



## Mayor's Multicultural Council of Stamford

Meeting held in person and via Zoom

**Monday, October 28, 2024**

### Attendance and Quorum Check:

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

**Meeting Called to Order:** Eva Weller, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:19 pm.

**Welcome:** Eva Weller thanked members for responding and attending in person and welcomed those on zoom.

**Approve Minutes:** Eva asked members to review the minutes from the September 30, 2024, meeting. Yelena Klompus made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Sonal Patel seconded the motion. The September 30, 2024, meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

### Budget Report:

Treasurer Shobhna Bhatnagar informed the remaining budget available is \$8,106.51. Total expenses were: \$1,893.49 and \$760 was received as an in-kind donation.

1. Payment of \$550 for two banners purchased in the previous fiscal year was paid in the current fiscal year budget of \$10,000 reducing the remaining budget amount to \$9,450.
2. HBUC Movie Night in Jackie Robinson Park: \$15.20 for flyers to advertise Salsa Nights. She said she was waiting for copies of invoices from Carmen, for popcorn, and popcorn bags.
3. Salsa- Rhythm and Rumba Nights on 9/20/24 and 9/28/24: total payment \$1,632.19: Instructor \$1,600, printing for the next Salsa Night was \$7.98 and water \$10.00. In Kind: \$760 for percussion paid by Mill River Park Collaborative.
4. Senior Center fundraising event: Payment of raffle prize of books from the Ferguson Library \$26.11
5. Family Day Health Fair at the Yerwood Center: water \$20
6. SPEF's 5K event: Payment of \$200, half of the cost share with SPEF for DJ.

Eva said the banners were used for multiple occasions. not only for a specific event. The MMC bags were given away at different events. We gave out bags from Stamford Day at the HBUC movie night and Salsa Nights, at Fall Fest, and Family Day events. Bags were given away to promote the MMC to the community.

### Projects/Events Report:

**\*Fall Fest organized by SPEF:** Chair Eva Weller thanked Sonal Patel and Ana Gallegos for joining her at the 5K Race and Fall Fest organized by SPEF, on October 6. Eva said that it was a well-attended event. Eva thanked Sonal for managing the MMC table and giving away MMC bags. SPEF CEO, Malena Loucks, was thankful and pleased to co-sponsor the cultural entertainment with MMC which was very well attended and received by the audience. Dance groups from different countries participated -- Ecuador, Perú, Guatemala, India, Paraguay, and Ukraine participated. Eva thanked Ana for coordinating. Ana and SPEF created two flyers to be shared in social media. MMC approved sharing the cost of a DJ with SPEF in the amount of \$200.00. Pilar was a participant in the event with the SPS.

### Projects/Events Updates:

Eva encouraged council members to let her know about events in our community.

**\*Polish event at Ferguson:** Eva thanked Sandra, Sonal and Ana for joining her at the Polish Heritage Month event at the Ferguson Library on October 27th. She congratulated Yelena for a very successful event with phenomenal artists and dancers. The saxophonist is a well-recognized musician in the community. She thanked Yelena for inviting the MMC to be part of the celebration.

**\*Diwali event:** Eva thanked Shobhna, Meera and Sonal for being part of the Diwali celebration planning committee that will take place in the community room at the Stamford Police Station on October 31<sup>st</sup>. Shobhna and Sonal said that they are not sure about the final program but there will be decorations, dances, food, and henna painting. They will be in touch with Carmen for more details. Eva thanked Yelena for providing the

contact of Roushan Ahmed who will do the Henna art at the event. Yelena said that she provided her name and other ideas to Carmen. Yashasvi is also helping to organize the event.

**\* Stamford Kindness Initiative:** Carmen shared about the Mayor's Stamford Kindness Initiative, which begins on November 1<sup>st</sup> and encouraged council members to share ideas and participate in the initiative. Deborah Goldberg made the following motion: The MMC will be a supporter of the Mayor's Stamford Kindness initiative. Malinda Polite seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. Eva W. shared a photo of a Kindness Rock Garden on screen. Rocks could be painted with a Kindness message and a "garden" created, possibly in front of the Government Center. Carmen suggested placing similar rocks around the city for people to find. Ana mentioned an idea she had heard about in another meeting -- to create flags to distribute at the Veterans Day Parade and Thanksgiving Day Parade. She said that we can add the logo of the MMC and write the word kindness in different languages. After discussing at the meeting, Yelena Klompus made the motion to spend no more than \$100 for the kindness flag project. Ana Gallegos seconded the motion. The motion carried. Yelena offered to find a room at the Ferguson Library to prepare the flags on Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Debbie suggested the MMC logo and kindness word be translated and pre-printed, then added to the flags.

**New Business:**

**St. Patrick's Day Parade:** Eva informed the MMC that the St. Patrick's Day Parade will be on March 1<sup>st</sup> and the MMC was invited to participate again this year. More information will follow as the event date is closer.

**\*Diwali at Ferguson:** Yelena Klompus made the motion for MMC to co-sponsor the Diwali event at the library on November 17. Meera Banta seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Yelena will share information about the event and an Indian artist.

**United Nations:** Ajmal Qureshi shared that October is the celebration of the United Nations. He suggested MMC sponsor an event or program to celebrate it next year.

**Announcements:**

**Next Meeting:** Monday, November 25, 2024

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

**Submitted by:** Ana Gallegos, MMC Secretary