



Mayor's Multicultural Council of Stamford
Mayor's Conference Room – 10th Floor
Government Center, 888 Washington Blvd.
Stamford, CT 06901

January 28, 2019

Our Mission:

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

MINUTES

Members Present: Roberto Figueroa, Martin Levine, Jeré Eaton, Eva Weller, Beatrice Chodosh, Nino Antonelli, Tom Bellete Goiton, Corey Paris, Eva Padilla and Ana Gallegos. Vice Chair Roberto Figueroa called this meeting to order at 6:25 PM.

Welcome

Vice Chair Roberto Figueroa welcomed MMC members and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Guest Speaker: Leslie Asllani of Stamford Interfaith Refugee Settlement

Roberto welcomed Leslie Asllani from the Stamford Interfaith Refugee Settlement (SIRS). Leslie said she learned about the MMC through Eva Weller, and also she has been the contact person of the Albanian group that participated at the Children's Parade and International Festival. She is thankful to Eva W. for her invitation and the MMC for hosting her.

Leslie said currently she has been working along with SIRS with a refugee family from Afghanistan in New Haven and at the same time with 14 other refugee families that came to USA; some of whom came to CT. She said the refugees receive whatever they need for six months before they can settle down.

Leslie invited the MMC to attend the Film "This is Home", a refugee history, on Thursday February 28, at 6:00pm at the Ferguson Library. She added there would be a panel after the film with Chris George, SIRS Executive Director. Everyone thanked Leslie for the information and invitation to the film.

Roberto asked MMC members to take few minutes to review and approve the minutes from November 16, 2018. Corey Paris made the motion to approve the minutes; Jeré Eaton seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Roberto thanked members for attending the Holiday Party; he also thanked Shelly for facilitating use of the venue for this celebration.

Projects: Open MIC Competition

Jeré passed copies of the Open MIC Competition Proposal, Program, Application and Flyer to everyone. This event will be at UConn on Sunday, February 24, 2019 from 3:00 to 5:00pm.

She stated "the objective is to celebrate Black History Month and encourage students to learn and share American history while developing public speaking and writing skills".

The proposed budget totals \$550 for expenses: \$300 AMEX gift card for winners; \$50 Starbucks; \$50 for judges; \$100 for snacks; \$50 misc expenses. Ana asked about the charges for the room, from UConn and Jeré replied that because the event is in partnership with UConn there is not a charge. The first part will be a presentation of the MMC and the second part will be by UConn students.

Jeré presented a list of possible judges: Robbie Jenkins, Richard "Cookie" Thomas, David Wooley, Crystal Perry and Olympia Della Flora.

She added that since the event will be done in partnership with the University of Connecticut, the participation and attendance will be greater. She noted the application has requirements for high school students who would like to participate.

Last year we had coverage from Channel 12 and the Advocate.

Eva stated the flyer should show clearly that the Mayor's Cultural Council is sponsoring the event; it was agreed for the present. It was requested to add the MMC logo, have the name of MMC on the top of the flyer on a bigger font, and clean the background before it is published.

Nino made the motion to approve the proposal; Eva Padilla seconded the motion. The proposal was approved.

New Business

BUDGET: Jeré presented a copy of the budget provided for the Mayor's Office. She said the original balance was \$9,000.00 and the updated current balance is **\$6,017.95**.

1. Children's Parade expenses were \$2,532.05, consisting of: Backpacks: \$650; SPEF: \$1,291.81; Face painting: \$300; Gift cards (Barnes & Noble) \$200; Map activity: \$54.07; Gift bags-wrapping paper & copies: \$36.17
 2. MMC Promotional **video**: \$450-John Velasco
- Eva said the expense for popcorn was not listed; Ana replied that Pilar had noted it was sponsored, so there was no charge to the MMC. There was consensus that we should know who is sponsoring, have a list and send a thank you note.

It was expressed that the Chair should have some limits on the amount he/she can spend so only one person doesn't make decisions; and instead the committee should make decisions.

Marty said the MMC can't exceed the money given by the city. Corey said we should keep consistency in the balance. Nino said we could have a planning session to put the numbers down, and then ask the Mayor to include the amount we may need.

Nino made the motion to approve the treasurer's report; Beatrice seconded the motion. The report was approved.

JAZZ event: Eva said she won't be able to chair the Jazz event, but she will facilitate information and details about the event. Ana said if someone is willing to co-chair it could be possible for Eva to do it again, because she has a file of information from last year that can be updated. Corey will think about it. We'll have more information for next meeting.

Art Festival: Beatrice said the Art Festival Committee was not able to meet. It was mentioned that since the event had a good attendance last year, it was suggested to find a different venue. The following members expressed their interest to join the committee: Eva Weller, Nino Antonelli, Corey Paris, Eva Padilla, Jeré Eaton and Ana Gallegos. Beatrice would send dates for a meeting to prepare the proposal to be presented at the next meeting to be approved.

Open Discussion:

- Ana shared an invitation from Latin Americans In Action (LAMIAC)–the Latin-American Talent Show is on Sunday, February 24, 2019 at Domus from 3:00 to 6:00 pm.
- Beatrice was invited to the Outstanding Latino Women event, a celebration for International Women's Day, on March 7 at the Ferguson Library at 3:00 p.m. This event is organized for Crisol Acuarela, Arte y Cultura and Grupo Quetzal.

Next Meeting: March 25, 2019 at 6:00 PM. Government Center 10th floor.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Submitted by: Ana Gallegos, Secretary