



Mayor's Multicultural Council of Stamford Meeting held virtually

MINUTES

September 19, 2022

Attendance and quorum check:

Members attending the meeting: Eva Weller, Sandy Barrett, Deborah Goldberg, James Hinton, Eva Padilla, 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.

Approve Minutes:

August 22, 2022

Eva asked members to review and approve the minutes from the August 22, 2022, meeting. Malinda Polite made the motion to approve the minutes without changes. Deborah Goldberg seconded to approve the minutes as submitted. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Budget Report Stamford Day

Eva informed that Shobhna Bhatnagar is still in India helping family with her father's illness. She suggested the MMC wait for Shobhna to present the treasurer's budget report at the next meeting.

Projects/Events:

- *Rhythm & Rumba Sala Nights*: Eva reported that the MMC is ready for Salsa night. She thanked Pilar for participating in the site visit with her, Alisa Bowens, and Dianne Houtz at Mill River Park on September 1 at 2:00 pm. The meeting was scheduled based on Alisa's availability and that was the only day and time she was available. Eva informed that there will be one table and we'll distribute MMC shopping bags and other community resources. The event will take place in the same area as Stamford day, at the fountain. Alisa will bring 4 or 5 percussionists, and Mill River Park Collaborative as our partner will cover those expenses for the percussionists. Eva thanked Ana Gallegos for being able to secure permission for parking space from UConn. Pilar Pelaez said that Dianne suggested the dance area be in the middle, not on the grass for safety. The snack bar will be open. Ana said the MMC asked the Alliance of Chaplains in CT to help with parking and helping people cross the street from the parking lot to the park. Ana informed that a press release drafted by the Chair had been sent and approved by the Mayor's Office. It was translated to Spanish by Ana and sent to the Spanish newspapers El Sol and La Voz Hispana CT. Flyers publicizing Salsa Nights, in English and in Spanish, have been distributed at events, sent to organizations and groups, as well as published in the MMC social media and Patch. Khadija is helping to publish the flyers in Eventbrite. Ana asked the Council to please "like" and "share it".

- *White Party*: James Hinton said the "White Party" sounds like a terrific idea but. Mill River Park Collaborative is also considering a similar event in the spring. He suggested we ask them to confirm they are considering the "White Party" in the spring and that MMC wants to partner with them. Eva W. will talk with Mill River Park Collaborative about this possibility.

- *J Care Committee*: Deborah Goldberg informed the following:

- *Michael Twitty, an African American Jew who self identifies as Queer, presented stories and a cookbook.
- *David Page author and founder of the Food TV Show Diners, Drive-ins and Dives will present Oct 2 at 4pm live at the JCC.
- *Ira Rosen, a producer at 60 Minutes, who wrote a book about behind the scenes preparations at 60 Minutes will host a program on Oct. 24 at 7pm.

Debby shared an electronic copy of the Center for Arts & Culture brochure that includes the Book & Author Conversations, as well as the Jewish Film Festival films.

- *Community Conversation*: Eva encouraged the Council to attend the Community Conversation, which the MMC is co-sponsoring with other organizations on Monday, October 3rd at 6:00 pm at the Ferguson library.

She read highlights about Dr. Robert Livingston, a renowned social psychologist and leading expert on the science of underlying bias and racism in organizations. He is also the author of "The Conversation" published in 2021. In this book, he shares a radical approach to combatting racism. The book was selected from among 600 entries as one of six finalists for the Financial Times & McKinsey Best Book of 2021 Award. "The Conversation" was also nominated for a 2022 NAACP Image Award in the "Outstanding Literary Work—Instructional" category.

Old Business:

- *Film: "Reflecting on Anti-Bias Education in Action: The Early Years"*. Eva requested an update. Sonal informed that they are still waiting for the proposal, and they are excited to implement it.

- *Walk for Unity in our Community & Day of Action September 11th*: Debby thanked Pilar Pelaez, Sonal Patel and Ana Gallegos for participating in the Walk. She informed the Council that the Walk was held on Sunday from 1:00 pm at the Mill River Park and that despite the rain, there were a good number of participants. Mayor Simmons and other government officials attended the event. She added that a small group of non-English-speaking people also attended. Eva thanked Debby for the report and added the importance of reaching out to others to be part of the community.

-Eva asked if someone attended the 3rd Caribbean-Cultural Festival on Sunday, September 11th at Leone Park. Ana Gallegos thanked Sonal Patel for the information she shared about this event. She informed that flyers about the event were posted on the MMC social media. Ana said that she attended the event and she believed that because it was done for the first-time there were just a few people. Sandra Barrett also attended in the afternoon, and she agreed it was not that well attended. Next year is an opportunity for a better attendance.

- Eva thanked Sandra Barrett, Sonal Patel and Ana Gallegos for attending the opening reception for a new traveling exhibit: "It Happened Here" presented by the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County on Sunday, September 18th at the Ferguson Library. She said that it was a well-attended event and full of interesting and interactive conversations.

New Projects:

- "Afternoon of Jazz": Eva said that at next meeting we'll have more details about this event in March.

- Eva said that Yelena Klompus from the Ferguson Library is still working on logistics about the World Fest/One City event. She hopes to have more details next meeting.

Announcements:

-Ana Gallegos informed that Yelena Klompus from the Ferguson Library emailed a brochure which contains all events for the Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations at the Ferguson Library. She is inviting the Council to attend the events and asked us to share the information. Ana said that she will share this flyer and Deborah's flyers with the Council.

-Eva Weller informed that Quetzal from Stamford has invited the MMC to attend the event of Guatemala flag raising on Sunday, September 18 at 10:00 am at Columbus Park. Eva was not able to attend, but Eva Padilla, Pilar Pelaez and Ana Gallegos attended the event representing the MMC.

There was a suggestion to consider changing the time of the MMC monthly meeting. Eva will send some possibilities to see if we if there is a better time for most of Council members to attend.

A meeting with Mayor Caroline Simmons will be requested.

Next Meeting: October 24, 2022

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm.

Submitted by:

Ana Gallegos, MMC Secretary