



Mayor's Multicultural Council of Stamford Meeting held virtually

MINUTES
March 28, 2022

Attendance and quorum check:

Members attending the meeting: Eva Weller, Sandra Jean Barrett, Peter Dao, Deborah Goldberg, James Hinton, Sonal Patel, Malinda Polite and Ana Gallegos.

Eva Weller, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:19 PM.

Welcome:

Eva as Chair welcomed members and thanked everyone for attending the virtual meeting. Eva wished everyone a happy spring.

Approve Minutes:

February 28, 2022

Eva Weller, Chair, asked members to review and approve the minutes from the February 28th meeting. Malinda Polite made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Deborah Goldberg seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Budget Report:

Eva Weller gave an update of the budget since treasurer, Shobhna Bhatnagar, was absent. Eva said that after processing the \$500 fee for the 1/31/21 author presentation, the remaining budget is \$8,750.

Projects/Events:

-Film: "Reflecting on Anti-Bias Education in Action: The Early Years". Eva requested updates. Sonal Patel informed that she had been in touch with Jennifer Hallissey at CLC, who let her know that they have formed a committee to brainstorm ways to present this concept to parents and students as part of the school curriculum. Eva thanked Sonal and said that it's important to stay in touch with them and be part of the process. We are looking forward to a positive outcome.

Old Business:

-Shobhna was not present, so there were no updates about Stamford Stands Against Racism.

New Projects:

-Afternoon of Jazz: Eva thanked James for checking with the DJ who worked with us on the last live concert. She reported that we will hold the concert in person at the auditorium of the main branch of the Ferguson Library on Sunday June 26th from 2:00 to 4:30pm. She said it is downtown with public parking and is walkable for people who live in the area. We can hold a reception and provide food. Currently there are no restrictions requiring masks, but some events at the library have required proof of vaccination or a test for Covid-19.

Eva contacted musicians who were recommended or agreed to participate in previous years but could not because of their schedules. Michael Nunziante, Barbara Espinosa Occhino, Chris Coogan have agreed to participate. Tony Truglio agreed but will now be on tour. It was suggested that flyers and information about this year's Afternoon of Jazz be available during Stamford Day on May 15th.

-Stamford Day 2022: Eva reported that she attended a meeting with Nette Compton, President & CEO of Mill River Park Collaborative, Park staff and staff from the Stamford Office of Economic Development. Eva said that she shared ideas from the MMC event committee held on Thursday March 10th. They were pleased to be a co-sponsor again this year and want to make this year's event even bigger and better. They suggested the event start at 10:30am and that we have a rain date to May 22nd. As co-sponsors, they will absorb fees, provide activities/games for the children and coordinate the historical scavenger hunt. Mill River Park Collaborative will have a table at the Whittingham Discovery Center. Ana Gallegos reported that Kathy Harris confirmed approval for use of UConn's parking lot. MMC will need to provide a certificate of insurance from the Mayor's Office. The International Alliance of Chaplains & Law Enforcement lead by Sergio & Lourdes Roque will coordinate the parking and safe street crossing. Sid Watson, the same DJ from last year will be the DJ for the event. Save the date emails are being sent to dance groups, singers and artists to see if they will be able to participate, as well as to about 28

volunteers and those interested at last year's event in volunteering this year. Julio Sánchez & Liliana Llaury will take official pictures of event. A Save the Day flyer was updated from last year and will be posted on MMC social media. Please share with your network and plan to attend. We need Council members to be present and visible and to welcome all.

Announcements:

Debby Goldberg Board member shared that Diane Sloyer CEO of the United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford and board member Kerrin Behrend will travel to Warsaw Poland as part of a National Jewish Federations of North America "Fly-In". They will visit the border and bear witness to the suffering of the Ukrainian refugees and bring much-needed aid to relief efforts on the ground. Debby added that from Monday, March 28th to Thursday, March 31st, there will be collection bins for donated items at different locations. Over-the-counter medications for adults and children are needed.

Next Meeting: April 25, 2022

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Submitted by: Ana Gallegos, MMC Secretary