



Mayor's Multicultural Council of Stamford Meeting held via zoom

February 27, 2023

Attendance and quorum check:

Members attending the meeting: Eva Weller, Sandra Jean Barrett, Peter Dao, Deborah Goldberg, James Hinton, Francise Jean-Louis, Yelena Klompus, Sonal Patel, Malinda Polite, Ajmal Qureshi and Ana Gallegos. Corey Paris, Eva Padilla and Pilar Pelaez responded they were unable to attend the meeting.

Eva Weller, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

Welcome:

Eva, as Chair, welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting virtually. Eva invited members to honor the memory of Nino Antonelli, MMC former chair and council member by having a moment of silence and sharing how he touched many lives through his leadership in the MMC and community. Members expressed gratitude for his leadership and shared how well he represented MMC, encouraged support for the MMC and initiatives in the community. He was a kind, respectful and hardworking leader. Nino will be missed by our community. Eva added that she sent a card to him on behalf of the MMC after our last meeting. She will follow up with a condolence card to his family.

Approve Minutes: January 11, 2023

Eva asked members to review and approve the minutes from the January 30th, meeting. Sandra Barrett made the motion to accept the minutes as submitted. Peter Dao seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Budget Report: Since treasurer Shobhna Bhatnagar was not present, Eva W. reported that she had submitted a reimbursement for \$170. The remaining funds for the fiscal year are approximately \$7,708. The "MMC Afternoon of Jazz" to be held in March will incur the next expenses.

Projects and Updates:

Black History Month Community Conversation: Eva said that she spoke briefly with Alice Knapp about the Community Conversation the MMC is considering. Alice was interested in pursuing the idea of partnering with MMC on this project. Since the Library's focus now is fundraising, Eva will meet with her later to explore how best to pursue partnering on the Community Conversation.

MMC Afternoon of Jazz: Eva W. shared the "MMC Afternoon of Jazz" concert will be fantastic. It will be held on March 12th at the Ferguson Library. She confirmed that the groups performing are: The *Stamford High School Jazz Ensemble*; *Joe Corsello Trio* with Joe Corsello, Felix Endico and Tony Truglio; *Zully Ramos and The OGs*. Eva thanked Ana for taking reservations by phone and MMC email. The flyers have been published in MMC social media and Eva asked everyone to please share them with their contacts. Ana and Eva prepared the program for the concert. Debbie Goldberg will proofread the program before printing. Invitations will be sent to the Mayor and Alice Knapp. Eva said that after the press release is approved by the Mayor's Office it will be translated into Spanish and sent to the Spanish newspapers. Yelena Klompus is helping to promote the jazz concert through the Ferguson Library. Eva asked members to help the day of the event. Sandra, Debbie and Sonal will help with registration, Ana will translate the introductions. Ajmal also volunteered. Eva said the library will help with set up. The DJ will be there by 12:30 to check the sound system with the musicians. A discussion about the best way to communicate the diversity of the MMC members in the program was held and tabled for further discussion.

Stamford Day: Eva Weller said that she contacted Mill River Park Collaborative and agreed that the best day to hold Stamford Day 2023 is on May 21st with the same format of presentations, performances and table activities as last year. She informed that Ana prepared a letter to send to the community organizations and dance groups that participated last year. We'll confirm UConn parking before it is sent. Eva added that she will contact Mill River Park and Pilar about arranging for food and ice cream trucks and the required permits. Debbie agreed to help with the passport activity, since it was popular last year. We'll have the Quilt activity and ask Luz to help once again. We agreed to buy gift certificates from the Ferguson Library book shop for the raffle and ice cream vouchers for the children participating in the

passport activity. Another suggestion was to give food vouchers to volunteers and participants instead of buying t-shirts or hats. Eva said that she will ask the committee to present their ideas at the next meeting.

World Fest/One City: Yelena Klompus confirmed that the World Fest/One City will be held on May 7th at the Ferguson Library in partnership with the MMC. She added that dances representing different countries will be present: ballroom dance, folk dance, flamenco, etc. Yelena will share the flyers with the Council.

White Party: Co-chairs Malinda Polite and James Hinton informed that they are looking to hold a *Fashion Show*, instead of the White Party. James said having it in the mall with the participation of the stores and designers, as well as, including native outfits from different countries would be interesting to the public. They contacted Miss CT who is involved in modeling and is willing to coordinate the fashion show free of charge. James said that the next step will be meeting with people in the mall to share the idea and confirm dates that could be at the end of June or mid-August. The possible expenses will be related to DJ, changing rooms, snacks, water, models. The time could be at 3:30 pm. Eva Weller thanked James and Malinda for the report and recommended that based on the MMC budget year, which ends June 30th to plan to have early in June so invoices could be submitted before the end of the fiscal year. Eva Weller also suggested the possibility of holding it during the annual outdoors summer mall "block party" event. James and Malinda will explore this option.

Old Business:

Film: "Reflecting on Anti-Bias Education in Action: The Early Years". Sonal informed that the CLC response was that for now they have other priorities. Sonal will reach out to other organizations like PLTI or SC2C.

Announcements:

Ana Gallegos shared that the Ecuadorian Civic Committee is holding a Drawing Contest for students 8 to 16 years old, on March 26 from 2:00 to 5:00 pm at the Government Center. She added that this is possible due to the grant the ECCFC received from the Arts and Culture Commission under Mayor Simmons. She asked the members to please help to pass the word.

Next Meeting: March 27

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm

Submitted by:

Ana Gallegos, MMC Secretary