



MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 28, 2016  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room, Borough Hall

IN ATTENDANCE: Henry Chang, Bob Diken, Carolyn Hamming, Terry Kohl, Judy Yin-Chi Lee, Deborah Kmetz, Claire McClanahan, Grace Shackney, John Sharp

REPORTS:

- **Schoolhouse Songwriter Series** – It was reported that the performance on November 5th was very well attended and the performances were excellent.
- **Rotunda Gallery Update:**
  - Campbell School booked their reception for December 17
  - Art show lawn signs will cost approximately \$200. These signs will be used out in front of Borough Hall when there is a gallery reception.
- **Metuchen Business Alliance (MBA) Update** – Grace reported the following:
  - New holiday lighting for downtown was purchased by the MDA and installed by the Department of Public Works. Additional lights will be added over time.
  - Small Business Saturday (SBS) on November 26<sup>th</sup> was a collaborative effort with the Chamber of Commerce and was very successful in bringing people in to shop downtown. Coupon Passbooks were handed out. Volunteer forms were made available.
  - The MDA took over the budget for the planters on Main Street and worked with the Garden Club to improve the design of the holiday floral arrangements.
- **Financial Report** – Terry Kohl made the following report:
  - Added expenses included:
    - \$30 for food at songwriter's series
    - \$182 for art gallery signs
    - \$353 ASCAP music rights
    - Remaining \$923 in our 2016 budget will go into the trust.
  - In December we should hear about our Middlesex County grants for the Metuchen Rocks! Music Series and the NJ Symphony Italian music program.

PROGRAMMING FOR 2017:

Discussed events outlined in meeting agenda:

- **The Schoolhouse Songwriters Series** will continue under the curatorship of Sharon Goldman. The 2017 schedule includes the following dates: March 4, April 29, July 22 and September 23. All performances take place at the Old Franklin Schoolhouse.
- **The NJSO Una Festa Musicale Italiana** is scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup>. We will be working with the MDA Promotions Team to enlist downtown restaurants and businesses to pick up on the Italian theme with dinner specials, etc.
- **Bus Trips** - NJ business license issue with the NY Botanical Garden has been sorted out. Considering scheduling the trip on May 17. Discussed potential of cross promotion with Friends of the Library.
- **Community Mural** – Linda LaStella gave the following report:

- The “Winter” wall was successfully installed. The mural will be listed as a stop on the BIL Holiday House Tour. The final side has the door which is being replaced by DPW. Work on the “Spring” wall begins in March. The ground on the spring side has to be redone. DPW might be putting in a stone trench to avoid damage to panels during lawn maintenance. Signage and lighting to be added. Hoping for installation on the “Spring” wall will be late July / early August
- **Art in the Garden** – Bob Dicken introduced the following ideas for the 2017 Garden Tour:
  - Discussed the idea of incorporating the Greenway into the tour
  - Ask artists to paint something inspired by the greenway and sell the paintings as a fundraiser.
  - Lowering the price in order to increase attendance.
  - Invite gardeners to send in photographs of their garden then have artists create a painting inspired by that photo. Then both the photo and painting will be exhibited. This would replace going to the actual gardens.
  - Attendance isn’t ideal so the council is looking for ways to ignite interest, tap into new audiences, and increase attendance.
  - Discussed adding a scavenger hunt to appeal to kids and families.
  - Maybe move the date to later in the summer?

NEW BUSINESS:

- Arts Council Roster for 2017 - Grace will be in touch with those whose terms are ending.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The Arts Council Holiday Party is scheduled for December 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m. at the home of Carolyn Hamming.
- The next Arts Council meeting is Monday, January 23, 2017

All business being completed, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by:

Claire McClanahan