

Edison Township Cultural Arts Commission (ETCAC)
Meeting Minutes - July 8, 2025 5:45 pm

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

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

Not Present: Varsha Niak, Ujwal Kumal Kasthala

The meeting started at 5:45 pm.

A. Approval of May 6, 2025 minutes - Lois approved; Kathleen second.

B. From the Chair:

a. Game of Chance - Application completed and notarized. Need a check of \$100.00 for processing.

b. Murals/Addresses -

Tony asked Christine to e-mail the Mayor and Bob Diel the addresses for potential murals: 2090 Oak Tree Plaza (Plainfield and Oaktree) and 40 Talmadge Road and surrounding area.

C. Receive 9/6/25 update from Judy Tyndall:

- a. Jazz Festival will be on Friday, August 1st at Yulencsis Park, 6:00 - 8:30pm. EHS Alumni Jazz Band will perform from 6:00 - 6:45pm with Winard Harper as the headliner performing from 7:00 - 8:30. (Must be done by 8:30 per Rec dept.) Grace McCann, a professional ballerina, was interested in performing but since time is limited, as well as stage space is limited, Judy could not include any dance performances at the festival this time but would like to have her join in next time. She shared the flyer with ETCAC.
- b. Judy is meeting with Ujwal regarding advertising for the event on Friday, 7/11/25.
- c. Tony asked Judy if there will be a brochure - Judy will remind Rec about it.
- d. Questions were brought up re: donations. Lois said (and the ETCAC agreed) it is not recommended to use any personal accounts for finances. Checks received should be deposited through the town. Michelle asked if the Township can accept Zelle as this is a popular way people pay now and Margot suggested checking with Cheryyl Russumano or Sonya as they could direct us on how to proceed.
- e. Michele offered to create a survey with a QR code for people to fill out for future event ideas.
- f. Judy suggested we need a tablecloth with the ETCAC logo. Diana and Lois went to AKA re; a tablecloth last year. Sizes are needed for a price quote. All agreed the tablecloth needs to hang down so the logo is visible from the front. Blue with gold print similar to the township colors would work out nicely. Michelle has the actual colors used on the application and will share them with everyone.
- g. Dan Reid from Rec is willing to meet us regarding the potential April 2026 Jazz Festival. Doing the festival during the school year would be more beneficial by including students. Tony suggested to Judy to invite Dan to the 8/5/25 ETCAC meeting. If done in April an indoor venue needs to be obtained.

D. Around the Table

- a. Lois had knee surgery and couldn't meet Helen from NAACP re: the Juneteenth display for The Gallery. Diana spoke to her, prepped the walls and spent time talking to her about the display and told her Kathleen would be available if needed. Helen was confused and thought someone would be there. The exhibit did go up and has now been removed. Lois reiterated that the Application must be filled out properly and the organization needs to show the items they want to display for ETCAC approval. Kathleen suggested having a map printed of the old Raritan Township and a current Edison Township map to put on display in The Gallery. Also checking with the Historical Society to show a history or projection of early parades would be a nice addition.
- b. Michelle will make a date with Kathleen re: PSE&G boxes and call Pat Coyle.
- c. Margot shared that the Ferrante House work is starting at the end of summer.
- d. Kathleen spoke to the founder of Rise Up Community Arts. They want to do a Swing event in the museum on 10/11/25. They would love to work with ETCAC on future collaborations and possibly be interested in joining our board. Tony suggested an invite to our September 9th meeting.
- e. Christine shared her daughter Grace McCann is in the works to open her own ballet studio in North Brunswick. It will be called Graceful Academy of Dance. Any future events ETCAC will be having GAD students would love to be a part of. The studio will also be putting on experts of The Nutcracker and could potentially perform at any holiday event in the town as well as the next Jazz Festival.

Next Sessions: All on a Tuesday except noted:

August 5, 2025
September 9, 2025
October 7, 2025
November 5 - Wednesday
December 9
January 13, 2026

The meeting adjourned at 6:35pm.