



Mayor's Multicultural Council of Stamford
Meeting held via Zoom

March 25, 2024

Attendance and quorum check:

Members in attendance: Eva Weller, Malinda Polite, Shobhna Bhatnagar, Carmen Hughes, Sandra Barrett, Deborah Goldberg, Yelena Klompus, Sonal Patel, Pilar Pelaez, Ajmal Qureshi and Ana Gallegos.

Eva Weller, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:21 pm.

Welcome:

Eva Weller welcomed everyone and thanked them for making the effort to attend the meeting. She informed the council that Lauren Meyer let her know George Johnson is interested in joining the MMC.

Approve Minutes: February 26, 2024

Eva asked everyone to review the minutes from the February 26 meeting. Ajmal Qureshi made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Deborah Goldberg seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Budget Report

Carmen Hughes indicated that it's the hope that MMC will host more events representing the city's diversity and continue to grow its attendance at events. She is requesting an increased budget of \$15,000 or \$20,000 to continue the mission of the MMC. Carmen thanked Eva and Ana for their leadership and added that with the fantastic new Executive Board the team will continue uniting our efforts and working together.

Shobhna Bhatnagar, treasurer, reported that the fiscal year budget was \$9.500.

The actual expenses to 3/26/2024 were:

HBCU Movie Night: \$82	Rhythm and Rumba Salsa Nights (2 nights) \$1,600
Purchase of the MMC bags \$1,585.63	Jazz expenses to date \$1,210.33
TOTAL expenses: \$4,477,96	REMAINING Budget: \$5,022.04

The expenses for Afternoon of Jazz 2024:

Items	Proposed budget	Actual
Artists	\$800	\$800
DJ	\$400	\$400
Printing	\$200	\$10.33
food/water/cutlery	\$300	\$0
Flowers	\$50	\$0
TOTAL expenses:	\$1,750	\$1,210,33

Projects/Events Report.

MMC Afternoon of Jazz 2024. Eva Weller informed the jazz concert was held at the Ferguson Library on March 24 from 2:00 to 4:30 pm. She asked Yelena, as MMC member and coordinator for the Ferguson Library, to share about the event. Yelena said that it was an amazing event. She thanked Eva and the Council for putting together a program with such excellent musicians. She added that the event went smoothly, the sound system worked well, and it was a well-attended event. She said the library provided a beautiful program and thanked Ana for adding a bookmark for publicity. Eva thanked Yelena for having the library co-sponsor and for putting the advertising online. She thanked Ana for taking registrations by phone and email. Eva thanked Malinda, Shobhna, Sonal, Sandra, Debby, Pilar, Ajmal and Ana for helping the day of the event and Eden Huang for her assistance with the food. Eva said that it's a plus that we did not have to pay for the venue. For past concerts held at the church we paid \$200. Eva said the proposed budget of \$1,750 for the jazz concert was approved at the last meeting. The actual spent was less because the Ferguson Library as co-sponsor donated in-kind goods and services. Eva reported there would be additional expenses because not all receipts have been submitted.

Eva thanked Sandra for attending the HACGS meeting in person and bringing flyers advertising the jazz concert and for representing the MMC and letting the group learn about the MMC mission and upcoming events.

Projects/Events Updates:

- Interfaith Seder - Deborah Goldberg invited the council to attend the Interfaith Seder: Uniting Our Community, on April 11th, at 6:30 pm in UCONN Stamford. The event is open to all. She asked for help to pass the word to our communities and said that this is a community event where people from different cultures, backgrounds and faith can learn together. Debby thanked Eva for sharing the invitation and Ana for translating the flyer and posting in the social media.

- Stamford Day 2024- Eva informed that on Monday, March 11 the Stamford Day planning committee met. She thanked council members who attended the meeting. She reminded members that Shobhna and Ana are event cochairs. Ana shared on screen a list of the organizations, dance groups and artists that the MMC will invite to participate in Stamford Day. She asked for suggestions and contact information of organizations or groups to be invited to participate. Ana worked with Eva on the invitation letter and flyers to be sent by email. Eva shared that Mill River Park Collaborative suggested three food trucks and the ice cream truck. Pilar will contact the food trucks. Ana said that on March 21st, she started sending invitations to organizations and dance groups and she is happy to inform that she already is receiving responses of interest and participation. She sent an updated invitation to last year's volunteers on March 21st. Depending on the number of responses we'll reach out to additional volunteers, and she asked members for recommendations of volunteers. As for last year, a list of tasks will be shared and council members will be asked to help. Ana said that Debby had been a great help creating, revising, and chairing the passport activity. Malinda chaired the passport activity last year because Debby was unable to attend. Last year, for the first time, Sonal smoothly handled volunteer sign-in and letting volunteers know their assignments. Some assignments could be repeated or changed depending on members schedules and interest. Everyone is asked to help and be part of Stamford Day 2024. We'll continue working on the logistics for this important event and will update at the next meeting.

New Projects

- Diversity Day event at Roxbury School: Ana shared that Daiana Negrón (Journal of Hope and the Roxbury School Action under the School Governance Council) are hosting their first Diversity Day Event in April 2024 and asked the MMC for help with entertainment. They want to include cultural dance performers to showcase their talent at the school. Ana said this is the first time a school asked us to help with a multicultural event. It shows that MMC is recognized for multicultural events in the community. She added that Daiana is a PLTI graduate and participated as a volunteer in Stamford Day last year. Eva asked for a motion. Ana Gallegos motioned for the MMC to support the Diversity Day Event at Roxbury School with dance groups on April 30. Sonal seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Announcements:

- Eva Weller wished a Happy Holi to all.

- Malinda asked if the MMC will host the Fashion Show again this year. Eva said that it has not been proposed or discussed yet this year. The Fashion Show was part of the Block Party at the Town Center and we do not know if they are planning that event this year and if the event model will change. Eva said let's find out more about their plans. Last year the Fashion Show was a minimal cost. Malinda said that to have a good show, it will take at least four months of planning. Eva asked Malinda if she was interested in chairing the event if MMC decides to hold a Fashion Show. Malinda responded that she would chair the event. Eva asked the council for volunteers to be part of the planning committee. Malinda, Shobhna, Ana and Eva expressed their interest. Eva invited others to join this committee.

-Carmen said that Malinda had been invited to be part of the planning meeting for Juneteenth. We'll know more details after that meeting.

Next Meeting: April 29, 2024

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm

Submitted by: Ana Gallegos, MMC Secretary