



**Mayor's Multicultural Council of Stamford
Mayor's Conference Room – 10th Floor
Government Center, 888 Washington Blvd,
Stamford, CT 06901
March 27, 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, Eva Padilla, Jere Eaton, Leila Montier, Nino Antonelli, Shelly Nichani, John Mallozzi, Tom Bellete, Sandra Barrett, Meera Banta, Corey Paris and Ana Gallegos.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Pilar Pelaez at 6:04 p.m.

Welcome

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

She welcomed and introduced Corey Paris as the new member of the MMCS. Corey stated that he came from Kansas and is Director of the Hispanic Council in Hartford. He thanked everyone for the opportunity to be part of the MMC.

Rev. James Hinton thanked the Council for giving him the opportunity to share information about the Gospel Concert event that took place at the Rogers International School on Saturday, February 25 from 6:00–9:00 p.m. Rev. Hinton presented a Diploma of Gratitude to the MMC and gave it to Pilar, Chair of the MMC, stating that the one time donation of \$1,500 from the MMC played an important role in the event. Six groups participated and attendance was about 280 people including staff. He promised to send the link of the video of the event to share with the group.

Review March 27th, 2017 Minutes

Minutes were reviewed. Roberto made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Leila. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Project Updates:

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

Pilar noted that this committee was able to meet, after three attempts. Leila, Pilar, and Ana met with Matt Quinonez. Some of the highlights of the meetings were:

- The event will take place on October 1st at the Mill River Park, from 8:00a.m.–12:30p.m.
- Matt mentioned that SPEF is planning to hire a person to coordinate the event.
- A Spanish/English flyer with the three components will need to be created showing the MMC as partner: Marcus for Change, Children's Parade and the International Festival.
 - No printing will be necessary this year because the information will be sent electronically to schools.
 - A meeting with Sharon Beadle will need to be scheduled in the following weeks to ask for her help with communications to the different schools.
- We'll also target places where we can invite students—synagogues, churches, etc.

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- Deborah suggested asking ourselves what will motivate children to come to the parade?
- Create games for fun, school pride, etc.
- Consider this order: Award ceremony, International Festival and Children's parade. Jeré suggested requesting extended hours for the stage. Check for possible costs.
- Eva Weller said that she had asked Karen B. about the "Learning Model for young children".

*** Multicultural Art Event**

Pilar said that this event would be presented at the Old Town Hall, first floor, and will take place on Sunday, June 25th, 12:00–4:00 pm., free to the public.

- The cost to the MMC will be \$1,000.
- Eva Weller mentioned her concern about parking.
- The goal of the event is to have artists from around the world. Pilar asked the members to let her know names of artists that may be interested in be part of this event. She added that it's up to the artists if they want to sell their art.
- It was also suggested to have a name for the event.

New Business

Pilar said Beatrice and other members have asked about our actions related to Anti-Semitism and Racism, she will meet with Rev. Mark Lingle from the Interfaith Council. Jeré, Nino, Eva Padilla and Robert requested to be part of this meeting.

Pilar will contact the members to confirm the date for the meeting.

Nino said that in the past the MMC had done a "My Neighbor's Faith and Mine" event at the Library and that it would be good to continue this activity.

*** Open Discussion:**

Leila shared a flyer about:

- El Sistema, a musical event at King School on April 12th, dedicated to Judith Martin to honor her legacy of service to the students.

Deborah shared information about two events:

- The Holocaust Memorial Exhibit Open reception on April 3rd, 5:30–7:00 pm at the Government Center with Mayor David Martin.
- Yom HaShoah Event on April 23rd at 4:30 at Temple Beth El– "A Community Wide Remembrance of the Holocaust: Through the Lens of the Cinema" with keynote speaker Dr. Eric Goldman.

Shelly shared information about other events:

- The Festival of the Color event on April 8th at 3:00 p.m. at Mill River Park will include the Kite Festival.
- The Gala on June 10th.
- Celebration of Independence Day in August.

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Pilar invited members to the Senior Center Gala on April 27th at the Sheraton.

Free boxing for kids; Montalvo's Organization on April 1st at the Boys and Girls Club.

It was noted that because of the emergency on Peru there are many events to collect money to help people through Americares. One of the events took place at the Government Center as an initiative of the Peruvian Association.

Robert asked to have a calendar with the different events in the community.

MMC membership:

- Jeré stated that the MMC should invite people representing other communities—she knows a Haitian who would like to come to talk about their independence.
- Pilar noted that any MMC member can suggest and invite people who are interested in being part of the group to our meetings, and to let her know ahead of time so she can add the name of the guest to the agenda.
- It was suggested that the MMC membership list be updated to remove names and invite others. Ana noted that as a secretary she couldn't remove names without approval from Pilar and Marty. In a preview meeting it was stated they will contact members to confirm their desire to continue to participate in the MMC.

Robert asked those present to have a minute of silence on memory of Frank Cronin, an assistant chief at the Stamford Police Department who died on March 25th.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held at the Government Center on April 24, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. on the 10th floor.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Submitted by:
Ana Gallegos,

Secretary