



Mayor's Multicultural Council of Stamford
Meeting held in person
Hampton Inn Suites, Stamford
26 Hill River St. Stamford CT 06902

MINUTES

June 7, 2022

Attendance and quorum check:

Members attending the meeting: Eva Weller, Corey Paris, Shobhna Bhatnagar, Peter Dao, Deborah Goldberg, Khadija Hamran, James Hinton, Sonal Patel, Pilar Peláez, Malinda Polite and Ana Gallegos.

Eva Weller, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:50 PM.

Welcome:

Eva as Chair welcomed members and thanked everyone for attending the meeting in person.

Approve Minutes:

April 25, 2022

Eva asked members to review and approve the minutes from the April 25th meeting. Corey Paris made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Peter Dao seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Budget Report:

Eva Weller requested updates.

Shobhna Bhatnagar as treasurer presented updates about the MMC approved budget of \$9,500. To date, the expenses, which were approved at the meeting for the different projects are: \$250 to sponsor the SPEF MarcUS for Change event, Author Roya Hakakian speaker \$500; Stamford Day \$3,202 (less than \$3,500 proposed), giving a partial total of \$5,548. Shobhna added there is an expected program and proposed budget for the following: Jazz concert \$2,250, Book donation for DMC Program with Ferguson Library, \$1,000 and MMC shopping bags \$2,050 Total expected \$5,300 She reported a projected amount remaining of \$248 for the fiscal year.

Eva thanked Shobhna for the report. Then she asked if everyone had the opportunity to read the summary Ana Gallegos prepared about the meeting held on May 26, 2022. Eva said this meeting was called to discuss and vote on several new expenses and sponsorships requested. After a dialogue about the decisions made at that meeting, Ana said that there are no separate minutes for the additional meeting so she would like to recommend that the decisions and vote be included in writing in today's minutes. Eva W. asked for a motion. James Hinton made the motion to have in writing the decisions approved during the meeting on May 26th to have a formal record of all decisions. Deborah Goldberg seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

The following decisions were made at the meeting on May 26th, 2022:

Members attending the meeting which constituted a quorum: Eva Weller, Shobhna Bhatnagar, Sandra Jean Barrett, Deborah Goldberg, James Hinton, Sonal Patel, Pilar Pelaez, Malinda Polite and Ana Gallegos.

Programs proposed:

1. A educational event proposal from Angela L. Edwards, Founder & CEO of the William E. Edwards Academic College Tours, Inc. (WEE-ACT) of Stamford. After a dialogue where members asked for information about how the organization has been serving students over many years. The program is for High School students and benefits many students. They are not looking for funds but help with permit, insurance and getting the word out. We may be able to give away MMC shopping bags or have a MMC table. Deborah Goldberg made the motion "That the MMC be the co-sponsor of the August 12, 2022, movie night event with other organizations for the William E. Edwards Academic College Tours, Inc. (WEE-ACT). James seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.
2. Many organizations in Stamford are partnering with the Ferguson library for the visit of Darryl "DMC" McDaniels, a founding member of the hip hop group Run-DMC on Wednesday, June 8 at 6 p.m. to talk about his children's picture book, "Darryl's Dream", a story about finding confidence, facing bullies, and celebrating yourself. Deborah Goldberg made the motion "That the MMC be a co-sponsor giving permission to use the logo for advertisement". Shobhna Bhatnagar seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously. Ana made the motion that "The MMC donate 100 books for the cost of \$1000". James Hinton seconded the motion. All said yes, except Sonal Patel who indicated she was undecided. It was suggested

to add a logo of the MMC in each one of the books donated from the MMC. Eva will check how to get approval for this recommendation.

3. Request for purchase of MMC shopping bags. Eva said the lowest price quoted for the bags is \$1.89 for each bag plus shipping and taxes. She got a quote for the total of \$2,050. Shobhna Bhatnagar made the motion to buy bags for not more the amount of \$2050. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved unanimously by 7 members.

New Projects/ events:

- *Afternoon of Jazz*: Eva confirmed that the jazz event will be held in person on June 26th from 2:00 to 4:30 pm at the Ferguson Library. Talented and popular musicians and groups will perform: Michael Nunziante, Barbara Espinosa Occhino, Maria Tiscia, Altruist group and Chris Coogan and his quintet. She said that James and Corey will help as MC's and Ana will do translations. We'll offer snacks and give away MMC shopping bags. Eva asked to please continue promoting the jazz concert with contacts and friends. Ana said that when we have the Mayor's Office approval for the press release, the release will be translated into Spanish. We asked the Mayor's Office to share it with their social media and Khadisha Hamran kindly offered to add the event in Eventbrite. The event had been posted in the MMC Facebook and Instagram.

- *Film: "Reflecting on Anti-Bias Education in Action: The Early Years"*. Eva requested an update. Sonal Patel informed that there are no updates at this time, but she is planning to schedule a meeting with Jennifer Hallissey at CLC for another update. Eva thanked Sonal for being proactive with this project.

Announcements:

-Kadisha shared about the Downtown Mall Block Party from 11:00 am to 8:00 pm on June 25th and 26th James shared about a Mental Health Workshop to be held on June 18. He will share more details later.

-Eva shared that Barbara Occhino is having a presentation at Sterling Farm on June 10 and her book presentation on July 16th at Barnes & Noble.

-Corey said that being a representative is taking more time than expected, and he is considering his role as the MMC Co-chair. He said that he is not leaving but would like to recommend giving young people the opportunity to learn, participate and work with the MMC.

He also suggested MMC sponsor a Salsa event in Stamford which can attract more young people to connect. It was suggested to possibly hold the event at Harbor Point or Mill River Park. He also suggested names for the event such as: Ritmo and Rumba. He also suggested the MMC sponsor a White Party event at the end of August.

Corey also suggested MMC leadership request a conversation with Mayor Simmons and to review the current budget and request an increase to the prior MMC budget level of \$15,000.

-Shobhna said that she would like to propose presenting a different book which focuses on international politics related to Africa which would tie in to the MMC mission.

-Eva announced that she would like to consider holding every other meeting in person. She will check with the availability of the Mayor's meeting room.

Next Meeting: July 25, 2022

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Submitted by:
Ana Gallegos, MMC Secretary