



## Mayor's Multicultural Council of Stamford Meeting held virtually

### MINUTES

July 25, 2022

#### Attendance and quorum check:

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

Eva Weller, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:22 PM.

#### Welcome:

Eva Weller as Chair welcomed members and thanked everyone for attending the virtual meeting. She also thanked members who were able to attend the in-person meeting and get together on June 7. Eva is pleased to share that people are asking the MMC to be part of different events in the community.

#### Approve Minutes:

##### June, 7 2022

Eva asked members to review and approve the minutes from the June 7, 2022 meeting. Malinda Polite made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Peter Dao seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

#### Budget Report:

*Stamford Day:* Eva suggested waiting for Treasurer Shobhna Bhatnagar to present the budget report.

#### Projects/Events:

-*The Fifth Afternoon of Jazz:* Eva Weller reported that the concert was co-sponsored with the Ferguson Library and was held on Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 4:30pm in the Dudley N. Williams, Jr. Auditorium. It was a successful event and the following popular local artists performed Latin, Caribbean, and classic jazz standards: "Serenade in Rio" with Barbara Espinoza Occhino, Eddie Monteiro, Joe Stelluti & Maria Tiscia, Chris Coogan Quartet with Chris Coogan, Jim Clark, Kurt Berglund Steve Taylor and Nick Devito and Michael Nunziante acoustic guitar and charango a traditional instrument from the Andes. Eva thanked Ana Gallegos for taking the phone call reservations and for publishing the event in the MMC social media, to Kadisha Hamram for creating an invite in Eventbrite, Corey Paris, Shobhna Bhatnagar and James Hinton for serving as MCs, Malinda Polite, Sandra Barrett and Pilar Pelaez for helping the day of the event. Eva reported one band canceled at the last minute, so their projected fee will be returned to the city.

-*"Darryl's Dream" Book Event.* Eva reported that the MMC and other organizations partnered with Ferguson Library for this well attended event with a diverse audience. The MMC donated 100 books and the organizers agreed to add a sticker with the MMC logo in each one of the books we donated.

- *Movie Night:* The MMC will be one of the co-sponsors of the August 12, 2022, movie night event with the William E. Edwards Academic College Tours, Inc. (WEE-ACT) at Jackie Robinson Park. Eva asked if members would like to help with the resource table and pop-corn machine. Malinda Polite, James Hinton, Sonal Patel and Ana Gallegos expressed their interest in volunteering at the event.

- *Film: "Reflecting on Anti-Bias Education in Action: The Early Years".* Eva requested an update. Sonal informed that Jennifer Hallissey at CLC had contacted Mike and Donna and she is waiting for a response. She will give more updates next meeting.

#### New Project:

*Salsa Event:* Pilar presented the proposal for Salsa Night Rhythm & Rumba 2022. She said the possible venues are Mill River Park, New Veteran's Park and Kiwanis Park. Harbor Point are not interested in having it. The goal is to unite our diverse community, where families and anyone who likes to dance can participate in a live salsa event featuring local DJs, live Latin music with dance instruction. This will be free to the whole community. The dates proposed were Aug 05, Aug 26, Sep 2, and Sep 16 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Information will be shared via Facebook, live streaming and videos will promote the MMC. The cost would be about \$5,500 to be used for venues, dance instructors, DJs, Live streaming and social media. promo, printed program and flyer and miscellaneous. Eva W. thanked Pilar for preparing the

proposal. Eva shared that the law department has concerns about music copyrights, so we won't be able to live stream any music events. After discussion, it was agreed that the proposal was too high since the cost would use more than half of our current total budget of \$9,500. One suggestion was to hold the event for only one day, as a pilot and we could consider more nights next year if it is well received. Eva informed that she contacted Mill River Park for the venue. They liked the concept and are willing to co-sponsor the event. The available date they have is Saturday, September 10th. It was also suggested to have it during Hispanic Heritage Month. Eva asked for volunteers to join the Salsa planning committee. Meera Banta and Ana Gallegos volunteered to be part of the committee to join Pilar, Corey and Eva W. Eva asked for a motion. Ana Gallegos motioned to have only one salsa event this year, on September 10 and increase days if the MMC budget is increased. The committee will come back with more details and a new event budget. Peter Dao seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Corey Paris said that he appreciated the idea of having the salsa event as an Hispanic Heritage Month celebration, between September 15 and October 15; however, he recommended the event be held at least two days on Thursday or Friday nights. He said that he has been in touch with Alisa Mercado, who has held successful events in New Haven. He will share her contact information with Eva to get more details.

-*White Party*. James Hinton suggested the event be held in June 2023, the end of the city's fiscal year.

### **Announcements:**

-Eva shared that the library obtained a grant to bring Dr. Robert Livingston to hold a Community Conversation in Stamford. The Library requested that the Mayor's Multicultural Council partner with them on this event to be held on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm. She added that Dr. Livingston is a renowned social psychologist and leading expert on the science of underlying bias and racism in organizations. Ana Gallegos motioned to co-sponsor Dr. Robert Livingston conversation at the Ferguson Library. Debby Goldberg seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

-Eva informed that the Ferguson Library is planning a multicultural event: World Fest One City. They asked the MMC to co-sponsor the event. Eva will have more details by next meeting.

-Debby Goldberg asked the MMC to join again the "Walk for Unity in our Community & Day of Action" on Sunday, September 11th from 1:00 to 3:00pm at Mill River Park. Day of Action will include volunteer opportunities at Mill River Park and Sound Waters. As part of cosponsoring, the MMC logo will be displayed on all promotional materials. There is no fee to co-sponsor. She'll send the flyer to be posted in the MMC social media. Peter motioned to support the "Walk for Unity in our Community & Day of Action" on Sunday, September 11, 2022. Sonal Patel seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

-Debby also shared that the JCare committee is organizing a community project to be held on October 2nd. The general theme is food related. She asked if someone would be interested in preparing ethnic food with others and/or lead the group in preparing a meal or part of one. There will be activities for children. David Paige, an author and host of the show *Diners, Drive-ins and Dives* will be demonstrating some Americana food dishes. Meera, Sonal and Ana were interested volunteering and perhaps prepare some dishes. Eva asked to have a motion. Ana motioned to support this food related community project. Sandy Barrett seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

-Ana Gallegos said that Maricarmen Godoy is presenting the event Vigil Of Light Ceremony & Performance by "En Vivo con Maricarmen". She is asking for the MMC to support the event with the MMC logo to be displayed on the promotional flyer. There is no fee for MMC to support the event which is supported by the Stamford Arts Commission and Mayor Simmons.

-Ana also, mentioned that she is leading a PLTI and UConn PEP Conversation in September with the Commissioner Seila Mosquera-Bruno from the Department of Housing. She said that agencies and community groups like the MMC will be invited to partner on this event. She requested the use of MMC logo to promote the event. It was agreed to support the event with the MMC logo displayed on their flyer.

-Sonal Patel shared that one of the PLTI graduates is part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Caribbean-Cultural Festival in Stamford. It will be held on Sunday, September 11th, from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm. at Lione Park. There will be entertainment for the family, music, soccer, etc. She'll send flyers to post on the MMC social media.

**Next Meeting:** August 22, 2022

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Submitted by:  
Ana Gallegos, MMC Secretary