



**Mayor's Multicultural Council of Stamford
Meeting held via zoom**

March 27, 2023

Attendance and quorum check:

Members attending the meeting: Eva Weller, Shobhna Bhatnagar, Lauren Meyer, Sandra Jean Barrett, Deborah Goldberg, Yelena Klompus, Sonal Patel, Pilar Pelaez, Malinda Polite, Ajmal Qureshi and Ana Gallegos. Corey Paris, James Hinton and Peter Dao apologized for being unable to attend the meeting.

Eva Weller, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

Welcome:

Eva, as Chair, welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting. The meeting was changed to zoom for the convenience of all. She expressed sincere wishes for a happy spring and for a meaningful Ramadan celebration to those celebrating the holiday.

Eva invited Ajmal Qureshi to share some highlights of this special celebration. Ajmal said that Ramadan is celebrated with fasting and abstinence. It's a time of spiritual awareness: empathy, forgiveness and giving to the poor. The Holy Month of Ramadan is a time of blessing and prayer.

Eva introduced Lauren Meyer, Special Assistant to Mayor and Director of Policy & Legislative Affairs, ADA Council Liaison to Mayor Simmons. Lauren greeted MMC members. Eva asked about Mayor Simmons' statement regarding the hate literature that was placed on residents' driveways in the Pepper Ridge-Springdale area of Stamford. She said that the safety of the community is a priority for Mayor Simmons. Lauren said the Board of Representatives also issued a special resolution to condemn this disturbing behavior. Eva asked if it was appropriate for the MMC to support the Board of Representatives and the Mayor's statements. Sandra Barrett said that we must keep in mind that MMC is not political, but this incident doesn't look like a political situation. Deborah Goldberg shared that the statement is well written. She made the following motion: "As the MMC, our role is to be seen as part of our community. We support the Board of Representatives and the Mayor's Statement as is". Ana Gallegos seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. Lauren thanked everyone for their commitment and for everything we do as MMC and added, Mayor Simmons is also aware of all you do.

Approve Minutes: February 27, 2023

Eva asked members to review and approve the minutes from the February 27th meeting. Yelena Klompus made the motion to accept the minutes as submitted. Deborah Goldberg seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Budget Report: Treasurer Shobhna Bhatnagar reported the following:

Total MMC Budget as 7/1/2022 -- \$9.500		
Events	Expense	Budget Available
Salsa – 2 Sessions	\$1,669.28	
Jazz 2023 (proposal \$3.025)	\$1,904.00	
Total as March 27-2023	\$3,573.28	\$5,926.72
Expected Programs and Proposed Budget		
Stamford Day 2023	\$4,415.00	\$1,511.72
Fashion Show		
Total Expected	\$4,415.00	\$1,511.72

Eva Weller reported the expenses for jazz concert were less than proposed/approved budget of \$3.025. One group cancelled very late, the printing was in kind, the DJ charged less this year, and the cost of food was less. She said two events -- Stamford Day and the Fashion Show will incur expenses.

Projects and Updates: Eva thanked Shobhna Bhatnagar and Ana Gallegos for being co-chairs for Stamford Day on May 21 to be held at Mill River Park. She asked them to present the budget proposal for the event. The following proposal was presented:

Items	2023 Stamford Day Expenses: Proposed	
	Budget	Explanation
Quilt	\$200	crayons, glue, clipboards, pens, pencils, erasers sticky notes
Snacks (500 bags)	\$500	Goldfish, Frito Lay, Pirate's Booty Aged White Cheddar Snack
Water	\$150	
50 Passport – Kona Ice	\$250	Cost of supplies: paper, copies, pencils, stamps ice-cream vouchers for children's participants
Advertising - Lawn Signs	\$450	30 signs
Printing	\$200	Program, flyer
DJ	\$450	
Raffle	\$200	Gift certificates (Ferguson Library)
Coffee/Croissants, bagels	\$100	(Volunteers, speakers)
Miscellaneous	\$100	tablecloths, raffle tickets, name tags,
40 Tables & 90 Padded chairs	\$840	(\$693.4) 40 Tables@\$10+90 Padded chairs @ \$2 +setupfees- 75+SundayDeiliver&Pickup-125+Sales Tax-60
Vouchers food	\$675	One for each volunteer (40) and maximum 2 for non-profits community/ agencies (80)
Photographer	\$150	
Electricity/ parking/	In kind	
Other expenses	\$150	
Banners	0	
Total	\$4,415	

Eva said that Mill River Park Collaborative Ok'd four (4) food trucks-- one would be the Kone Ice. Pilar said that she contacted them but there is no answer yet. She asked Ana to send a letter when they confirm. Eva shared that Chief Mann would participate. His story is an important and unique piece of Stamford's history. Eva asked to have a motion for the proposal. Sandra Barrett made the motion to approve the budget of \$4,415 for Stamford Day. Malinda Polite seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. Eva Weller thanked everyone for the time and support for this initiative.

Projects and Updates:

MMC Afternoon of Jazz: Eva W. thanked everyone who was involved in the planning, getting the word out and helping at the event. Yelena Klompus (Ferguson Library) Eden Huang (food), Ana Gallegos (flyers and reservations), Deborah Goldberg and Sonal Patel (MCs) and Shobhna Bhatnagar and Malinda Polite (attendees). Yelena said that it went very smoothly., The concert really brought a diverse audience and everyone enjoyed the music and also dancing. The number of pre-registered guests was 45 and there were 73 walk-ins plus the musicians and people who came later after we stopped the walk-in registration process. The groups that performed were: *The Stamford High School Jazz Ensemble; Joe Corsello Trio* with Joe Corsello, Felix Endico and Tony Truglio; *Zully Ramos and The OGs.*

"It Happened Here! Eva reported that Carmen Hughes from IDEAS in partnership with the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County and Mayor Simmons is working on a reception for "It Happened Here! a traveling exhibit, on Monday, April 10, 2023, at 5:30 pm. She said that each community has a story to tell, and she hopes that this exhibit inspires other communities to share their story. Eva asked for a motion for MMC sponsorship. Ana Gallegos made the motion that the MMC be one of the sponsors for the reception of the traveling exhibit "It Happened Here! on April 10th. Malinda Polite seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. Eva encouraged all MMC members to attend.

Fashion Show: Co-chair Malinda Polite informed that James Hinton, Ana Gallegos and she attended a meeting with Marti Etter, Executive Director of The Ballet School of Stamford Foundation at the Mall, to discuss the collaboration between the Mall, Block Party and MMC responsibility for the fashion Show. She said that although the plan is not yet finalized to make a formal proposal, she has some information to share. The MMC event will be held on Saturday June 24 at 4:00 pm. The MMC would be responsible for part of the costs for the stage. The rest

of expenses would be paid by the Stamford Town Center that includes DJ, changing rooms and snacks. The plan is to have models and some individuals in the community who would model and bring people to the event. Some examples are the Mayor, the Teacher of the Year, leaders from organizations. The outfits could be from the stores and from MMC members or friends representing their countries of origin. We want to show the diversity and many cultures of the MMC. We could present 2 or 3 groups in between the presentations the Mall has planned. The committee and representatives from the Stamford Town Center agreed that this can be a different, creative event. A partnership between the Mall (Block Party) and the MMC could be a win for both groups. Eva Weller thanked Malinda for the report and asked members to let Malinda know if they are interested in being part of the planning committee. Because the event is scheduled for the end of June, Eva suggested that invoices be submitted before the end of the fiscal year.

Old Business:

Eva informed that Angela L. Edwards, Founder & CEO of the William E. Edwards Academic College Tours, Inc. (WEE-ACT) of Stamford requested that the MMC again co-sponsor movie night in August. They asked for help with permits and getting the word out. No funds are requested. Eva Weller made the motion "That the MMC be the co-sponsor of the August 2023, WEE-ACT movie night event with other organizations supporting the William E. Edwards Academic College Tours, Inc. Sandra Barrett seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Film: Reflecting on Anti-Bias Education in Action: The Early Years. Sonal Patel reported that she met with Regan Allen PLTI Coordinator, Lauren Scopaz Daunais from SC2C and shared the video. Sonal learned that the SPS has a similar program. However, they are interested in this film because it has a different approach which could be presented in the SPS and to the public. It was suggested to host the event in the library and introduce the film to get the public interested. Presenters with an expertise in elementary or middle schools could possibly be included. We could also ask Donn Reid or Michael Hyman to help facilitate the program.

World Fest: Yelena shared that she had secured dancers for World Fest from Ukraine, Poland, India, the Spanish Flamenco, and Latin music. She will send a flyer to the MMC when it 's available. She asked that all members help promote the event and get the word out.

Announcements:

Ana Gallegos shared that the Ecuadorian Civic Committee has a New Board of Directors. Ana Gallegos is the new President. The Swearing in Ceremony will be held on April 19 at the Government Center.

Eva Weller said May's regularly scheduled meeting will be a problem because May 22 is the day after Stamford Day and the 29 is Memorial Day. Eva suggested the meeting on Monday April 24 be a Stamford Day committee meeting where co-chairs Ana Gallegos and Shobhna Bhatnagar focus on updates and planning for Stamford Day. The next MMC meeting could be held on Monday, May 8 or 15 before our Stamford Day event.

Next Meeting: April 24 (Stamford Day Committee Meeting and updates)

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm

Submitted by:

Ana Gallegos, MMC Secretary