

METUCHEN ARTS COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES, **FEBRUARY 25, 2013**

The Metuchen Arts Council meeting on February 25, 2013 was called to order by Chairperson Grace Shackney at 8:00 p.m. Those present were: Amy Brooks, Henry Chang, Christopher Morrison, Grace Shackney, Carissa Sestito, John Sharp; Advisory Board members Kim Alderman and Linda LaStella

SUNSHINE LAW ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

Chairperson Grace Shackney acknowledged the meeting was open to the public in pursuant to the Sunshine Law.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING ON JANUARY 28, 2013:

Linda LaStella moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting held January 28th, 2013. The motion was seconded by Chris Morrison. The minutes were approved by all present.

PROGRAM REPORTS:

- Gallery @ The Rotunda:
 - Kim Alderman reported that the current show in the Gallery is by Alex Prodnicki, which will continue through the end of March. The work of St. Joseph's High School students is on display in the student gallery.
 - Kim Alderman also reported that two banners have been designed for placement in front of Borough Hall advertising the Gallery. The process of receiving quotes has begun.
 - Linda LaStella reported that there was a meeting of Metuchen gallery operators. The group is putting together a brochure for Metuchen galleries that they hope might become a link on the Borough website.
- Junebug: Grace Shackney reported that at a community meeting, Dottie Winhold and Beatrice Moskowitz agreed to co-chair the event. A number of new people attended the meeting and signed up to help. Several committees were formed. Carissa Sestito from our Council will work on music programming for the event. Amy Brooks will, again, be in charge of volunteers. The format will remain the same as it has been with events scheduled on every Friday evening in June.
- SummerHouse Program at the BIL: Grace is waiting to hear from the BIL about the plans for this summer. Tyreen Reuter is working on the details. The building may not be available, as it was last year, on a pay-what-you-can basis.
- Outdoor Movies Night: Henry Chang reported that the movie night will be on the 3rd or 4th Saturday in August. He is looking into program selection. He plans to use Oakland Park as we did last year. Chris Morrison suggested the Metuchen Pool. Henry explained that the Pool has its own movie night and that Pool events are open only to Pool members.
- Open Mikes: Grace reported that she attended the last Open Mike hosted by Danny Adlerman at Brewed Awakenings. There was an impressive round of

- singer/songwriters who performed. There was a good size audience throughout the evening. Brewed Awakening served a wonderful Mexican menu and stayed open until 11:00 a.m. Grace highly recommended the event. The next Open Mikes are scheduled for March 16th at the bookstore - To Be Continued, and March 29th at Brewed Awakening.
- Metuchen Rocks! Summer Concerts: Grace reported that two bands are booked for the series and two more are confirming dates. The confirmed bands are:
 - Random Test (Reggae) August 29
 - CB Radio (Country/Rock) September 1st
 - Coffeehouse Series: Plans for this series are on hold until we find out about the plans for the BIL's SummerHouse.

BUDGET REVIEW:

Grace distributed a 2013 budget sheet that shows the Arts Councils projected program expenditures and revenue. She pointed out that to do all the program we want to do, including a 4th of July Band Concert and the outdoor dance/jazz event, we only need \$3700 in addition to the funds we already have.

Linda LaStella suggested producing a garden tour. The Edison Art Society that successfully produced the garden tour for several years is now defunct. Linda said the last one raised \$3,000. If we held it on the second Saturday in June, we could take advantage of the Junebug Festival to promote it. A committee of Grace Shackney, Linda LaStella, Henry Chang, Carissa Sestitio and Chris Morrison was formed to further explore the possibility.

The idea of approaching the Borough Council for additional funds was also discussed as well as ways to document the positive impact of the arts on our community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Metuchen High School's production of SOUTH PACIFIC takes place February 28, March 1st and 2nd at 7:30 p.m.
- Friends of the Library will present Actor/Author Andrew McCarthy at the First Presbyterian Church Community Center on March 3rd from 2-4 p.m.
- Edgar School's production of BEAUTY & THE BEAST is scheduled for March 8th, 9th & 10th.
- The BIL's Songwriter's Circle is scheduled for March 9th at 7:00 p.m.
- On March 24th at 2:00 p.m. at the BIL, the Metuchen Edison Historical Society will present a lecture about Metuchen's Thomas Mundy Peterson who became the first African-American to vote under the 15th Amendment. The presentation will be given by historian and author Gordon Bond. This program was originally scheduled last fall but was canceled because of Hurricane Sandy.

All business being completed, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by,
Grace Shackney