



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

Mayor's Multicultural Council of Stamford
Mayor's Conference Room – 10th Floor
Government Center, 888 Washington Blvd,
Stamford, CT 06904
October 24, 2016

MINUTES

Members Present: Pilar Pelaez, Roberto Figueroa, Martin Levine, Jeré Eaton, Shelly Nichani, Sandra Barrett and Ana Gallegos.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Pilar Pelaez at 6:20 pm.

Welcome

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

Review September 26, 2016 Minutes

Minutes were reviewed. Ms. Eaton stated that it was a “request” and not a suggestion that Pilar and Paul prepare a financial report. With this change agreed to, Ms. Eaton made a motion to approve the minutes; said motion was seconded by Mr. Figueroa, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Project Updates:

* Children's Day Parade & International Festival 2016

Roberto handed out a list of recommendations for next year's Children's Parade that he had prepared with Nino. He mentioned that we did not participate in the planning of the event the way it was done before. There was not good communication with MarcUs for Change and SPEF. He recommended that the event should be done differently next year. The planning should start in February and we should choose the day at that time. The invitations for all the schools should be ready before classes start in September along with flyers and other advertisements. Food trucks, ice cream, entertainment, raffle, lunch with Mayor raffle, dance groups should be retained. In addition, it was recommended to invite city groups and other organizations to participate, and the parade should be longer. The Mayor's office must include the Parade on the city website and have a press conference.

Jeré mentioned that before it was done on Saturdays. The bags and shirts given at the event were purchased the previous year. Shelly said that we should decide if we want to do the parade alone and have a big one; if so, we should set the date and find sponsors. The recommendations from the members were to move the parade back to Saturday and to look for the possibility of having another partner such as SPS. It was mentioned the venue could be Cove Park or Mill River Park. It was mentioned that for Cove Park, a parking sticker would be needed. Marty mentioned that we could ask the bus company for rides.

Jeré suggested waiting to make decisions to when we have more members at the meeting to plan and be part of the event. Everyone agreed to this.

Pilar stated that she would like to request economic incentives to give to the groups that come from other cities and who have participated for many years. It was suggested that if we decide to do that, we should find sponsors to cover this expense.

Budget

Pilar informed all that she was not able to meet with Paul. Nino informed everyone that Paul had traveled To the Philippines because of a family situation and just came back yesterday. Regarding the parade, Pilar mentioned that there was a cost for printing in-house, and that Valerie and the Mayor's office did the MMC a favor by printing the flyers a couple of days from the event and distributing to all the schools in such a short time. The charge was not mentioned before but it was kept at \$2,000 to match last year's price. Marty stated that the flyers came in too late, the cost was more \$3,800, the city works on a budget, Val has many things to do but since it came from the MMC she took this responsibility on and it was not supposed to be. Pilar said the complete report would be available for next meeting.

*** Hispanic Heritage Celebration at the Palace Theater**

Pilar thanked Roberto, Eva, Sandra, Jeré, Leila and Ana for attending the event. She said that it was well attended, and all 200 tickets were sold out. Dance groups participated, there was food from different restaurants, along with Kids Draw Free, face painting and people wearing ethnic and typical clothing. The Palace Theater prepared a program featuring the event, MMC, participants and sponsors.

Jeré expressed her concern because it was a small venue, and added that this is an opportunity to consider other locations and to be more inclusive to the members of the Council and Community. Pilar replied that this first event was planned for 50 people, but the MMC encouraged going for a bigger event. She mentioned that at the meeting where this event was approved, she asked members to contact herself or Ana if they wanted an invitation letter sent to any particular organization. Invitations were sent via email and tickets were reserved for MMC members. The event was added to the MMC Facebook page.

Sandra mentioned that it would be a good idea to have nametags of the MMC members for future events. For the first time, it was a good event.

New Business

*** Ferguson library**

Pilar mentioned that Alice Knapp, Executive Director of the Ferguson Library, proposed to partner with the MMC to co-sponsor community events. Shelley said that we should partner with them because it's good for both, and the MMC can have more positive exposure with the community.

Sandra and Nino are working on the project "All the challenges we are Facing with the Police." Pilar reiterated her advice to present any project and then together the group will find ways to help.

*** Calendar events**

Pilar suggested the possibility of attending one of the Jewish Art and Film events as a group. The dates are October 29 to November 6

***Black History Month**

Jeré presented a preliminary Project for 2017 All About Education Day. The event will take place on Saturday, February 18, and the SPS will provide the location -AITE. The proposed budget is \$3,250. Funding & income: MMC: \$1,500 – Resource Organizations \$750 Sponsorships / partnerships \$1,000

Since the MMC can't charge or receive monetary contributions it was suggested to look for scholarships to cover some of the expenses. Decisions will be made at the next meeting with the input of more members since Marty and Robert had to leave early

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held at the Government Center on November 28, 2016 at 6:00pm on the 10th floor.

Since Holidays are coming up, it was suggested to have a holiday party on December 12th. Pilar will send an email to the members to confirm their attendance.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 pm.

Submitted by

Ana Gallegos
Secretary