



**Mayor's Multicultural Council of Stamford**  
**Mayor's Conference Room – 10th Floor**  
**Government Center, 888 Washington Blvd.**

**Stamford, CT 06901**

**February 25, 2019**

**Our Mission:**

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

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Eva Weller, Martin Levine, Roberto Figueroa, Jeré Eaton, Beatrice Chodosh, Nino Antonelli, Sandra Barrett, Eva Padilla, Pilar Peláez, Shobhna Bhatnagar and Ana Gallegos. Chair Pilar Peláez called this meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

**Welcome**

Chair Pilar Peláez welcomed MMC members and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She asked MMC members to take few minutes to review and approve the minutes from January 28, 2019. Jeré Eaton made the motion to approve the minutes; Beatrice Chodosh seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

**Announcement**

The Mayor's representative to the Council, Martin Levine, announced that the Mayor David Martin has appointed Eva Weller as the new MMC Chair. Martin expressed the Mayor's appreciation for the excellent work that Pilar had done as the MMC Chair for the last three years; he added that he is grateful for all of Pilar's efforts on behalf of the Council.

Pilar said thank you and she expressed that she would continue working with the MMC. Eva took the lead of the meeting and she stated that it's an honor to serve as the MMC Chair. Eva asked for everyone's assistance to continue working and striving to accomplish the CCE Mission. Eva presented tokens of appreciation to Pilar and the MMC officers, as well as condolences to Sandra Barrett.

**Projects:**

**Open MIC Competition:** Jeré passed out copies of the Open MIC Competition report, which took place at UConn on Sunday, February 24, 2019. She reported that there were three competitors along with a dance team that opened the Program. The Judges were: Robbie Jenkins, David Wooley, Crystal Perry. Jeré stated that while the UConn and the Stamford Middle & High school administrators promoted the event, none assisted with securing talent. The total budget was: \$396.56 Expenses: Snacks: \$99.86; AMEX Gift Cards for Winners: \$336.70; Starbucks gift cards: \$60.00. The receipts of expenses and remaining gift cards \$100.00 (\$75.00 and \$25.00) will be given to Valerie.

Jeré thanked Sandra Barrett, Roberto Figueroa, Eva Weller and Beatrice Chodosh for attending the event. She made the following suggestions: move the date to the second Sunday in February, obtain early approval from the MMC, partner with other organizations, secure venue, develop media strategy.

A question was asked about the flyer for the Open MIC Competition and why it didn't have the recommendations made during the last MMC meeting. It didn't show clearly that the Mayor's Multicultural Council was sponsoring the event, and it was not consistent with the use of the name and the logo as was discussed to brand the event. Jeré responded that it was due to technology problems.

It was decided that in the future, all publicity must be clear that the event is a MMC event.

**Art Festival:** Beatrice said that it has been difficult to schedule a meeting of the committee. It was suggested the committee have the meeting on March 4, 2019 at 6:00 pm in the lobby of the Government Center. The meeting should be held with the majority of the members to work on the proposal to be presented and approved at the next meeting.

**Jazz Festival:**

Eva thanked Ana and Corey for being willing to co-chair the event. She reported that the day of the event would be on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at the Unitarian Universalist Society, 20 Forest Street, downtown Stamford across from Latham Park; possible time 3:30 to 5:30pm

Eva explained that it has been difficult to find a date because of the different celebrations in the community. Marty stated that one find out if people are available is to find out about the dates for other celebrations.

Eva added that we contacted Stamford High School's and Westhill's bands, in addition to other musicians and, we are now waiting to hear from them as to their availability and participation. Eva stated that last year she didn't have the opportunity to give a complete report, which included donations and in-kind contributions; the discussion was focused only on the extra \$200 paid for musicians. She reported that last year she received donations for the food, program, printing and in-kind used of the sound system for a total of \$1,525.

The budget for the Jazz event for this year is \$2,425.00. The expenses to cover are: \$1,000 Honorarium for musicians; \$200 venue; \$200 advertising; \$200 program; \$525 Sound System and \$300 the food/ refreshments.

Jeré asked for a written proposal to share with the Council prior to the next meeting. After the Council reviews the details, it could be ready to be approved at the next meeting. Ana said Eva has prepared the proposal now, but if we delay approval, there won't be enough time to get everything in place for May 5<sup>th</sup> and to promote it properly. Ana showed examples where the Council had approved other initiatives with a higher budget but the final costs for the event were lower because each committee looked for sponsorships and in-kind donations. She added she promises to look for sponsors in order to lower the cost of the event.

Jeré made the following motion: "We accept the proposal budget of \$2,425 for the Jazz Festival." Nino added, "a written budget will be submitted prior to the next meeting" and he seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**New Business**

Roberto asked if the officers are in place for the next term. Marty answered that the Chair is appointed by the Mayor, and the other officers are elected by the Council. The elections would be held during April's meeting, with the exception of the treasurer, who was elected in November 2018.

**Open Discussion:**

Eva said that she is looking for members to help manage the MMC email and Facebook page. She suggested that if the secretary agreed, she could take on this role. Pilar said that the MMC can post on the MMC Facebook but the City manages it, making sure the information that is posted is reviewed. Pilar said that only Valerie can send emails from the MMC email but we can check to see the emails we receive. Pilar will meet with Eva to give her the information and passwords related to email and Facebook.

A question was asked about the video, and Pilar apologized for giving Marty the two videos this week. She said the short video can be added to the Facebook but the other is too long to use for that purpose.

Eva reminded everyone to please attend the film showing of the film, "This is Home," a refugee history, on Thursday February 28, 2019, at 6:00pm at the Ferguson Library to which we were invited by Leslie Asllani at the last meeting.

**Next Meeting:** March 25, 2019 at 6:00 PM. Government Center 10<sup>th</sup> floor.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Submitted by:  
Ana Gallegos, Secretary