



Mayor's Multicultural Council of Stamford

Meeting held via Zoom

Meeting ID: 992 184 1396

Passcode: 374400

MINUTES May 24, 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, Hayate Jandar, Francise Jean-Louis, Eva Padilla, Malinda Polite and Ana Gallegos.

Eva Weller, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:18 PM.

Welcome:

Eva welcomed MMC members and thanked everyone for attending the virtual meeting. Eva shared the news of the passing of Sandra Barrett's sister-in law and also of Dudley N. Williams, President & CEO of Mill River Park Collaborative. She asked the members to please keep their families and community in our prayers during this difficult time.

April 26, 2021, Minutes:

Eva, as Chair, asked members to review and approve the minutes from the April 26, meeting. Roberto Figueroa made the motion to approve the minutes. Malinda Polite seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously. Debby asked to correct the name of the project to Building Bridges with Books.

Eva mentioned that she will invite Anka Badurina Building One Community (B1C) Executive Director and Khalid Belhabib President of Moroccan House of America (MHA) to attend the next regular MMC meeting. Shobhna mentioned that Sonal Patel attended Stamford Day. Eva will contact Marty for her contact information.

Treasurer's Report:

Shobhna Bhatnagar, presented the following updated report of the approved budget for 2020-2021 and actual expenses for the year, including Stamford Day expenses.

Approved Budget 2020-2021	\$9000
Programs/Initiatives	Actual Expense
Marc Us for Change: \$250.00	250.00
Afternoon of Jazz: \$3522.74	3522.74
Stamford Day	2065.45
Total expense	5838.19
Amount remaining	\$3161.81

Stamford Day 2021 Expenses		
Items	Proposed Budget	Actual Spent
Quilt project	168.94	206.00
Snacks (200) to filled in bags	300	215.80
Water	100	in kind
Banners (3)	1,000.00	625.00
Extra Duty Police Officers	1,628.64	0
Permit	25.04	0
Electricity	348.12	0
Advertising - Lawn Signs	200	210.00
Program flyer & printing	200	In kind
Raffle 10 gift cards of \$20 (5 gift cards for \$15)	200	75 (5 gift cards)

Items	Proposed Budget	Actual Spend
DJ	350	351.00
Coffee/Donuts-Volunteers & Speakers		63.00
Supplies		69.65
Gift Cards (specific volunteers)		250.00
Total	\$4520.74	\$2,065.45

Eva asked if anyone had any additional expenses from Stamford Day to let her or Shobhna know, so they can be recorded and submitted before the end of the fiscal year.

Report of Stamford Day: Eva reported that Stamford Day which was co-sponsored with the Mill River Park Collaborative was a success and accomplished the MMC objective of celebrating the history and diversity of Stamford by experiencing the art, music and dance of many groups and learning about the contributions of eleven organizations that serve Stamford's diverse population. The Mayor's Multicultural Council in chairing and running the event was visible to the community at large and to city leaders. Mayor Martin presented a proclamation, Representative Bob Lion presented a Sense-of- the-Board Resolution and Corey Paris and Caroline Simmons presented a citation from the CT General Assembly. The Town Clerk welcomed Chief Vincent Mann of the Turtle Clan of the Ramapough, who represented the original inhabitants of Stamford. At least 350 people attended the event and enjoyed the art, music and festivities during the lovely afternoon. Eva thanked everyone who helped with the event, including those who were not present that day -- Hayate, Malinda, Shobhna and Ana for coming on Friday to help to stuff the bags, which were given out to the children who participated in the quilt project and to the performers and attendees. Debby edited the program so we could meet our deadline. Shelly provided people to bring the materials and supplies from the Government Center to the Mill River Park and vice versa. Pilar arranged for the food and ice cream trucks and Eden helped with the required permits. Eva, Corey and Meera were MC's. Valerie from the Mayor's Office helped with the Mayor's Proclamation, certificates of participation for the dancers, singers and artists and Press Release. Sandra coordinated all the volunteers. Shobhna coordinated the dancers and singers. Ana coordinated with the groups and performers, sending the invitation letters, translating documents, creating the event flyers and the program and for getting permission to use the parking lot at UConn. Ana thanked Eva and everyone for working as a team. She reported that 27 volunteers signed in, and 22 participated. Ana added that she is pleased to inform that most of the volunteers are PLTI or PEP graduates. She said that she is grateful for the assistance of Kathy Harrison from UConn and Valerie Pankosky from the Mayor's Office for working quickly to obtain parking permission. Ana made name tags for the Council members and volunteers. Eva said it was so wonderful, that we had the support from many people including the Mill River Park Collaborative staff to make this complex and new for the MMC Stamford Day event such a success.

New Business:

Eva suggested that the MMC consider purchasing one- size fits all replacement caps to give to volunteers at our events instead of t-shirts. She asked Ana to review the estimates and proposals from past years when caps and hoodies were ordered. Ana reported that an estimate from one of the providers was for \$1,450 for 150 caps and \$360 for 12 sweatshirts, Eva said we will need a total of three quotes to see which is the lowest and best before we can decide to submit our request. Eva asked if someone would make a motion to approve these expenses, because the fiscal year ends on June 30th, and we need to submit the proposal in this fiscal year. Eileen made the motion to buy caps for no more than \$1,250. Ana made the motion to purchase the 12 sweatshirts for \$360. Roberto seconded the motion. The motion to spend no more than the total amount of \$1,610 for the two items was approved. It was suggested the sweatshirts have the logo only on the front. Hayate and James mentioned other providers that may have better prices. Ana and Eva will look for at least three quotes to be sent to the Mayor's Office for approval.

A suggestion was made for members from the Publicity Committee to be more involved in advertising the events and contacting the Mayor's Office. Ana mentioned that Malinda, Debbie and Francise had agreed to be part of the committee. She added that Malinda had contacted Valerie Cooper and through that connection, we had an artist from Haiti at Stamford Day. Debby also helped with the press release and program. Francise provided a revised list of media contacts.

Debbie said that the Walk For Unity will take place on August 9th from 2:30 to 3:30pm. She is grateful that Malinda and Pilar agreed to be part of the planning committee for the event and represent the MMC. Debby added said that there will be food trucks and dance groups performing. She reported that Shobhna, Debbie and Sandra will meet as part of the Book Committee and will send details of the suggested reading materials for in person and virtual programs once they are selected.

Eva suggested that we discuss what the MMC will sponsor for next year, such as, a speaker or a documentary and ideally before the end of the year.

Announcements:

Eileen announced that in July she is moving from Stamford to be closer to her family. Council members said that it could be an advantage having her as our long-distance consultant because of her long-time experience as a leader and her strong connections in the community.

Ana wished a happy belated birthday to Chair Eva Weller. Council members expressed best wishes to Eva on her birthday.

Ana announced the Ecuadorian Civic Committee held elections and have a New President, Pamela Cevallos. Ana informed that the MMC is one of the sponsors of the event in the Ferguson Library on June 6th. She added this event is a celebration of the Immigrant Day and will be followed by the Vigil of Light to honor people who died as consequence of the Covid 19. Eva said that it was an opportunity to include the MMC as a sponsor because many of the participating groups were formed by immigrants.

Eva reported that she asked Shelly about the possibility of getting together for a holiday/social gathering at the Hampton Inn as we had done in the past, and he kindly offered a room there for a dinner. It will be on Monday, June 28th at our regular meeting time. More details will be sent as we get closer to the date.

Next Meeting: Monday, June 28, 2021, at 6:15 pm.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Submitted by Ana Gallegos
MMC Secretary