

Mayor's Multicultural Council
Meeting Minutes (REVISED per Martin Levine)
November 24, 2014

Opening:

The regular meeting of the MMC was called to order at 6:15 p.m. on November 24, 2014 on the 10th floor conference room located at 888 Washington Blvd., Stamford, CT by: Jere Eaton.

Members Present (BOLDED): Nino Antonelli, Meera Banta, Sandra Barrett, Goiton Bellete, Jere Eaton, Arbis Faustin, Robert Figueroa, Jeanne Franklin, Deborah Goldberg, Jenefeness Houston, Paul Isla, John Leydon, John Mallozzi, Shelly Nichani, Eva Padilla, Pilar Pelaez, Mayra Rios, Galdino Velasco, Eva Weller

Guest:

Marty Levine, City of Stamford

Quentin Phipps, Community Relations Manager for Stamford Charter School of Excellence

Approval of Minutes: Minutes for October 27, 2014 were approved with minor changes and accepted

Chairperson's Report:

- Last week was a big week for our nation and the citizenship with the announcement of Immigration Reform from President Obama
- Treasurers report (below) - \$15,000 budget (July – June); more than \$9,000 left
 - o Children's Parade and International Day - \$5,304 (final expenses to be determined)
 - o Marketing Materials - \$331

Mayor's Multicultural Council

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|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 2014/15 Budget | \$ 15,000.00 |
| Children's Parade & Int'l Day | \$ 7,000.00 |
| Other Events and Activities | \$ 7,000.00 |
| Misc. Items | \$ 1,000.00 |
| Expenses | |
| Parade & Int'l Day | \$ 5,304.36 |
| Police | \$ 1,155.36 |
| Stage | \$ 1,900.00 |
| Flyers | \$ 1,000.00 |
| Bracelets | \$ 350.00 |
| Snack (Goldfish) | \$ 299.00 |
| DJ | \$ 500.00 |
| Crafts | \$ 100.00 |
| Misc. | \$ 331.00 |
| Banner | \$ 116.00 |
| Tablecloth | \$ 215.00 |
| Other Events and Activities | \$ - |
| Total Expenses | \$ 5,635.36 |

- Ideas for additional opportunities for the Council to bring people together each quarter (Nino will spearhead the effort); the council made the following suggestions
 - Elderly Meeting in May
 - International Restaurant Month and/or Multicultural Food Festival
 - Citywide Interfaith Council Meeting in March
 - Chamber of Commerce – Taste of Stamford fundraiser event
 - Support other cultures by attending their events and generating calendars
 - Event similar to IMPACT Stamford; theme of back to school (gave out supplies, health fair and resources)
 - “Tell Me Where You’re From”, “Tell Me Who You Are”, Ancestry.com event
 - Education forums, Race Relations, Ferguson Library for space and mailing list

Old Business:

- Development of Multicultural Calendar
 - Stamford Citywide All About Education Day – Secured the Stamford Innovation Center for February 28, 2015; All educational organizations host a table incorporating all cultures, age groups
 - Multicultural Learning Activity – Creating opportunities that eliminate barriers around race and politics, watch and accept differences
 - Partner with the Ferguson Library and show the movie – The Color of Justice (Quentin will follow up)
 - Participate in the Civility in America Series through Sacred Heart University
- Need representation of the following groups – Muslim, Chinese, Polish, Russian and Ukrainian
- Mission Statement / Guidelines / Roles and Expectations will be further developed by Jere
- Monthly Worship – **November 8** – four members were present during the service to Seventh Day Adventis; **December 14** – St. Benedict at 10:00 – 11:00, **January 11** at Unitarian Universalist Congregation centered around a theme of Justice at 10:00, **February 8** – Bethany Stamford Church at 9:00 am, additional dates to be available
- Holiday Celebration – set for December 10, 2014 at Hampton Inn Hotel at 7:00 pm
- Another Children’s Parade recap from John; Approx. 300 people attended, children were given apple (donated by Shoprite), water (donated by Nestle), fish snacks (purchased by MMC); not enough activities for the children to participate in after the parade; timing was off, needs to possibly be scheduled in September instead of October, location should be changed, BOE need to be invited to sub-committee meeting by the Mayor; there was a lack of outreach activities. Some additional recommendations were move the festival to downtown, involve different ethnic communities in Stamford to increase participation, start planning in early 2015; preferably January, finalize the budget in March 2015 and do not permit changes. Jenefeness advised the council that she attended the Hispanic Advisory Committee of Greater Stamford (HACGS) monthly meeting and discovered that they had great attendance for the Health Fair event they hosted on the same day as the Children’s Parade (October 18). They reported that approximately 1000 people attended; 663 via registration and the remainder as unregistered. They provided the following free tests/exams to the community
- Sister Cities Update – nothing to report
- Team Building Retreat – nothing to report

Open Discussion:

- 2015 HACGS Hispanic Health Fair - has been set for Saturday, October 3, 2015
- 2015 Children’s Parade – date to be scheduled; possibly September 20 and back up is September 27
- 11/26 - Albanian Flag Raising at SGC 4pm
- 11/30 - Donate toys for Guatemalan kids at 809 E Main St
- 12/01 - PrintabiliTees 10 Year Celebration - Stamford Innovation Center 6pm
- 12/05 - Columbian Ambassador at the Hampton Inn (time to be provided)
- 12/10 - December MMC Meeting 6pm and Holiday Celebration 7pm - Hampton Inn
- 12/11 - Christmas Tree Lighting & Carols hosted by Mayor Martin in the SGC 2:45pm
- 12/14 - House of Worship - St. Benedict located at 21 Saint Benedict Circle 10am
- <http://www.parishesonline.com/scripts/HostedSites/Org.asp?ID=2653>
- 12/18 - Hanukkah Celebration with Mayor Martin at SGC 4pm
- 12/30 - Kwanzaa Celebration hosted by Mayor Martin SGC 2:30pm
- 01/11 - House of Worship - Unitarian Church at 20 Forest Street 10am

<http://www.uustamford.org/>

- 02/08 - House of Worship - Bethany Assembly of God Church at 2 Scofieldtown Road 9am
<http://www.bethanystamford.com/>
- 02/28 - Stamford Citywide All About Education Day Stamford Innovation Center 11am to 5pm

Next month's meeting: December 10, 2014; Hampton Inn Hotel - meeting at 6:00 pm; Holiday Party from 7:00 pm–9:00 pm

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.