



MEETING MINUTES
METUCHEN ARTS COUNCIL (MAC)
August 18, 7:30pm
At the Metuchen Senior Center

Voting Members Present: Chair Mark Harris, Vice Chair Meg Loftus Suchan, Secretary Deborah Kmetz, Daniel Acosta, Jamie Aderski, Carmen Balentine, Lenore Boyarin, Nunzio Moudatsos, Alexis Sarmiento, John Sharp, Joanne Stern, Gitika Toteja

Auxiliary/Guests/Liaisons Present:

Joel Branch, Jennifer Jenkins, Benzo Leon, Janet Schultz Leon, Brianne Ludlow-Molnar, Lynne Mueller, Wendi Richards, Grace Shackney, Dylan Thurston, Elinar Toteja

CALL TO ORDER:

- Chair Mark Harris called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and acknowledged the Sunshine Law.

MINUTES: Secretary Deborah Kmetz asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. All voting members present at the previous meeting voted to approve.

PROGRAMS/REPORTS:

- Mark Harris:
 - We are looking for programs to support over the next 2 years – spread the word
 - Multicultural Day is being planned for Oct. 4, 2025. Tobi Santagado of Mignolo Dance, in collaboration with the Human Rights Commission, are working together to bring in more groups.
 - Carol Gaffney will plan another Plein Air get-together soon.
- Meg Loftus Suchan:
 - PorchFest plans are going well. Houses and performers are set, volunteers needed to keep a MAC presence at each venue.
 - Document Management is in the works so future members can see details of what has happened in planning past events. Organizers are encouraged to keep detailed notes about what they have done, so they can be ready to add documents to the file.
- Carmen Balentine – Discussions will continue about the feasibility of an October/November blues concert. A venue and funding in excess of \$3,000 are still needed.

LIASON REPORTS:

- Friends of Metuchen Arts (FOMA) Reports:
 - Grace Shackney:
 - Peter and the Wolf will be performed at St. Luke's Episcopal Church on Sunday, September 7 at 3:30pm.
 - Metuchen Vibes, the exhibit at the FOMA gallery, is an extension of Metuchen's birthday party.

- Lenore Boyarin:
 - MAC information would be useful at the FOMA gallery, as several artists expressed interest in MAC.
- Lynne Mueller:
 - Please visit the FOMA gallery 1-3pm Sundays and 6-8pm Wednesdays.
 - JazzFest flyer was distributed for Saturday, September 27 at Metuchen High School.
- Mark Harris:
 - We need a Vice Chair and Secretary for 2026. There has been interest in the Vice Chair position.
 - At the next meeting, we will share the list of people whose terms expire at the end of 2025.
- Meg Loftus Suchan:
 - Introduced guest Jennifer Jenkins, Metuchen music teacher since 2007.
 - A communication committee is forming with our new intern, to better keep in touch with the community at large.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Deborah Kmetz: Nails in the Wall Gallery, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, will host an opening reception on Saturday, September 13, 2-4pm for the exhibit "Growing from the Ruins".
- John Sharp: Come see Peter and the Wolf on September 7.
- Nunzio Moudatsos: His music store downtown is coming along. It will feature records and musical items as well as two recording booths.

ADJOURNMENT: All business being concluded, the meeting was adjourned by Mark Harris at 8:00 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 15, 2025, at 7:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deborah Kmetz, Metuchen Arts Council Secretary