



Mayor's Multicultural Council of Stamford Meeting held virtually

MINUTES

October 24, 2022

Attendance and quorum check:

Members attending the meeting: Eva Weller, James Hinton, Hayate Jandar, Eva Padilla, Sonal Patel, Pilar Pelaez, Malinda Polite and Ana Gallegos.

Eva Weller, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

Welcome:

Eva Weller as Chair welcomed members and thanked everyone for attending the virtual meeting.

Approve Minutes:

September 19, 2022

Eva asked members to review and approve the minutes from the September 19, 2022, meeting. Malinda Polite made the motion to approve the minutes without any changes. Eva Padilla seconded to approve the minutes as submitted. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Budget Report Stamford Day

Eva shared that Shobhna Bhatnagar is still in India with her family helping to care for her father. She said that when Shobhna returns she will present the treasurer's budget report at the next meeting. Eva informed that the updated expenses are related to Salsa nights -- \$750 for each night plus the water that we provide to the attendees. There was a charge of \$400 for the percussionists that was covered by Mill River Park.

Projects/Events:

- *Rhythm & Rumba Salsa Nights*: Eva reported that both salsa nights were successful and fun family events with around 100 participants each night. Many requested additional nights. Some suggestions were made: To combine the dance with different types of music; explore food or drink options, offer food or promote picnic style where the public brings food. The Food Box offered hot chocolate for the October event. We could consider partnering with restaurants.

Ana and Kadisha helped to advertise our event on the MMC social media, Hispanic newspapers, Patch, sent to organizations and groups and in Eventbrite.

- *White Party*: Eva reported that Mill River Park Collaborative may not hold the White Party this year. MMC should consider this opportunity as a possibility in June. The council concurred that it's a great idea to sponsor the White Party. A suggestion was made to research the possibility of having a fashion show. Another suggestion was to showcase native clothing fashions of our diverse community. James and Malinda accepted to co-chair this initiative with an event committee.

- *Community Conversation*: Eva reported an excellent turnout at the Ferguson Library for the Community Conversation with Dr. Robert Livingston, a renowned social psychologist and leading expert on the science of underlying bias and racism in organizations, in which the MMC co-sponsored with other organizations on Monday, October 3rd at 6:00 pm. Attendees expressed the idea of having him come back or having a follow up event on the topic. A suggestion was made that this type of event be presented in the schools. She thanked Pilar Pelaez and Ana Gallegos for also attending.

- *Hispanic Heritage Month*: Eva Weller thanked Mayor Caroline Simmons, Carmen Hughes, and Janeene Freeman for inviting the Mayor's Multicultural Council to the event celebrating Hispanic Heritage month on October 6, 2022. During the event the contributions of the Hispanic Community to the City of Stamford were recognized. Mayor Simmons presented a proclamation to the Mayor's Multicultural Council. It was especially rewarding to see a turnout of many groups at the event. Eva thanked Sandra Barret, Eva Padilla, Pilar Pelaez and Ana Gallegos for attending the event and representing the MMC. She added that MMC Secretary Ana Gallegos is also part of the Mayor's Diversity Committee. Eva thanked Ana for promoting the event on the MMC media.

-*FallFest & 10th Anniversary of the Marcus for Change 5K Walk & Run* the Mayor's Multicultural Council participated at the Fall Festival organized by SPEF, Sunday, October 23, 2022, at the Mill River Park, Stamford. The MMC presented an interactive, hands-on activity. Both children and adults enjoyed adding stickers to a map indicating their family's country of origin. We also gave away MMC shopping bags.

Old Business:

- *Film: "Reflecting on Anti-Bias Education in Action: The Early Years"*. Eva requested an update. Sonal informed that she'll email Jennifer Hallissey to ask for updates. Sonal said that she spoke with two CLC teachers at the SPEF event and they expressed their interest and the importance of this training being incorporated into the curriculum.

New Projects:

- "Afternoon of Jazz": Eva said that the popular Jazz concert will take place at the Ferguson Library from 2:00 to 4:30pm on March 12, 2023. She said that she is still working on more details and asked members to save on their calendar as help is needed for the program and on the day of the event.

Stamford Day: Eva said that Stamford day will be on Sunday, May 14, 2023 and will follow the same model as this past year with even more community groups and organizations.

Announcements:

-Malinda Polite invited the MMC members to attend the Stamford Branch of the NAACP Annual Freedom Fund dinner Friday, October 28, at The Water's Edge at Giovanni's.

- Eva Weller invited the council to attend the October 30th lecture sponsored by JHSFC with John Q. Barrett who is returning to Stamford to address the question: "Is Justice Possible? The History and Limits of International War Crimes Tribunals particularly when military aggression leads to atrocities as in the Ukraine today." It will take place at Temple Beth El at 11:00am.

-Pilar Pelaez shared that she is currently working in the Board of Education. Previously, she was a Parent facilitator at Dolan.

-Eva Weller stated that she is proud of the council because we are more involved and have been a presence in the community with events that reflect our diversity and also uniting the community through different initiatives and partnerships.

Next Meeting: December 2022

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 pm.

Submitted by:

Ana Gallegos, MMC Secretary