



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

**April 24, 2017**

**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, Deborah Goldberg, Jeré Eaton, Leila Montier, Nino Antonelli, Sandra Barrett, and Ana Gallegos.

Meeting called to order by Chair Pilar Pelaez at 6:10 p.m.

**Welcome**

Chair Pelaez welcomed MMC members and Guests and thanked them for attending the meeting.

She asked MMC members to take a few minutes to review and approve the minutes of the last meeting.

Roberto asked to correct the last name of Officer Frank Green. Jeré made the motion to approve the minutes and Sandra second the motion.

Pilar introduced Rev. Mark Lingle of the Interfaith Council of Southwestern Connecticut [IFC], and Adela Alva from Latin Americans in Action as guests of the MMC.

Rev. Lingle thanked MMC members for the invitation, stating that the goal of the Interfaith Council is to provide spiritual leadership to help solve community problems through conversation and events that will bring communities together, to learn more about diversity and understand each other. The IFC provides support to immigrant communities with the help of experts in different fields; they are Communities of Faith Stand Against Anti-Semitism and Racism.

MMC members asked how the IFC promote their events and approximately how many members they currently have. Rev. Mark said they have a mailing list and send a blast email with a flyer. Pilar thanked Rev. Mark and asked if he could share some of the events with the MMC.

Adela Alva thanked the MMC for the invitation. She represents a new organization called Latin Americans in Action, formed with a diverse group of members from Argentina, Peru, Ecuador, Venezuela, Chile and Colombia. Their mission is to help Latin families that are new to the community and struggling to find resources. Adela mentioned they are planning a festival to share different cultures, the date to be announced. MMC member Roberto Figueroa asked when it was established and if they have a flyer; Adela responded that it was established on April 1, 2017 and they do have a flyer of the organization. Pilar asked what Latin Americans in Action is looking for from the MMC, and Adela requested to refer any family in need of help to them.

**Project Updates:**

**\* Children's Day Parade & International Festival 2017**

Pilar presented an update:

Planning committee Ana Gallegos and Leila Montier met with Sharon Beadle and Eden Huang to talk about the best way to motivate the schools and parents to participate in the Children's Parade.

Sharon mentioned she only has contact information from public schools. Eden offered to help obtain information from private schools.

Sharon said communications to schools are mainly electronic, but suggested a flyer be printed to post on school bulletin boards, and also a "save the date" flyer would be helpful to send to the schools.

Pilar mentioned the flyer is being worked on, and the MMC will meet with Matt Quinones and MarcUS for Change to make one combined flyer.

Jeré suggested the Children's Parade start at 2pm to enable elementary students who attend church on Sunday between 10am to 1pm to participate.

Roberto said the planning committee should meet before June 30<sup>th</sup> to take advantage of the current budget, to discuss and move forward to purchase items for the parade. The planning committee will meet in the following weeks to prepare a proposal and items to be purchased for the parade.

Pilar mentioned that 10 groups are interested in participating in the International Festival.

**MMC Budget:**

Pilar stated she was invited to the meeting with the Board of Representatives to present a brief overview of the MMC budget request. They went over all the events the MMC participated in and co-sponsored; the Board of Reps was very pleased with MMC contributions to the community and mentioned that last year's Parade and International Festival was amazing, and they loved the diversity of groups that performed.

Roberto requested copies of our current budget for the next meeting.

Jeré asked if someone can follow up with Paul Isla to ask if he would like to continue as Treasurer of the MMC. Nino Antonelli will reach out to him and find out.

**New Business**

Ana thanked the MMC for their contribution of \$245 towards the Starfish Foundation. It was handed to Valerie Pankosky to be delivered to the office.

Marty Levine talked about the new Stamford Art & Culture Commission created by the Board of Representatives with the purpose to better coordinate Art and Culture with a calendar of events in the city. It will consist of six members from the arts community and three citizens, with the purpose of acting as a driver of economic development, with the help of nearly 80 cultural organizations in the city. They have no budget. Marty will be responsible of reviewing applicant credentials and the Mayor's office will appoint the members.

Debby invited all to take a moment and think as a community, to keep our eyes and ears open if something should happen.

Nino went to the Peruvian fundraiser event "Unidos por el Perú" organized by Debbie Arrieta at Domus; the funds gathered will be sent to Peru.

Leila mentioned that Emmanuel from the Haiti community reached out to her because he wanted to invite the MMC to their flag raising. She had given the information to Pilar to contact him and Pilar said she contacted him. He told Pilar that the event was canceled, but he was interested in being part of the MMC. Pilar gave him contact information for Marty Levine, and invited Emmanuel to the next MMC meeting.

**Open Discussion:**

Senior Center Fundraiser will be April 27th at the Sheraton Hotel, where Mayor Martin is an Honoree. The ticket price is \$100 and Pilar will send an email with the link if anyone would like to attend.

**Next Meeting:**

Next meeting will be held at the Government Center on May 22, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30p.m.

Submitted by:  
Ana Gallegos,  
Secretary