



**Mayor's Multicultural Council of Stamford**  
**Mayor's Conference Room – 10th Floor**  
**Government Center, 888 Washington Blvd.**  
**Stamford, CT 06901**  
**April 23, 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, Sandra Barrett, Mera Banta, Beatrice Chodosh, Corey Paris, James Hinton and Ana Gallegos.

This meeting was called to order by Chair Pilar Pelaez at 6:20 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 March 26, 2018. Meera made the motion to approve the minutes; Beatrice seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

**Children's Parade & International Festival:**

It was mentioned that it would be easier to make a decision about this topic if more members would attend the meetings.

Pilar said everyone has their own responsibilities and issues, but members of the MMC should make an effort to attend the monthly meetings; by doing that, everyone would be able to give their opinion and also know what is going on about the different projects.

After a discussion of ideas about the Children's parade it was recommended that for the economic part we should continue partnering with other organizations. It was requested that Pilar reach out to Matt Quinones from Stamford Public Education Foundation and MarcUS for Change and ask about the possibility of having the event on Saturday. James added asking about the possibility of having alternate days each year. Corey suggested of having the Parade on the last Saturday on October, and being proactive with meetings and logistics with the preparation.

**Project Updates:**

The Festival Expo of the Arts

The event took place on Sunday April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 2:00 to 4:30 at the Cafeteria of the Government Center. Marty stated that the event was fabulous with many countries and cultures represented. It was suggested to continue having this event every year if possible in a bigger venue.

Beatrice thanked James, Pilar and Ana for their wonderful support planning the event and also to members who attended.

James asked about the DJ Stamford/Norwalk Radio Thomas Hardy service, and everyone agreed that it was great and professional. Beatrice and James will present the report about the event by next meeting.

Pilar requested Beatrice to find a person to remove the two wooden pieces from the cafeteria. Beatrice said she would ask Eva Padilla to remove and return it to the store. Marty offered to ask Angel to hold it until Friday of this week.

**Budget**

Pilar said there is not a finalized budget because there is a charge to clarify from the Mayor's office. In addition, it would request to purchase two tablecloths, two banners and a tent. For the parade, it would request bags for the children.

**New Business**

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

**Open Discussion:**

Ana mentioned that on April 22<sup>nd</sup> the Latin-Americans in Action are celebrating their First Anniversary. She would like to have MMC support to request a Proclamation from the Mayor to be presented during their First Anniversary Party on Saturday, April 28, 2018 at Holy Name Athletic Club, located at 804 Atlantic Street, Stamford. She stated that although they were founded only one year ago, they have been making an impact in our community and outside of the state and country through educational, social-cultural events, solidarity and humanitarian help and support. Everyone approved that petition. Ana will contact the Mayor's office.

Corey apologized for not being able to attend the meetings frequently because of his classes at college and also because he has been promoting his campaign as State Representative for the #146<sup>th</sup> district. Ana said that it's great to have a young leader that is willing to represent us in Hartford. Everyone wished him good luck on his campaign.

Beatrice asked if we can invite others to be part of the MMC, Pilar said we can recommend people, send an email with their resume to Marty, and the Mayor's office will make the decision.

Beatrice said it would be nice if the MMC organized a culinary festival. Corey added that it could be something like the Foot-Long Table in Tallahassee, Florida, which helped the community to break down barriers. Corey said he would send some information about this event.

Meera stated that it's so important for us to promote our human being not only in the meeting but outside in our daily journey.

Meera also invites us to the Award Ceremony to be taken place on Saturday June 9<sup>th</sup>. She will send more information about it.

Pilar invited the MMC to attend the Senior Center Fundraising on April 26<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00pm.

It was approved that next meeting would be on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> because the 28<sup>th</sup> is the celebration of Memorial Day.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting is scheduled at the Government Center on May 21, 2018 at 6:00 PM. on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Submitted by:  
Ana Gallegos,  
Secretary