



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

June 26, 2017

Our Mission:

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

MINUTES

Members Present: Pilar Pelaez, Paul Isla, Eva Weller, Deborah Goldberg, Jeré Eaton, Nino Antonelli, Shelly Nichani, Sandra Barrett, 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 Guests 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. It was questioned if Marty can make the motion to approve the minutes since he represents the Mayor. Pilar will find out if this is permitted. Beatrice made the motion to approve the minutes; Eva Weller seconded the motion. Jeré Eaton abstained.

Pilar introduced Heloise Nana, Secretary for the African Community of Connecticut (ACC) and Marcelle Sahossi, a delegate for member's assistance for ACC. Heloise thanked the Board for the opportunity to be at the meeting. She mentioned that she learned about the MMC through Leila Montier during the leadership program offered by PLTI. Heloise stated that her individual PLTI community project is "Connecting the African Community. Heloise explained that the ACC is a non-profit organization and had its first meeting in April. They created a platform to provide spaces and opportunities for every African to have the opportunity to keep their culture and heritage alive through their children as well as to learn and share about the different resources available. Heloise added that around forty members meet in Bridgeport. This summer they are having a barbecue which is open to the public.

Pilar thanked both for coming and requested the flyer of the ACC picnic to share.

Project Updates:

Budget

Pilar stated that when she requested the items to buy for the Children's Parade, she was told the following: "I have been informed by the Mayor's office that all new expenses have been closed for the year. We can decide on next year's purchases at a future meeting." This was a government resolution. We have to start working with the new budget.

Jeré noted that Pilar is the only one providing updates and mentioned we should be more involved as a group and have a strong committee. Nino replied that Pilar had asked if someone wants to be in charge but people haven't volunteered. We'll continue working with the assigned budget.

Children's Day Parade & International Festival 2017

Pilar mentioned that members who attended the planning committee meeting—Ana Gallegos, Leila Montier and Hayate Jandar—had presented a proposal about this event at the last meeting. Ana thanked Nino for his generous support with the prizes given last year: gift certificates from Target and Barnes & Noble, and backpacks. She asked if he would be willing to be in charge of the prizes again. He responded that he would love to do that again. Nino added that he would request small flags and also suggested some small items with the MMC logo. Eva Weller agreed with the idea and also said that it should be items accessible to our budget and also something that excites the children, such as a plastic bookmark with the MMC logo, tickets for the carousel, etc. Everyone supported these ideas. Pilar mentioned that Hayate also would request donations of tickets from the Maritime Aquarium, Stepping Stone Museum, etc.

Mayor's Multicultural Council of Stamford – June 26, 2017 Minutes – page 2

The committee will meet again prior to the event on Sunday, October 1st at Mill River Park. Deborah asked if we have considered a rain date. The answer was that there is not a rain date. Jeré said that originally it was proposed to have the parade on Saturday because many people can not attend due to church, and to make sure children in general have the chance to attend. Pilar replied that we had talked about it in previous meetings and considering this, the time of this year's International Festival presentation will be prior to the Parade.

Annual Senior Center Picnic

Pilar mentioned that the Annual Senior Center Picnic will be on September 8, and asked whether the MMC is willing to co-sponsor it again. The MMC sponsored it last year with a DJ, gift certificates from restaurants and tickets from the Palace Theater. The members agreed to sponsor the event this year. Pilar asked members to volunteer. Ana mentioned that since Leila chaired the event last year, probably she would do it again this year. Ana volunteered to co-chair with Leila, and Beatrice offered to help the day of the event. More details will be given by the next meeting.

New Business

Eva Weller thanked the MMC for sharing the invitation made by the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County to the Inaugural Norma and Milton Mann Lecture, with Professor John Q. Barrett on Sunday, June 11, at Temple Beth El. She thanked Pilar and Ana for attending the event.

Eva mentioned that she attended the Joseph Nunn Scholarship Award Ceremony, where Eva and Ana are Board Members, and there was a wonderful presentation of a Polish musician. She suggested the possibility of having a Multicultural Music event, inviting musicians from different countries. The Board Members agreed with her idea. Eva Weller and Jeré will co-chair the Music event. Pilar asked Eva and Jeré to present a proposal with more details by next meeting.

Open Discussion:

Since we have been asked to co-sponsor events with the Ferguson Library, Eva Weller requested that the MMC invite Elizabeth Joseph, Coordinator, Information and Adult Services at the Library, to the MMC meeting.

Sandra asked if the meeting in August is for the Committee or if it's a regular meeting. Jeré motioned to have a special meeting on August 28 to focus on budget and the Children's Parade, Nino seconded.

Beatrice suggested having some discussion about new ideas. Pilar replied that if any members have ideas, to present a proposal at the next meeting.

Deborah thanked the council for the positive support in signing the statement that we are working together against all forms of hatred in our community.

Next Meeting:

Next meeting will be held at the Government Center on August 28, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. on the 10th floor.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Submitted by: Ana Gallegos,
Secretary