



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

Our Mission:

September 24, 2018

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

MINUTES

Members Present: Pilar Pelaez, Roberto Figueroa, Eva Weller, Deborah Goldberg, Jeré Eaton, Nino Antonelli, 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 6:15 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 July 9, 2018. Two corrections were requested on page 2: instead of 'represent', "Have a *representative* of the school..." and "Certificate of participation..." instead of 'Diploma'. Eva made a motion to approve the minutes; Jeré seconded the motion. Minutes were approved. Robert abstained, saying "I was not present in the last meeting"

Children's Parade & International Festival

Pilar thanked Corey and Ana for being co-chairs of the Children's Parade and asked them to give an update to the MMC.

Corey thanked the Committee Members for their time and support and shared with the MMC the advance plans:

- The flyer sent to public and private schools via PeachJard and fax.
- The bags to be given to the children the day of the Parade were purchased and picked up by Hayate. Shelly agreed to get snacks, juice and water.
- Letters sent to the Mayor's office: Mayor's formal invitation and request for certificates of participation for the dance groups.
- Emailed letters to dance groups, community organizations, businesses, members and churches
- Sent press release in English and Spanish.
- Requested prizes for the raffle
- Mayole Gonzalez, a Cuban artist, did face painting, with the Mayor joining this activity.

Responsibilities given to the Committee and MMC:

- All MMC: fill children's bags on 9/28 at 6:00 pm in the Hamptons Inn
- Shobhna and Meera: Register and coordinate dance groups.
- Sandra and Nino: Register and assign responsibilities to volunteers.
- Hayate: Request coffee and extra prizes
- Corey: Master of Ceremonies and Ana assist with translations (raffle)
- Corey and Eva Weller: Coordinate Map activity
- **All the MMC, by special request from Ana and Corey, to be at the registration table on the day of the event.**

Regarding the Map activity, after discussing pros and cons related to the objective of the activity, and sensitivity to African American children's feelings about where they belong according to their history, the following two options were considered:

1. Where are you/your family from? If this question appears to cause any kind of discomfort or confusion from the children, ask the following question instead:
2. Where do you like to travel?

Ana mentioned that bilingual volunteers are being assigned to assist participants in this activity. Eva and Corey will buy a map without words to scratch off or use multicolor stickers. Corey promised to email to the MMC a copy of the map to be used at the event.

Also, it was agreed we are going with Corey's idea this year, and see how people feel and react. Pilar noted there is no time to discuss at this time, because the committee has been very busy planning the event and there is little time left before the event.

Eva Weller reported that in order to keep expenses low, she had been asking around about getting a popcorn machine, and found one for free, not including supplies. She added she has a volunteer who can be in charge of it. Pilar thanked Eva, adding she already has one person offering a free popcorn machine with no charge to the MMC.

Eva said we should budget all estimated costs for future planning.

Pilar confirmed the purchase of 2 tablecloths, 2 tents and two banners, replacing one that was broken. She also arranged for the City to bring these items to Mill River Park at 8:00 a.m., and requested available MMC members to be at the Park to set up by 10:30 am.

Budget

Pilar shared the updated budget for next year from the Mayor's office, noting it was cut significantly, and the new amount is \$9,000. Jeré said that since the budget has been cut, we should cut half the budget for each event. Eva Weller asked what the budget is for the Children's Parade and Ana replied that under last year's budget, expenses for the Children's Parade and International Festival were \$6,456.64. She added that although we don't have an assigned budget, the committee is working carefully to lower expenses this year.

Ana noted that because of the space and decisions made by the Committee, we wouldn't have some of the expenses from last year such as: bouncing house, popcorn machine, Kids Draw Free-art frames, T-shirts, hats, or printing of flyers. Some of the expenses would be \$300 for face painting to Mayole Gonzalez.

Pilar said that Santiago didn't charge last year the \$200 and for the \$700 for printing of flyers she will ask the office for the correction and an update. Ana said that at the next meeting the Committee will present the report and we'll know the expenses for the event.

New Business

Jeré stated we are expecting to have elections and Marty Levine should advise the MMC about the positions in accordance with the bylaws. She stated she understands the Chair is assigned by the Mayor, but it is also evident that we need an active treasurer. She made a motion to have elections during the meeting on November 26th.

Open Discussion:

Robert stated we have to send the MMC date of meeting to the Town Clerk's office. Ana said she would follow up on this concern with the Mayor's office.

Next Meeting:

October 22, 2018 at 6:00 PM. Government Center 10th floor.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Submitted by: Ana Gallegos, Secretary