



Mayor's Multicultural Council of Stamford

Meeting held via Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 992 184 1396

Passcode: 374400

MINUTES

February 22, 2021

Our Mission:

To inform, celebrate, promote, understand, appreciate and respect the many diverse cultures that enrich Stamford

Attendance and quorum check:

Members attending the zoom meeting: Eva Weller, Shobhna Bhatnagar, Roberto Figueroa, Deborah Goldberg, Eileen Heaphy, James Hinton, Eva Padilla, Pilar Pelaez, Malinda Polite and Ana Gallegos.

Eva Weller, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:25 PM.

Welcome:

Eva welcomed MMC members and thanked everyone for attending the virtual meeting.

January 25, 2021 Minutes:

Eva, as Chair, asked members to review and approve the minutes from the January 25, 2021 meeting. Eileen Heaphy made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Deborah Goldberg seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Budget Update & Report:

Eva asked Shobhna to report to the Council about the budget. Shobhna said that there is not a budget update besides the approved budget of \$4,000 allocated for the MMC "Afternoon of Jazz". The event is in the planning stage and will be held on March 21st. A full report will be made next month after the event.

Projects/Events:

Jazz Concert Planning Committee: Eva reported that the initial plan presented in the event proposal was to pre-record the concert and then present it virtually on Saturday, March 20th, but changes were necessary because the Law Department had concerns about potential copywrite issues. We reached out to Curtain Call and they agreed to co-sponsor the concert. Their licenses will cover the event. Eva said that she spoke with Curtain Call's executive director, Lou Ursone, and he is happy to provide the space for the live streamed jazz concert. He offered use of the indoor theatre or weather permitting, the outdoor stage which will be erected in April. Members decided to hold the concert on Sunday, March 21 in the afternoon from 3:00 to 5:00pm as we had done in the past. Eva said that few people will be allowed to be present at the theater due to Covid-19 restrictions. James offered to help as the stage manager. Eva said that the videographer is willing to record members who will introduce the musicians. In this way Council members will be more visible to the community and show we are a diverse group. The recorded introductions will have sub-titles in Spanish. Members supported Eva's idea. Ana informed that an invitation had been sent to the Mayor asking him to welcome the musicians and the audience. Valerie responded that the Mayor agreed, and she will schedule a date for the recording.

Eva informed that this will be a terrific concert with the artists who will be performing at the concert. She added that the artists who confirmed are: Cookie Thomas, accompanied by Joe McWilliams, Barbara's Serenade with Barbara Occhino, Steve Clarke and Jim Olbrys, Project Music, Roylety Steel Pan Band with Jim Royle, John Mobilio and Brian Ente and Subhi Khanna. Shobhna said that she contacted Subhi and has permission to use her original recorded music. Eva said that when we have all the agreements between the Law Department and the artists, we'll need help with advertising the event. It is very important that members help us send out the invitation to friends, contacts, groups and organizations.

Eva announced that on Tuesday February 24th at 6:30 the publicity committee (Malinda, Francise, Eileen, Eva and Ana) will get together to find new ways to send invitations, such as, by making use of electronic sites, such as Eventbrite, to register attendees. The committee would decide if flyers and a program would be used as we had done in prior years. Eileen suggested sending information to the newspaper such as "Go" and "Plan On It", also to the radio and Channel 12. Ana said that after the press release is approved by the Mayor's Office, she will translate into Spanish and also send to the three Spanish newspapers. Eva

reported that Francise is working on a media list. Pilar said that she will share the lists she has used in prior years. It was suggested that the videographer prepare a visual/trailer to use for publicity as, well as, email, Facebook, and other social media to advertise the concert. It was also suggested to create and send a flyer electronically with a clickable link. Due to Covid-19 restrictions we are limited in traditional ways to reach the public. Ana suggested sending invitations to people who registered for the jazz concerts in previous years.

Eva said that because we need to change the venue and hold a hybrid concert with recorded and live performances, there may be additional costs. She asked for a motion to have the Council approve an increase in the event budget for an additional \$2,000, in case it is needed because the event will be held before the next scheduled Council meeting. Robert said that we need to keep in mind that we may need funds for other events this fiscal year. Ana said that previously other committees had requested funding but did not need the entire amount because we looked for ways to spend less. Ana made the motion to approve an extra \$1,000 for the Jazz committee to use only if it was needed. James seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Eva thanked the Council for this approval. Eva reported that on Saturday at 1:00 pm James, Roberto, the videographer, Barbara Occhino and she will meet with Lou at the Curtain Call to have a better idea of the space for the concert. Eva mentioned that the rental fee for Curtain Call is \$1, but we will find out if there will be extra expenses like fees for the custodian, sound system, etc. Eileen shared that the Council could vote by email because other organizations are conducting business this way. It was also decided that if it's necessary, the Council can vote by email.

Call to Action: Shobhna shared that the National Parent Leadership Training Institute (NPLTI) is holding a book club about "Caste". She suggested the Council wait so we could see how they are proceeding, and we can decide if we want to follow their lead or do something else. We can later decide if the group will be Council members only, invite other groups, have Donn Reid facilitate the book discussion, as discussed previously, or invite a speaker. It was also mentioned that in order to have this reading we should check the availability of the book at the library. Shobhna said that we could have access and borrow books up to three weeks at live.com. The planning committee: Shobhna, Debby and Francise will get together to plan and then report back to the Council.

Stamford Day: Eva informed that unfortunately she was not able to meet with Dudley Williams since he has been ill. She said that for now we should concentrate on the jazz event and then determine if Covid-19 guidelines allow us to hold Stamford Day this year.

Announcements:

Ana said that the evening with author Alka Joshi presented by the Friends of the Ferguson Library on February 16th, was interesting. The author was charming, and the book is about the Indian culture and the challenges Indian women faced.

Debbie informed that she will be attending a different book club about "Caste". She said that she will report to the Council about the reading and discussion.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 22, 2021 at 6:15 pm.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 pm.

Submitted by Ana Gallegos
MMC Secretary