



Mayor's Multicultural Council of Stamford

Meeting held via Zoom

April 29, 2024

Attendance and quorum check:

Members in attendance: Eva Weller, Malinda Polite, Shobhna Bhatnagar, Sandra Barrett, James Hinton, George Johnson, Yelena Klompus, Sonal Patel, and Ana Gallegos. Deborah Goldberg and Ajmal Qureshi gave reasons for their absence.

Eva Weller, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:22 pm.

Welcome:

Eva Weller welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting. She reported that Lauren Meyer from the Mayor's Office, recommended George Johnson, Jr. to join the MMC. She thanked George for attending the Afternoon of Jazz concert. Eva asked George to introduce himself and share why he is interested in joining the MMC. George is a Stamford native and a Para-Educator/Special Education Teacher and has worked for the SPS for 18 years. He also has worked for eight weeks with the Boys and Girls Club mentoring program. He is interested in learning about opportunities to do more in the community and is grateful for the opportunity to be part of the MMC.

Approve Minutes: March 25, 2024

Eva asked members to review minutes from the March 25th meeting. Shobhna Bhatnagar made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Yelena Klompus seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Budget Report

Eva Weller informed that she, Carmen Hughes and Ana Gallegos presented the MMC proposed budget of \$20,000 to the Board of Representatives fiscal committee on April 11th. The Mayor's Office increased the MMC budget request with the help of Carmen Hughes who supported the request by reporting increased responsibilities of the MMC, such as a new role with flag raising ceremonies. The BOR committee members asked questions and noted how much the MMC was accomplishing with a limited budget. Eva presented about the importance of in-kind contributions and partnering with other organizations. Representative Anabel Figueroa asked for additional budget details. The BOR approved the budget request, but the Board of Finance cut the budget to \$10,000, which is \$500 more than last year's budget. Treasurer Shobhna Bhatnagar was away and did not attend the budget hearing. Shobhna thanked Eva and Ana for revising the budget report. Shobhna presented the budget on screen. She said that the four events below required a financial commitment and the bulk purchase of bags for MMC events was an expense this fiscal year.

HBCU Movie Night: \$82.00	Rhythm and Rumba Salsa Nights (2 nights) \$1,600.00
Purchase - MMC bags \$1,495.66	Jazz expenses to date \$1,449.66
Total Expenses: 9,462.62	In Kind: \$2,734.00
Stamford Day 2024: \$4,535.00 (proposal)	Remaining Budget: \$37.39

Eva asked if there were any questions or need for clarification of any items. There were none.

Eva said that the MMC pull-up banners were broken. Shobhna made the motion to buy two replacement banners for up to \$300 each. Sandra seconded. Motion carried.

Shobhna presented the following proposed budget for Stamford Day 2024:

Items	Proposed	Items	Proposed
100 Quilt pieces, 100 passports	\$450	Snacks (for 500 bags)	\$500
Water	In kind	tablecloths (community tables)	\$50
100 Passport - Ice	\$250	Advertising - Lawn Signs	\$225
Printing	\$400	DJ	\$400
Raffle	\$180	Donuts, Bagels,	In kind
Plates, napkins - and cutlery	\$80	Photographer	\$150
Coffee, creamers, cream cheese, liquid and powdered creamers and sugar, 3 gallons of water	\$150	50 Tables & 100 Padded chairs	\$1,450
Vouchers food	\$500	Electricity/ parking/	\$50
500 bags (\$500 already paid by MMC)			
TOTAL: \$4,535	In kind: 1000	Total expected: \$5,535	

Shobhna moved to approve the proposal budget up to \$4,535 for Stamford Day 2024. Meera seconded the

motion. Eva asked if members have questions. There were none. The motion was approved unanimously.

Projects/Events Updates:

Stamford Day: Ana presented and shared on screen information related to Stamford Day. She said that of the 70 community organizations/agencies listed, 45 confirmed their participation and only 4 will not be able to participate. She said that it's a good sign that the MMC is known in the community so many organizations responded right away, and it is wonderful that all these organizations are willing to participate. Ana reported that it was recommended by the MMC executive board to have no more than 50 organizations this year, an increase of 14 from last year, so MMC can manage the budget and logistics. After discussion of pros and cons, Eva asked for a motion. Ana made the motion for a deadline of noon on Friday May 3 for organizations to register with the option that some organizations share tables. Yelena Klompus seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

Ana said she is happy to share that letters were also sent to a total of 22 dance, music, and/or performance groups. 15 groups have confirmed their participation, 2 thanked MMC for the invitation but are not available that day. We are still waiting for a few additional responses. Thanks to Eva W., dancers will have a place to change inside the Whittingham Pavilion. Eva reported that 15 dignitaries and presenters have accepted.

Ana shared that an invitation was sent to the volunteers. She is planning to send another email with the name of the MMC coordinator and information about responsibilities. Ana added this information was translated into Spanish. Ana asked for contact information of potential volunteers.

Ana shared on screen a tentative list of responsibilities for council members to coordinate with volunteers. She suggested that all members help at the Registration table.

Registration table: Ajmal Qureshi coordinator	Volunteers: Sonal Patel
Passport: Deborah Goldberg	Quilt: Meera Banta
Organizations: Ana Gallegos- Naomi Osei-Mensah	Banner: Naomi Osei-Mensah
Dance Groups: Yelena Klompus,	Food trucks - water: Pilar Pelaez
Tell a Story: George Johnson /Frank Skornia	
Photographer: Julio Sanchez	Set up and clean up: Sergio and Lourdes Roqué

Eva shared the committee will meet to continue working on logistics. Eva said that she is pleased to report a new activity with the Ferguson Library. Frank Skornia will host a table to "Tell the Story" -- by interviewing members and the public as part of a history project. It was also suggested to send a link of pictures to the organizations, along with a thank you note for their participation.

Projects/Events Report.

Eva thanked Debby, Meera, Pilar, and Ana for attending the Interfaith Seder with her and thanked Debby for the invitation for MMC to be a co-sponsor. Carmen was a speaker. Meera reported that it was a very nice event at UCONN Stamford. She said that it was a beautiful experience of shared respect and acceptance.

New Projects

-Juneteenth will be held on June 15th. Malinda shared the event is still being planned at weekly meetings. Malinda is representing MMC and will share updates.

- Diversity Day event at Roxbury School: Ana shared that three dance groups had accepted the invitation to participate at the Diversity Day event at Roxbury. Daiana Negron is coordinating with MMC. Eva extended an invitation to members and asked them to let her know if they planned to attend.

Announcements:

- Malinda said that NNACP will be participating in Stamford Day.
- Yelena shared an invitation to attend an Opera at the Ferguson Library on May 11th.
- Ana announced that the Ecuadorian Civic Committee will hold a Drawing Contest on June 9 and award college scholarships on June 23. Ana asked permission to post flyers in the MMC social media.
- Eva asked for prayers for Francise and her MOM, who is very ill.
- Eva shared Corey Paris will present on Stamford Day. Corey was recently engaged to Symphonie Privett.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 28, 2024

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 pm

Submitted by: Ana Gallegos, MMC Secretary