metuchen schools and the art teachers continue to show enthusiasm about participating.
- ROTUNDA GALLERY Joe Catronova was not present but Grace Shackney and Bob Diken encouraged everyone to come take a look at the current exhibit.
- GOSPEL CHOIR/NJSO CONCERT: (Judy Lee): Everyone agreed the event was a success with input from all sides on how smoothly it went. Judy relayed how professionally it was run and hopes to have more events like this in the future.
- CHAMBER CONCERT/WESTERHOFF PARTICIPATION (Judy Lee): Judy asked everyone to mark their calendars for July 28<sup>th</sup>. The event is still in the works but the goal is to have it outside, Judy said she will keep us posted as they finalize the program details. Bob Diken spoke about the event on May 21<sup>st</sup> being done at the library featuring Gary Westerhoff's video books that highlight his wilderness photography. Judy and Bob both spoke to how grateful MAC is for the support from the Westerhoffs and what great patrons of the arts they have been over the years.
- JAZZ PROGRAMMING UPDATES: (Lynne Mueller):
  - 1.) April 30 concert celebrating International Jazz Day was a success with about 50 people in attendance. Mike Lee Quartet a "New York quality band" performed. This event was a partnership program between Friends of Metuchen Arts Council/Metuchen Arts Council and the Metuchen Public Library/ Friends of Metuchen Library.
  - 2.) New event - Metuchen Jazz at Hailey's Parlor -- is in early stages of development for mid July 2022.
  - 3.) Central Jersey Jazz Festival – Metuchen will take place on the evening of Saturday, September 10 on the Plaza.

- 4.) Cornerstone Series continues in October and November 2022 – venue to be advised.
- 5.) Concert to honor MHS Band Director John Messenger, with his own ensemble performing, is in the concept stage of development with the event to ideally take place outdoors so many of John’s students and families will be able to attend.  
*\*Grace added that on July 3<sup>rd</sup> there will be a full symphony orchestra event on the Plaza, being sponsored by Hackensack Meridian Health.*

- MDA REPORT (Lynne Mueller)

1. Yiftee eGift Cards - Metuchen Downtown Dollars  
 Custom Gift card redeemable at shops in Metuchen. Yiftee uses cell phone and replaces Metuchen Chamber gift cards. Nineteen Businesses have already signed up to accept eGift Cards. \$500 worth of gift cards have been sold already. “Helping to Keep Local Dollars Local!”
2. Public Art: Angie’s Café – Mural created by Rutgers Students will be installed in early May and dedicated on June 17. “Summertime” Pianos – The 3 pianos from last year will be installed at various locations, including the Plaza during the summer, but no professional musicians will be hired to play them. Wrapping the Fences – Manasquan Bank construction site. Approval has been granted to put artwork on the fences which will surround the construction of the new Manasquan Bank building at Main and New Streets.

Upcoming Events/Promotions:

- a. May 20 at 5PM on the Plaza – Metuchen High School Tri M Benefit Concert 100% of the donations go to Paterson Music Project (Rain date May 22.)
  - b. May 21 – Spring Bazaar on the Plaza
  - c. May 26 – Pre prom
  - d. June 4 – Breakdancing Competition on the Plaza
  - e. June 18 or 19 – Juneteenth
  - f. June 25 – Pride Day
  - g. Last Day of School in June– Kids Take Over
  - h. July – Restaurant Week - Mid July – exact dates to be determined
3. MDA – 5 Year Strategic Plan is currently being updated. Downtown businesses are being asked to complete a quick survey to help guide MDA work over next 5 years.

- STUDENT INVOLVEMENT (Meg Loftus): Meg introduced Natalie Clark from Metuchen High School. Natalie spoke about her art that is currently exhibited at the Bowery Art Collective. Meg mentioned the other high school students who have shown interest in being involved and expressed her hope that the Metuchen HS/MAC relationship will continue to grow.
- RISE UP CHORUS CONCERT (Terry Kohl): The concert will be June 12<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. Terry said 6 new movements were composed and was enthusiastic about this special event.
- COMMUNITY EVENTS (Judy Lee):  
 Nails in the Wall Gallery, Kindness Exhibit: Runs Sept 17-Dec 16. There is a call for artists, anyone interested should reach out to [exhibits@StLukesMetuchen.org](mailto:exhibits@StLukesMetuchen.org), Subject, “Kindness”.  
 Mignolo Dance: -Spring for Spring information: [Spring for Spring at the Metuchen Town Plaza](#)  
 Artist residency application: [residencies](#)

All business being completed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:34pm. The next Arts Council meeting is scheduled for: MONDAY, June 20<sup>th</sup> 2022 AT 7:30PM at the Metuchen Senior Citizen Center.

Submitted by,  
 Meg Loftus Suchan, Secretary  
 Metuchen Arts Council