



Mayor's Multicultural Council of Stamford Meeting held via zoom

May 15, 2023

Attendance and quorum check:

Members attending the meeting: Eva Weller, Shobhna Bhatnagar, Sandra Jean Barrett, James Hinton, Yelena Klompus, Sonal Patel, Ajmal Qureshi and Ana Gallegos. Malinda Polite, Pilar Pelaez and Peter Dao apologized for being unable to attend the meeting because of a conflict with another event, a sick family member, and for prior work commitments which could not be rescheduled, respectively.

Eva Weller, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:38 pm.

Welcome:

Eva, as Chair, welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting.

Approve Minutes: March 27, 2023

Eva asked members to review and approve the minutes from the March 27th meeting. Sonal Patel made the motion to accept the minutes as submitted. Yelena Klompus seconded the motion to accept minutes as presented. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Budget Report: Treasurer Shobhna Bhatnagar reported that there were no changes from the last report. Approved budget of \$4.415 for Stamford Day, and approximately \$1.511.72 remaining in the budget for fiscal year 2022/2023.

Projects/Events Updates:

-World Fest/One City: Eva W. asked Yelena Klompus to report on the event. Yelena thanked everyone who attended or helped at the event which had an attendance of 220 people. Groups representing India, Ukraine, Poland performed. A flamenco dance with Latin-American music was also part of the event. She thanked Eva Weller, Shobhna Bhatnagar, Sonal Patel, Malinda Polite, and Ana Gallegos for helping with registration and food serving. Ajmal Qureshi and his wife also attended the event. Eva Weller congratulated Yelena on the success of the event and thanked her for the opportunity for the MMC to partner on this event which aligns with the MMC mission.

-Stamford Day 2023: May 21: Eva Weller thanked Shobhna and Ana for leading the committee meeting last month. Eva asked both to present a summary of the committee meeting to be included in today's minutes. Eva asked if everyone had read the committee meeting summary sent prior to this meeting. Shobhna said we had been working with the proposal budget of \$4.415. With James's help, it has been confirmed the expenses for the 40 tables and 90 chairs will be \$900, which includes Sunday delivery and pick-up charges. Using last year as a guide, the Stamford Day Committee plans to buy the same number of supplies for the quilt and passport activities as last year. There will be 12 gift certificates of \$15 each from the Ferguson Library bookstore for raffle prizes.

Ana screen-shared drafts of documents with lists of responsibilities for MMC, volunteers, dance groups, singers and artists. Additional draft lists of community organizations/agencies that are participating or still need to respond and confirm participation were also shared. Documents/lists will be updated before printing. Some sent regrets for this year and thanked the MMC for the invitation and opportunity to participate. They asked to be invited to participate in future events. Some organizations are participating in the SC2C event on Saturday May 20th and do not have staff to cover this event and Stamford Day.

During the Committee meeting on April 24, Pilar asked about the invitation to Latino Foundation. Ana screen-shared that the invitation was sent on Monday, March 27 and was resent on May 2, but there was no reply yet. Pilar also requested sending invitations to other community organizations and volunteers. The invitations were sent out and some responded positively. Confirmed dance groups are Albania, India, Ukraine, Perú, Poland, Guatemala, Ecuador, Haiti. We are still waiting confirmation from Greece and Ireland.

Eva Weller mentioned that since Deborah Goldberg won't be able to attend due to a medical emergency, she asked Malinda and Ajmal to help with coordinating the Passport activity and registration. As was done in the past, each activity will have one MMC member as a point person to coordinate each activity with a group of volunteers:

Peter Dao, all MMC & volunteers: SET UP AND CLEAN UP
Ajmal Qureshi: REGISTRATION
Ana Gallegos: COMMUNITY/AGENCIES TABLES
Malinda Polite: PASSPORT and artists

Sonal Patel: VOLUNTEERS
Shobhna Bhatnagar: QUILT ACTIVITIES
Yelena Klompus: DANCE GROUPS and SINGERS
Pilar Pelaez: FOOD TRUCKS, coffee, and croissants

Eva reported that a press release was sent to the Mayor's Office for approval and distribution and to be shared with social media. Ana agreed to translate to Spanish and send to the Hispanic newspapers. Eva is inviting all speakers to the event and is asking them to limit their presentations to two minutes. Dignitaries, key representatives from service organizations and history organizations are important to include in Stamford Day and highlight Stamford's diversity in city resources available.

Eva Weller thanked Council member Francise for posting Stamford Day in Eventbrite. Flyers and information were posted on the MMC social media sites, sent to organizations, such as, Ferguson library, Stamford Patch, Hey Stamford, and a request was made to Stamford Downtown. Yelena Klompus offered to bring flags from different countries to display during Stamford Day. Eva said that she arranged to use the podium from Mill River Park Collaborative at the event. It was mentioned that Stamford Day is not posted on the Mill River Park Collaborative calendar. Eva will follow up with them about that and other publicity they are sharing with their network. She reported that lawn signs are ordered and the new graphic design was donated in-kind.

Eva thanked Shelly Nichani who generously agreed to donate snack items and water for 400 goodie bags. Eva invited council members to help fill the bags on Friday 19 at 6:00 pm at the Hampton Inn. Eva asked everyone to arrive at 9:00 am on Sunday 21 to set up for Stamford Day. Ana said the Alliance of Chaplains will have two volunteer groups- one to help with set-up in the morning and the other group for clean-up. They will also host a community table.

- Fashion Show: Eva W. asked co-chairs Malinda Polite and James Hinton to report on this new event. James thanked Melinda for being proactive with the initiative. He said that they are still working on the logistics. Mrs. CT is going to help with the event, and she won't charge, because this will be one of her community activities. Malinda said the plan is to have the fashion show during the Mall Block Party event. This is a two-day event and MMC will hold two segments of 20 to 25 minutes each on Saturday, June 24th only at 4:00 pm. We are still working to get people interested in modeling and finding contact information to reach out to stores in the mall that may be interested in providing outfits for the models. We don't have an exact amount of expenses yet to make a proposal. The Stamford Town Center originally requested \$800 -\$1000 for stage and DJ. They hope to have more information from Marti Etter after they meet with her. Co-chairs Melinda or James asked MMC if they would like to be models or to give them names of individuals in the community who might be interested in modeling on June 24th. Eva thanked them for the report and update.

- Eva asked Sonal, representing the MMC, to report about attending the HACGS-Hispanic Advisory Council of Greater Stamford meeting. Sonal said that it was interesting because she learned about other group initiatives that support our community. Sonal met people from different groups and promoted the MMC and its events. She said that one person was excited to be invited to participate in Stamford Day.

Announcements:

- Eva Weller shared about two new events in Stamford which Carmen Hughes (IDEAS Director) wanted to share at the meeting:
- Amistad I Stamford -- the opening ceremony was on Saturday May 13th. The Amistad will be in Stamford from May 9 to June 2 and tours are offered to the public and special tours for different organizations. Please share the flyers that were shared with MMC.
- Eva shared that Carmen Hughes wanted to discuss the possibility of the MMC partnering with IDEAS Office on the new city-wide celebration event for Juneteenth on June 17th. Sandra Barrett announced that the North Stamford Seven-Day Adventist Church HEALTH Fair would take place on June 11 at 10:00am at 2134 High Ridge Rd. She will send the flyer with more information and asked that members share the flyer and information.
- Ana Gallegos shared that the Ecuadorian Civic Committee is offering scholarships to Ecuadorian and Latin/Hispanic high school students attending college this September. She asked permission to post on MMC social media.

Next Meeting: June 26th

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 pm

Submitted by:
Ana Gallegos, MMC Secretary