



Mayor's Multicultural Council of Stamford

Meeting held via Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 992 184 1396

Passcode: 374400

Our Mission:

To inform, celebrate, promote, understand, appreciate and respect the many diverse cultures that enrich Stamford

MINUTES November 23, 2020

Attendance and quorum check:

Members attending the zoom meeting: Eva Weller, Corey Paris, Sandra Barrett, Shobhna Bhatnagar, Deborah Goldberg, James Hinton, Pilar Pelaez, Melinda Polite and Ana Gallegos.

Eva Weller, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:22 PM.

Welcome:

Eva welcomed MMC members and thanked everyone for attending the virtual meeting. She welcomed Malinda Polite as a new official member of the MMC. Melinda thanked Eva for welcoming her and said that she's looking forward to working with all of us. Eva and Sandra shared greetings sent from Nino Antonelli.

October 26, 2020 Minutes:

Eva, as Chair, asked members to review and approve the minutes from the October 26, 2020 meeting. Sandra Barrett made the motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Deborah Goldberg seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Budget Update & Report:

Eva reported to the Council that there are no changes to the current budget of \$8,750.

Projects/Events:

Jazz Concert: Eva reported that since the jazz concert cannot be held in person this year, she contacted the interim pastor at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation Church where we held prior concerts to see if we could use the church to record a new jazz concert for this year and show it virtually. The church is not available this year due to Covid-19 restrictions at the church, so The MMC will need to use another venue to record this year's concert. One option is to use a recording studio. There is a small studio in Stamford that is a possibility, but will only accommodate small groups of up to four people including musicians. Eva reported that we agreed to contact groups we invited to participate, but who were unavailable last year. She contacted two musicians from last year –Robert Marzullo and Tony Truglio who were both interested in the possibility of participating in the concert. She also contacted the new Project Music Executive Director, who agreed that one of Project Music's pre-recorded pieces could be included in the recording. Marty advised that no students should be recorded in person due to the risk of Covid infection. Eva also informed that she followed up with the legal department about Marty's suggestion that a waiver be prepared to protect the city should anyone contract the virus. March was suggested as a possible date for the concert. Two successful jazz concerts were held in March previously. That would give the Council time to record, edit and publicize the concert. Since the concert will be virtual, we can consider showing it more than once. Corey suggested we look into the option to stream the concert virtually. He said that pricing depends the plan that fits our needs. He offered to find options and then discuss costs and see what we are comfortable with. Eva expressed her appreciation of getting additional information and options. Eva mentioned the terrific job Cookie Thomas did last year to close the concert. It was suggested that a committee meeting be held before the next Council meeting. Eva, Ana, Corey, Roberto, James, Shelley and Shobhna are members of the concert committee. One

suggestion that was mentioned was to consider having some short clips to display art and dancers. The recording or shorter clips could be used as publicity for the next MMC event -- Stamford Day Art on May 16th.

Call to Action: Eva shared that she serves on a sub-committee of the Friends of Ferguson Library that is part of the Stamford Stands Against Racism initiative. They are researching a training option for their board and are considering looking for partners to share the cost. Council members asked for information about the training such as, time commitment, how many trainings dates would be required, etc.

Open discussion:

Eva thanked Shelley for offering the space to have the MMC Holiday party again this year. Unfortunately, and because of the current guidelines related to the Covid-19 pandemic, it will need to be planed for the spring. Everyone agreed.

Announcements:

Eva informed that PLTI, a civic leadership program, will begin in January. She added that multigenerational participants who finished the program become better citizens, advocates for children and families and learn leadership skills.

Next Meeting: Monday, December 21, 2020 at 6:15 pm.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 pm.

Submitted by Ana Gallegos
MMC Secretary