



Mayor's Multicultural Council of Stamford

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

September 25, 2017

Our Mission:

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

MINUTES

Members Present: Pilar Pelaez, Eva Weller, Deborah Goldberg, Jeré Eaton, Sandra Barrett, Hayate Jandar, Beatrice Chodosh and Ana Gallegos.

Meeting called to order by Chair Pilar Pelaez at 6:15 p.m.

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 of the last meeting. Deborah asked to make the following change. She stated "Elizabeth is a guest not a guess." Beatrice made the motion to approve the minutes; Deborah Goldberg seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Pilar welcomed and introduced Elizabeth Joseph, Coordinator of Information and Adult Services at the Ferguson Library. Elizabeth thanked the MMC for the invitation and for the opportunity to be at this meeting. She mentioned that the Ferguson Library has a series of events and activities promoting different cultures as well as discussions related to diverse topics. She states that because of the variety of events, the MMC would fit perfectly as one of the co-sponsors. Elizabeth added that for the Hispanic Heritage Month there would be screenings and discussions of the series Black in Latin America by renowned author and Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates Jr. This film explores the cultural impact of the millions of slaves who arrived in Brazil, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Mexico and Perú. The MMC agreed to sponsor the event. Elizabeth mentioned that the MMC only need to provide the logo as a sponsor. Pilar and the board members thanked Elizabeth for her presentation and information.

Project Updates:

Children's Day Parade & International Festival 2017

Pilar informed the following details about the event:

On Saturday afternoon SPEF and the MMC will get together to set the tables for the 26 community organizations that will be present at the event on Sunday. The invitations to public and private schools were sent to the parents via pitchjar (email). There will be two food trucks and the Mill River Café will be open to the public. The carrousel will be open for a cost-free hour for children. Four groups have confirmed their participation for the International festival: Peru, Guatemala, Haiti and India. The group that represents India is from the Strawberry Hill Elementary School. There will be raffles for the children: some backpacks; 10 gift cards from Barnes & Noble; 6 tickets for FunFuzion, 4 tickets for the Giants game provided by Dunkin Donuts (Hayate), 8 tickets to Stepping Stones Museum for Children; two prizes from the library and a prize of one hour with the Mayor. Ice cream will be served at the end of the parade. The event will also have a DJ with sound system.

There will be hats and sweatjackets for MMC members, t-shirts for the volunteers and bags for the children. These items have the MMC mission and /or logo. On the day of the event breakfast will be served for volunteers (coffee and donuts provide by Dunkin Donuts).

The activities for children provided by the MMC are a free PopCorn Machine, Face Painting, Bouncy Castle, Kids Draw Free. Pilar also has a list of 20 volunteers. It was suggested to have MMC members be in charge of the table and the assignments as follow:

Registration: Beatrice and Eva Weller
Check in Volunteers (T-shirts): Sandra
Festival: Maybe Shobhna?
Raffle: Hayate and Ana

Participate in the parade: All the members walk with the Mayor. Pilar said that there would be a moment of silence before the children's Parade to honor Leila Montier, who was a member of the MMC and graduate of PLTI. Also, one of the volunteers will take pictures of the event.

Pilar indicated that Shelly offered the Hampton's Inn to prepare the bags that will be given to the children at registration. She invited all the members that are available to come on Friday September 29 at 6:00pm.

Pilar handed in copies of the budgets:

From July 1 2016 to June 30, 2017. Total Budget \$15,000.00; Expenses: \$8,972.00; Balance \$6,027.45

From July 1 2017 to June 30, 2018. Total Budget \$15,000.00; initial budget hold (3%): \$450.00; Expenses: \$6,991.40; Balance \$8,008.60

She added that she sent three quotes to the Mayor's office for the T-shirts, hats, hoodies and children's bag. They chose the best price. Ink It Up "The T Shirt Place" cost: \$2,842.95

Eva Weller asked if still would be purchase the tent Robert had requested before. Pilar said that it was approved in previous meeting and she'll request an update from the Mayor's office. Sandra thanked Pilar for sharing the budget with details and she added it's good report.

Annual Senior Center Picnic

Ana thanked the MMC for their support to the Annual Senior Picnic. She informed that with the approved budget of \$300 from the MMC and with the Mayor's office assistance, she bought 12 gift cards of \$25 each from Stop & Shop and ShopRite. In addition, two gift cards donated from Casa Villa Restaurant were added as raffle prizes. Pilar and Ana attended the event at the Cove Park pavilion on September 8, 2017 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Ana stated that Christina Crain, the Senior Center, Executive Director extended her gratitude to the MMC and Mayor's office for the support, presence and raffle prizes. The Mayor was also present at the event.

New Business

Jeré gave an update about the proposal "A Discussion on Race". The objective is to provide a SAFE educational environment to discuss race and the impact of historical activities on the current day events and activities. Date: January 10, 2018 Costs: \$400.00. Place: Ferguson Library. Partners: Ferguson Library and Stamford Community Collective. About the moderators/panelists Jeré stated that she is hoping to have people who can teach us such as Donna Thompson. Although she is hopping to secure the same people from last year, Jeré mentioned that she is trying to contact the Pastor from Bridgeport, who was presented during the events happened in Charlottesville in August 2017. When she was asked about the costs related to the panelists, Jeré didn't have an answer.

Beatrice Chodosh and Sandra Barrett said that they would have an update about their proposal Multicultural Arts Festival and Black History Month, respectively, by next meeting.

Pilar thanked for the updates presented and also remind to the council members to present new or update with more details their proposal by next meeting for the MMC can review and approved.

Open Discussion:

Eva Weller mentioned that she has been in touch with musicians in order to have a musical concert. She invited other members to think about it.

Deborah shared an invitation to the event about immigrants at Building One Community on Monday October 2nd. Welcoming the Stranger: Past and Present. Hear from Jewish immigrants and immigrants from around the world who remade their lives in Stamford and learn what we have done and what can do to welcome them.

Deborah communicated information about the Stamford Interfaith Refugee Settlement (IRIS) and also announced that Stamford will have the first refugee family. She doesn't know where the family is coming from. Deborah shared a list of items that the family needed and encouraged the MMC members to check if they can help with some of them.

In addition she handed information about the different events of the Jewish Arts & Film Festival of Fairfield County. The 2017 Season runs from Saturday, October 28th to Sunday, November 5th.

Ana shared with the MMC council the following events:

The UConn PEP a Leadership Program in Spanish will start on Thursday October 12 for 10 weeks.

Festival of Danzas Latino-Americanas organized for Latin Americans In Action (LAMIAC) on Sunday, October 15 at Domus. 4:00 pm to 7:00pm Cost: \$5

JWNSF's 10th Anniversary Gala. Saturday, October 28, 2017 at the Sheraton Hotel. Cost: \$75

It was agreed to do something to help Mexico, Puerto Rico and other places. It was informed that Eva and Roberto are preparing an event, as well other organizations.

For the parade we'll have a flyer about the MMC: Mission, members, logo. In addition it was suggested to add: "Share with us your cultural events" and "Please help our people through Red Cross, Americares and Save the Children".

Next Meeting:

Next meeting will be held at the Government Center on October 23, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. on the 10th floor.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Submitted by:
Ana Gallegos,
Secretary