



Mayor's Multicultural Council of Stamford Meeting held virtually

MINUTES
April 25, 2022

Attendance and quorum check:

Members attending the meeting: Eva Weller, Shobhna Bhatnagar, Sandra Jean Barrett, Peter Dao, Deborah Goldberg, James Hinton, Hayate Jandar, Francise Jean-Louis, Eva Padilla, 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.

Approve Minutes: March 28, 2022

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

Budget Report:

Eva Weller requested updates. Shobhna Bhatnagar informed that there are no changes, so the remaining budget is \$8,750.

New Projects/ events:

- *Afternoon of Jazz*: Eva informed that the jazz event will be held in person will take place on June 26th from 2:00 to 4:30 pm at the Ferguson Library. She has invited musicians and groups to be part of the event: Project Music, Michael Nunziante, Barbara Espinosa Occhino, Maria Tiscia, Altruist group and Chris Coogan and his quartet. She added the MMC has an opportunity to promote the jazz concert at Stamford Day.

- *Sponsorship requested*: Eva said, last year the Mayor's Multicultural Council co-sponsored The Black Lives Matter event at the Ferguson Library. She added Corey, Ana, Shobhna and Pilar participated in the program or as volunteers. Eva informed that she received a text asking the MMC to co-sponsor an event and requested information about the organization and what the requirements and expectations would be, but she didn't receive a reply.

- *Film: "Reflecting on Anti-Bias Education in Action: The Early Years"*. Eva requested an update. Sonal Patel informed that she had been in touch with Jennifer Hallissey at CLC for an update about the meeting scheduled for March 11th. She said they are waiting for responses about the steps they will take, but they need more time to know how to present this to the parents. Eva thanked Sonal for her leadership and for being proactive.

New Projects:

- *Stamford Day 2022*: Eva reported that Stamford will take place on Sunday May 15th from 10:30am to 2:30pm (rain date: May 22nd). The Mill River Park Collaborative is our co-sponsor again this year. She has been in touch with administrators, and they are planning to have a walk through in coordination with event co-chairs Ana Gallegos and Shobhna Bhatnagar. The Press Release is ready to be sent to the Mayor's Office for approval before translating it. We are planning to advertise through different social media: MMC Facebook & Instagram, Hey Stamford, Peach Jar, SPS through Dr. Lucero and Mike Meyer, The Advocate, Spanish newspapers, and other social media used by the Mayor's Office. Hayate kindly volunteered to contact the private schools. We'll invite the SPS through Dr. Lucero and Mike Meyer because we need to limit the participation of the schools, there won't be time for all the schools to individually participate.

The MMC will rent 30 tables (6') and 70 chairs to use for the community tables. The approximate cost will be \$480. James offered to help with this rental. Eva informed that we'll purchase lawn signs again this year to advertise and will need help putting them around Stamford. She invited members to help fill the bags.

Ana informed that with the assistance of the Mayor's Office, the certificate of insurance related to the use of UConn parking lot was provided to UConn. She sent 30 invitations to the dance groups, singers and

artists who previously participated in the MMC events, sent invitations to 40 volunteers and 38 confirmed their participation. The volunteers are graduates from PLTI, UConn PEP, NAACP, St. Mary's Parish, International Alliance of Chaplains and Hayate's friends and contacts. Ana sent invitations to 40 community agencies/organizations. Many of them confirmed their participation. Ana asked if Council members want to recommend other organizations or volunteers to please let her know. A Save the Date flyer was updated and posted on MMC social media and Council members were asked to please share with their network.

Ana also reminded each member the area they agreed to coordinate with volunteers:

- Registrations: Hayatte Jander (Eva Padilla), Mayor's Multicultural Council
 - Marketing: Francise Jean-Louis
 - Volunteers: Sandra Barrett
 - Artists: Malinda Polite
 - Passport: Deborah Goldberg
 - Banner – Story board Peter Dao
 - Children's Carnival & activities: Sonal Patel
 - Others:*
 - DJ: Sid Watson
 - Take official pictures: Julio Sánchez & Liliana Llaury
 - Coordinate parking and crossing: The International Alliance of Chaplains Sergio Roque & Lourdes Roque
 - Chair Eva Weller coordinated the speakers, dignitaries and history organizations
- Community tables: Kadija Harman
Dance and singer groups: Ana Gallegos - Alejandra Osorio
Food trucks: Pilar Pelaez.
Quilt activity: Shobhna Bhatnagar - Luz Tsiralidis
Set up and clean up: Peter Dao MMC & volunteers
Historical scavenger: Mill River

Shobhna presented the proposal budget for Stamford Day. She explained that the proposal is based in the increased cost of supplies, increased cost and number of goodies for the bags plus the rental of tables and chairs.

- Quilt: \$200
- Snacks: \$500
- water: \$100
- Supplies (table clothes, tags, etc.) \$100
- DJ: \$450
- Raffle: \$200
- Quilt: \$200
- Program & flyer printing: \$200
- Banners: \$150
- Lawn signs \$300
- Tables and chairs: \$400
- Coffee (volunteers and speakers) \$100
- Miscellaneous: \$700.
- Total requested \$3.500

Ana Gallegos made the motion to give a monetary honorarium to the dance groups and singers. Malinda Polite seconded the motion. Eva Weller, chair invited members to an open discussion. James H., Sonal P., Shobhna B., Malinda P., Eva P. and Ana G., were in favor because it will be a token of appreciation for their participation and time, is an incentive and encourages them to come back next year. Their participation supports the MMC mission of celebrating and sharing cultures and traditions. Most of the artists live or work in Stamford. They could be more willing to share information and give MMC more exposure. It was also suggested we should consider providing food. Peter D., Debbie G. and Pilar disagreed because this is a policy decision and must be well thought out to understand the future impact of the change. We are using taxpayers' money and it won't be fair to pay the same amount if the groups are different sizes. Once we pay groups, what will happen in future years when payment is expected, and we may not have funding? After discussion, the topic was tabled for further consideration. As this was a policy decision the MMC decided to follow up with the mayor's representative.

Peter made the motion to table the previous motion for a latter discussion internally and with the Mayor to see if this initiative is feasible to apply. Pilar Pelaez seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Debbie G. thanked James and Ana for working on the new passport activity. She went over each page of the passport that was shared on screen to explain details. Members liked the idea. Also, the instructions will be translated to Spanish. She said that to encourage the children and families to visit the different community tables a ticket for ice cream will be given to each child when they complete a certain number of stamps in their passport.

Announcements:

Eva Padilla mentioned that the Mayor's Multicultural Council started 20 years ago.

Eva announced a Council meeting the first week of May, before the event to review & finalize updates.

Next Meeting: May 23, 2022

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Submitted by: Ana Gallegos, MMC Secretary