



MEETING MINUTES

June 19th, 2023 7:30pm

At the Metuchen Senior Center

Members Present: Carolyn Hamming, Terry Kohl, Nunzio Moudatsos, Lynne Mueller, Wendy Richards, Grace Shackney, Meg Loftus Suchan, Joanne Stern,

Guests Present: Elliot Girin

CALL TO ORDER: Co-Chair Grace Shackney called the meeting to order at 7:35pm and acknowledged the Sunshine law.

Meg Loftus Suchan asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous month. Lynne Mueller had a small adjustment to make to the minutes. Once those comments were accepted, Lynne Mueller made a motion to accept the minutes and Nunzio Moudatos seconded. The minutes were approved by all present without further comment.

PROGRAM REPORTS:

- **Proposal for High School DJ Event on the Plaza:** Elliot Girin, a 10th Grade student from Metuchen High school wants to partner with MAC to have a DJ event on the plaza. He brought a video presentation which he shared with the group. He provided details about what he would need from MAC (primarily publicity as he has the necessary equipment). He'd need a permit. We are targeting September 9 at 6:30pm. Grace Shackney will reach out to the necessary people to get the ball rolling.
- **Middlesex County Jazz Festival** (Lynne Mueller, Grace Shackney): This continues to move along well. Please visit: middlesexcountyjazzfestival.org
- **Jazz Concert at the Library** (Lynne Mueller): On Sunday June 11th, they held a successful event, 69 people showed up. Lynne said it was a full house and a wonderful event and commented on the level of artistry of the musicians. She informed all present that the next event is October 22nd which is the 4th concert in the series, completing the Middlesex County grant. The library is applying for another grant to continue the success of this concert series.
- **Plein-air House Painting Event** (Grace Shackney): Logistics are being discussed but there is no new information to report at present, Grace will update us at the next meeting if there are any noteworthy developments. All is moving along well.
- **Mignolo Spring for Spring Dance Festival**, (Grace Shackney), Mark Harris was unable to attend but let Grace know that this event was reasonably well attended. The organizer was happy with how it went and with the support of MAC.
- **Spring Street Fair** (Grace Shackney): This event was June 11th, Grace commented that it was very well attended. MAC had a co table with FOMA. A lot of people stopped by and we got a lot of new contact information from members of the community.
- **Summer Concert Series** (Grace Shackney): Grace explained the need for volunteers for this event and called on those present to sign up.
 - o July 12 – Tiffany
 - o July 19 – Taylor Swift Cover Band
 - o August 2nd – Music from Broadway

REPORTS:

- **Arts District Zoning Initiative:** Grace let all present know that you can view the details on the main page of metuchennj.org. She asked that everyone please go to the next borough meeting on Monday June 26 so as to keep up-to-date on the further development of the Arts District.
- **FOMA Report** (Bob Diken): Bob wasn't there but we were updated that Edna Epelu (who owns Papillon) is on the FOMA Board now. She brings a lot of experience working on non profits boards.
- **MDA report:** (Meg Loftus Suchan). Meg echoed the upcoming concert series and the importance that we show up to volunteer. The MDA continues to look for mural and place-making ideas in the downtown district. The old Metuchen Savings/Manasquan Bank drive-thru has been donated. MDA has \$50, 000 in grant money to develop it as a pocket park.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Grace Shackney briefly discussed the ongoing idea of murals/wraps to cover electrical boxes on Main Street.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Terry Kohl gave a little background on some upcoming performances by Rise Up Chorus. Their last performance will be held on June 24th at the First Presbyterian church and is called "We All Belong".

All business being concluded, the meeting was adjourned by Grace Shackney at 8:36pm. The next Arts Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 17th, 2023 at 7:30pm.

Submitted by,

Meg Loftus Suchan, Secretary