

Edison Township Cultural Arts Commission (ETCAC)

Meeting Minutes - May 6, 2025 5:45 pm

Chair: Tony Massaro
Vice Chair: Lois Tarr
Secretary: Christine McCann
Council Liaison: Margot Harris

Members in Attendance: Tony Massaro, Diana Joffe, Christine McCann, Lois Tarr, Don Tarr, Margot Harris, Judy Tyndall, Kathleen Carlucci, Ujwal Kumal Kasthala

Not Present: Michelle Sudhaker, Jayesh Mehta, Varsha Niak,

The meeting started at 5:48 pm.

A. Approval of April 8, 2025 minutes-Diana, Lois second.

B. From the Chair:

- a. Virtual Meetings - New commission-keep in existence and successful. Always be cognizant. We don't anticipate the unforeseen-try to avoid confrontation. 3rd floor-avoided battle being in the middle. Do no harm! Bylaws-action can only be taken at a meeting. Ban chairs and leadership without approval of commission. Reminder-3rd floor Edison Arts Society-Oct/Nov 2024-all cases valid. Administration communicated in writing via email-3rd floor only used for Mayoral and township.

Virtual-in person is the best in the chair's opinion.

Lois-items on record will take clips and change what was said. Dates are given a year in advance-margot said it wasn't a year/judy Lois -Michele missed 5 meetings.

Judy said Michelle is a viable contributing member. Virtual meetings work beautifully.

Diana-where do we form a line.

Christine-it sets a precedent. Opens it up to the public attending zoom because they can attend in person meetings. Diana agrees. Also, Human Rights Commission only 1 person attended regular meetings with the rest virtually. Margot library board for 2 years. Comparisons are not apt comparisons. There are late attendees and absent. Michele wants to participate in the meeting-she is away. Shooting us in the foot. Just propose to give it a chance. We need to allow people to participate.

Don-50 years experience. Newspaper articles every week, All speeches for officers, taught communications, Covid brought virtual meetings. It had disbanded. DOes not improve meetings, body language. People disengage. Technology issues. Mute, freeze, walk around etc. Less than efficient to a solution for a problem that does not exist. gs. Public not allowed library or human relations per margot. Let's be clear-Library meetings became a zoo that is why they went to zoom meetings. Whatever you draft you make it appealable.

Diana-we are all in a meeting equally-there are Robert's Rules. We work together. Council stopped virtual after covid per Margot. There is an order to do things. We need to set parameters. In the future we don't know who will be here.

Tony - We can have a recommendation for this then vote at the next meeting. Carry forward. Conditions have to be spelled out to foresee any issue. Can't be for 1 person. Conditions have to be written out. Emergencies have to be defined. Voting members will vote on this on the table. How many, how often, how many do we need to make conditions. If there's an emergency vote then this could work. Your emergency is not the Commission's emergency. Anything written in **without** prejudice to any claim. **With** prejudice-permanent, locked in setting a precedent. Without is not-binding.

Margot - This won't be abused. Let's table this.

Kathleen - Agree with Don-understand both sides. We have minutes. Loose interaction. If someone breaks a leg that is different. We need a regulation-to attend x amount of meetings. Exceptions to every rule. Not to encourage zoom all the time.

Lois - If council isn't having virtual meetings why should we? Emergency is different for everyone. 2 with reason.

Ujwal-Exception to an emergency agrees with Kathleen. Maybe 1 or 2 zoom sessions for the year.

- b. Murals/Addresses -
 - i. Tony has an address: 2090 Oak Tree Plaza (Plainfield and Oaktree)
 - ii. Lois - 40 Talmadge Road
- c. PSE&G Boxes - Kathleen contacted Michelle. Pat Coyle was supposed to give names of who to contact. Lois thought it was Sonya-was told to have Michele contact her. Diana offered to go with her.
- d. September 6th (Aug 1, Aug 15) - Jazz Festival
 Tony had an elaborate meeting for this tonight. Edison TV and was supposed to be here. In the interim Sept 6th is not available. Aug 1 & 15. Now it will be in September per Mayor. Recreation involved per Margot. Mayor to get back to Margot. Fall Family Festival 9/27. JP mStevens and EHS Jazz Bands. Tony and Diana won't be here. Per Judy rec taking the lead. Lois-Cheryl Brass will give jazz groups etc.

- e. Game of Chance Application - Clerk's office for application. Lois handed it to Tony. Almost complete-needs to be notarized and a check. 50/50 Renew every year.

C. Next Sessions All on a Tuesday except noted:

- a. June 12, 2025 (Thursday)-Needs to be rescheduled. Postpone meeting -Don so move, Christine and Lois agreed.
- b. July 8, 2025-Next meeting.
- c. August 5, 2025
- d. September 9, 2025
- e. October 7, 2025
- f. November 5 - Wednesday
- g. December 9
- h. January 13, 2026

D. Around the Table

- a. Judy is concerned about the amount of acts, only 2 ½ hrs for the festival. Kathleen-scale back amount to 15 minutes
- b. Lois went to the jazz concert. East Brunswick Symphony. Excellent performance! As good a NY philharmonic. Don-a very professional performance. Need prices for ads. for a jazz festival.
- c. Ujwal-will work on sponsors -need date!
- d. Diana-Ellen Arthur NAACP contact Human Relations Juneteenth Display-meet her in our Gallery. She was so very impressed with what we have done in The Gallery! Diana showed her what she can use. Kathleen-Isn't Maria Orchid on board?

E. Adjournment: 7:01 Kathleen, Don