



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

March 26, 2018

Our Mission:

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

MINUTES

Members Present: Pilar Pelaez, Roberto Figueroa, Martin Levine, Eva Weller, Jeré Eaton, , Sandra Barrett, Beatrice Chodosh, James Hinton and Ana Gallegos.

This meeting was called to order by Chair Pilar Pelaez at 6:18 PM.

Welcome

Chair Pelaez 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 February 26, 2018. Sandra made the motion to approve the minutes; Beatrice seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Sandra requested to use the same format used for the Jazz event Program. Since there was a concern about background and religion it was asked to write "Community Represented" instead of Background. Everyone agreed. Marty suggested adding Mayor's Office. It was also suggested writing the name of the members in alphabetical order by their first name.

Children's Parade & International Festival:

Pilar invited members to submit ideas of how to proceed with the Children's Parade and International Festival in 2018. She mentioned that last year there was a conversation about not partnering with other organizations and that would be a question to ask all members at the next meeting.

It was mentioned that each year we talk about the option of having this event on a different day—Robert suggested having it on Saturday at Cove Island or Cummings Park. It was mentioned that one of the problems could be parking. Marty stated that we could ask when the city requires the beach pass and the possibility of having a special permit for people attending this event.

Eva Weller suggested checking the dates that the venue would be available and also making sure that it's a different day of the event of MarcUS for Change & SPEF. Pilar said that she will find out that information.

It was requested to continue this conversation at the next meeting in order to give other members the opportunity to voice their opinion, and then make decisions. It was stated that if the MMC works as a group, we can make it work, that we all need to make a commitment to working as a team instead of in small groups.

Pilar and Roberto said the Children's Parade is the main event for the MMC and we need time to prepare it.

Project Updates:

Afternoon Jazz:

Eva Weller presented an evaluation of the Afternoon Jazz. This event took place on Sunday, March 18th from 2:00 to 4:30 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Congregational Church. The musicians participating were: Dennis Collins, Barbara Espinoza Occhino; and musical groups: Altruistic, Maria Tiscia's-Rio Bound and Project Music. They played a variety of American, Latin, Brazilian and mixed Jazz.

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Eva thanked Pilar, Beatrice, Eva P. James, Roberto, Nino, Marty, Sandra, Shelly and Ana for attending the event and for their help in different tasks. She also said that she is grateful to Reverend Frances Sink, Valerie Pankosky, Marjorie Woldan from Mayor's Office, Eden Huang, Barbara Green, Regan Allan and Barbara Occhino for their kind support

Eva noted the event total of \$1,709 was over budget, and she requested the reimbursement of the difference of \$209. She stated that the expenses were: \$1,200 for the musicians (\$100.00 honorarium for each musician); \$300 for printing; and \$200.00 for the venue. Robert and Pilar replied that she should have worked with the approved budget of \$1,500. Robert added that Eva should have mentioned about this at the previous meeting. Eva replied that she did. Ana read notes from the February 26, 2018 Minutes "Eva stated that at this time this event has the following expenses... exceeding the approved budget of \$1,500.00. Pilar replied that the final cost won't be known until she confirms donations" Then, Eva explained the budget previously presented: Venue \$200; Refreshments: \$100; Advertising: \$200; musicians: \$1,000 with a total of \$1,500. She said that she followed Pilar's suggestion and she got donations of food and printing the programs.

James said that if there is a rule about the percentage over/under to be used for another project. Pilar said No. Pilar and Roberto mentioned that we've never had a over budget project.

Since there was confusion about the over-budget for events, Ana read notes from the August 28, 2017 Minutes: "... Jeré made the motion to allocate \$5,000.00 for the Children's Parade, Meera seconded. The budget was approved. In the last budget presented by Pilar the total expense for the Children's Parade was \$6,241.40, over-budget by \$1,241. Pilar mentioned that this was our main event and since in previous years there have been only a few events it was never an issue.

Robert apologized for not being aware of these expenses and he requested to have a copy of the current budget for next meeting. Pilar mentioned that the budget was presented in the previous meeting. Robert suggested having the Mayor's office or Finance department decide how to handle the over-budget reimbursement.

Ana stated that the Jazz event was a success and we have good attendance and people made good comments about it. They wanted the MMC to have the event again. Everyone agreed with this statement.

New Projects

Multicultural Arts Festival

James announced that the name of the event is Festival/Expo of the Arts Stamford. He mentioned that there is a good list of participants for the event. The flyer is in process and he will share it with everyone to invite contacts. James also mentioned that he strongly recommended **DJ** Stamford/Norwalk Radio Thomas Hardy -1400AM WSTC & 1350AM WNLK because they will do the professional job the event deserved. The fee is \$350.

New Business

Pilar said that Hayate had information about the Muslim women in Stamford, unfortunately she was not able to attend today's meeting.

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Open Discussion:

Jeré made the following motion: Next meeting we vote for Vice-chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Robert seconded it. The motion was approved.

Robert also made the following motion: To buy a banner and a tablecloth with MMC Logo; Ana seconded it. The motion was approved.

Pilar invited the MMC to attend the Senior Center Fundraising. she will send an email with more details.

Eva Weller announced the event on April 18: A Novel Affair at The Ferguson Library honoring Sandy Goldstein, President of Stamford Downtown. She stated that since the MMC and the Ferguson Library are co-sponsoring events we should assist and also add it to the MMC Facebook page. Pilar agreed to do it when Eva sends the information.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled at the Government Center on April 23, 2018 at 6:00 PM. on the 10th floor.

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

Submitted by:
Ana Gallegos, Secretary

Next Meeting: April 23, 2018