



**Mayor's Multicultural Council of Stamford**  
**Mayor's Conference Room – 10th Floor**  
**Government Center, 888 Washington Blvd.**  
**Stamford, CT 06901**

**Our Mission:**

**October 22, 2018**

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

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Pilar Pelaez, Martin Levine, Deborah Goldberg, Eva Padilla, Sandra Barrett, Mera Banta, Beatrice Chodosh, Corey Paris, Shobhna Bhatnagar and Ana Gallegos.

This meeting was called to order by Chair Pilar Pelaez at 6:12 PM.

**Welcome**

Chair Pelaez welcomed MMC members and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Pilar asked MMC members to review and approve the minutes from September 24, 2018. Sandra made a motion to approve the minutes; Corey seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

**Children's Parade & International Festival**

Pilar thanked Corey and Ana as co-chairs and committee members of the Children's Parade & International Festival for the success of the event.

Ana thanked the MMC for all their time and support preparing and during the day of the event. She stated the report is focused on two aspects: What went well and what could be done better.

**1. What went well?**

- Promoting the event, Pilar, Corey and Ana joined Voz Hispana Radio on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- English and Spanish press releases were sent to the local newspapers.
- It was significant and important having all of the MMC members at the registration table.
- Letters of formal invitation were sent to the Mayor, dance groups, community organizations, businesses, members and churches.
- Certificates of participation were given to the eight dance groups representing: Peru, Poland, India, Guatemala, Albania, Argentina, USA and Puerto Rico.
- The committee members accomplished with ease the tasks that were assigned: volunteers, dance music, map activity, filling bags, raffle prizes and face painting.
- The face painting was a success, the Mayor joining Mayole Gonzalez, a Cuban artist.
- The MMC was more visible due to the tents, tables and banners.
- 421 children were registered representing children from all of Stamford Public Schools.
- The four raffle winning families will contact the Mayor's office to have Lunch with the Mayor.
- The map activity questions\* worked well, fostering interest and conversations among the participants: \*Where are you/your family from? Where do you like to travel?
- The total of expenses for the event was \$2,650.

**2. What could be done better.**

- Have a bigger map and the activity done at the end of the line or in a different place.
- Make more lines for registration.
- Provide more ice cream and coffee; and have water for the dance groups.
- Prepare more than 300 bags.
- Buy more t-shirts for volunteers.
- Dress up the stage during the International Festival.

**Mayor's Multicultural Council of Stamford  
October 22, 2018 Minutes – page 2**

Pilar added that she bought three containers to store items belonging to the MMC. She stated that she contracted a professional to make a video of the Children's Parade and International Festival. He will share the video with the MMC before adding to the MMC face page or sending to the groups that participated.

After a discussion it was decided that since the Children's Parade Committee didn't know about the \$450 video, it should be added as an expense of the general budget.

Marty encouraged the MMC to reflect and think about how we would like to do this event in the future—doing only in the fall with SPEF, or twice per year hosted by the MMC.

**New Business**

Martin requested adding an election for treasurer to the next meeting's agenda.

**Open Discussion:**

Pilar reminded the MMC that it's important to first ask permission from the MMC to use the logo for events in the community.

Deborah as the 2018 Jewish Arts & Film Festival Committee Member invited the MMC to attend the different events of that Festival. She emphasized three of them:

1. Art: What Color Are You?
2. Literature of Hate: Why We Should Resist it With Free Speech, Not Censorship.
3. Film: An Act of Defiance.

**Next Meeting:**

November 26, 2018 at 6:00 PM. Government Center 10<sup>th</sup> floor.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 PM.

Submitted by:  
Ana Gallegos  
Secretary