



**Mayor's Multicultural Council of Stamford
Mayor's Conference Room – 10th Floor
Government Center, 888 Washington Blvd.
Stamford, CT 06901
July 9, 2018**

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

MINUTES

Members Present: Pilar Pelaez, Martin Levine, Deborah Goldberg, Jeré Eaton, Shelly Nichani, John Mallozzi, Tom Bellete, Sandra Barrett, Mera Banta, Hayate Jandar, Corey Paris, James Hinton and Ana Gallegos.

This meeting was called to order by Chair Pilar Pelaez at 6:25 PM.

Welcome

Chair Pelaez welcomed MMC members and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She mentioned that the meeting on May 21 was cancelled because there was not a quorum by 6:40. Pilar asked MMC members to take few minutes to review and approve the minutes from April 24, 2018. Marty made the motion to approve the minutes; Corey seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Children's Parade & International Festival

Pilar thanked members of the Children's Parade Committee that were part of the conference call with Matt Quinones from SPEF. She gave the following updates for this event on September 30th:

- There will be three components: 8:00 am MarcUS for Change, 10:00 am STEMFest and 12:00 to 2:00 Children's Parade and International Festival.
- She will have a meeting with Lynn Tusa for more details.
- The cost will be lower because we don't need to pay overnight guard service. Also, there will not be community tables because this year's STEMFest is participating for the first time with us and they need more space.
- SPEF is contacting two food trucks for the day.
- SPEF had thought about having the event on Saturday, but no decision has been made at this point. Matt Quinones, CEO of SPEF, is open to suggestions from the MMC.
- Marty asked if it was possible to request a special discount or obtain free rides at the carrousel. Pilar said that the carrousel will be open free charge for a couple of hours.

There was a discussion about ideas, as well the pro and cons, related to the participation of students and families in the parade. The Children's Parade and International Festival Committee will consider these options while doing the planning:

- When we have a lot of activities around, there is limited interest in participating in the parade.
- Have an expo of art of children.
- Collect information from outside school programs, to attract the kids.
- Focus on the date, like close to Christmas, tree plants with ornaments.
- December activities outside will become more expensive due to weather and costs of venues.
- Incorporate schools in different events.

- Switch day of the parade, church services end at 1:00 pm for some denominations.
- Having the event organized only from the MMC would be as an identity.
- The MMC should take responsibility of doing what we have to do.
- Have a represent of the school to help outreach the children.
- It's a priority to talk directly to the school to extend the invitation.
- Offer prizes to schools with more participation.
- Invite schools through the SPS
- Have prizes for participation.
- Have flags that represent the children's nationalities.
- Request Diplomas of participation to the Dance groups from the Mayor's office.
- Have fewer prizes. Buy only 10 gift cards of \$20 each one from Barnes & Noble to be use as raffle prizes plus some similar prizes form previous years (bag pack, lunch with the Mayor, etc.)
- Offer only face painting activity, in order to lower expenses and space.
- Send a Press release to the newspapers.

Budget

Pilar said that we don't have an updated budget for the next year because she was informed during the meeting with the Finance Department that the Mayor's budget was cut significantly and we have to wait for the new budget.

Pilar also mentioned that she had sent a request to the Mayor's office to purchase two tents, banners and tablecloths. Pilar said that she will have a budget update for the next meeting.

New Business

Jeré stated that we were supposed to have elections. She mentioned that we need an active treasurer. She made the motion to have Jeré and Meera as candidates for treasurer. Marty said that during the meeting of September 24 we could have elections.

Open Discussion:

Pilar Mentioned that in September the Palace Theater will be presenting a play in Spanish celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. This would be the first time the theater will have a play in Spanish. She was asked if the MMC would like to co-sponsor with the Palace Theater for this initiative. It was agreed allowing the MMC name and logo be used as support with no monetary cost at this time.

Ana mentioned that Maricarmen Godoy, a reporter from La Voz Hispana Radio, would like to interview the MMC in New Haven. It was agreed that if it would be listened to by our constituents, it's a great option for the MMC to have free publicity through this program. Ana will be in touch with her and members who volunteer to attend this program. Pilar, James and Ana.

Pilar announced the Free event from All Our Kin. On Saturday, July 14th from 10:00 to 2:00pm at Saint Andrews Church.

Shelly mentioned about Independence Day of India. On August 12 form 10:30 to 2:00 more details will be sent.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled at the Government Center on September 24, 2018 at 6:00 PM. on the 10th floor. It was agreed that the August meeting will be only for the Children's Parade and International Festival Committee.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Submitted by:
Ana Gallegos,
Secretary

AGENDA

Projects:

Updates:

- Children's Parade & International Festival 2018
- Budget

New Business:

- Proposed and select new Treasured

Open Discussion:

Next Meeting:

Adjournment