



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

May 20, 2019

Our Mission:

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

MINUTES

Members Present: Eva Weller, Marty Levine, Corey Paris, Sandra Barrett, Beatrice Chodosh, Roberto Figueroa, Deborah Goldberg, Pilar Pelaez and Ana Gallegos.

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

Welcome

Eva welcomed MMC members and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She asked members to take a few minutes to review and approve the minutes from April 22, 2019. Sandra Barrett made the motion to approve the minutes. Beatrice Chodosh seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Updates: Retreat

Eva reported that Donn Reid has agreed to facilitate the retreat and that Shelly generously offered the space at the Hampton Inn but it would depend on availability. Suggestions were made and discussed about to hold the retreat. The first suggestion was to hold it in a weekend in the morning, but after a discussion and to have a good attendance of MMC members, it was decided, the retreat should be held on one of MMC's regular meeting dates. That is open to further discussion after checking with Don about his availability. Corey said that we should invite people who may be interested in joining MMC as a member. Donn recommended that we would achieve the best outcome for the retreat if most members and specially those who are active and serious with the MMC are participants. It was also mentioned that we would like people from other groups such as, from the Muslim community, involved. It was suggested to the members write notes or questions about topics prior to the retreat.

Budget report

Eva said that it's important to have information about the end-of-year budget. The secretary said that the current balance is approximately of \$2,200. Eva referred to the two estimates previously submitted by Roberto for a dance floor that the MMC could provide to the dancers who participate at the different events of the MMC. The amount of the estimates is \$2,222.50 and \$2,553.20 respectively. Eva added that Jere also sent an additional estimate based on her research, but more details are needed for that estimate before a purchase. Robert explained about the quality of the dance floor options and offered to go back to confirm prices.

Several questions emerged from the discussion to purchase this item before making decisions.

1. Would the Government Center allow us to use it in the cafeteria?
2. How to move in and out and where to store, depending of the size?
3. Who would put together the pieces?
4. Need to check with the building department to see if there are standards or if it acceptable.
5. The possibility that the Recreation Department may want to use it.
6. Liability if others use it

It was said that the entire balance doesn't need to be used; however; a requested was made to have an inventory of items we have left and to use the money to buy needed items for the Children's Parade. It was suggested that because of the new ordinance banning the use of plastic bags, we should consider purchasing grocery bags would be a god idea. Eva asked if anyone is interested in helping her with the inventory and also with the research for cost estimates for the bags. Please to let her know.

Projects/Events

Jazz Festival Report:

Ana thanked all the MMC for their support. She expressed special thanks to Eva W., Shobhna, Marty, Beatrice, Eva P., James and Pilar for helping during the "Afternoon of Jazz" that took place on May 5, 2019 at the Unitarian Universalist Society, from 2:00 to 4:30pm. She added that Eva Weller as the MMC Chair, the Mayor David R. Martin, Reverend Dr. M. Frances Sink, Unitarian Universalist Society, Ana Gallegos Event Co-Chairs and the following wonderful performers: Westhill Jazz Ensemble Director Michael Wyatt; Sylvia Mims (vocalist) Tony Davis (guitar); Nicole Pasternak (vocalist) Hiroshi Yamazaki (piano) and Barbara's Serenade: Barbara Occhino (vocalist), Al Brooks (saxophone/flute), Steve Clarke (bass), Jim Olbrys (guitar), Bob Ramos (Latin percussion)

The approved proposal was for \$2,425; the total expenses were \$1,991.65 which included the following: Venue \$240; Musicians \$1,000; Advertising/printing \$351.65; and Sound system (DJ Thomas "Big T") \$400. In kind: food Shelly Nichani, Program/printing Regan Allan.

Art Festival update:

Beatrice said the event is taking place on Sunday, June 9, 2019 at the Government Center, 4th floor from 2:00 to 5:00pm. She added that it has been an issue finding dance groups to participate. Ana informed that she has confirmed four dance groups, three singers, two musicians, three painters and one group of photographers. Ana mentioned that the event has been advertised through different media: a notification sent from the Mayor's Office to its contacts, publications from the two Hispanic newspapers El Sol News and La Voz Hispana. The flyer and invitation were sent to the MMC, different community organizations and groups were asked to share with their contacts and network. Ana asked the MMC that since the invitation and flyer have been posted in the MMC Facebook page to please share it.

New Business Census

Marty informed that the 2020 Census Complete Count Committee has been established. The goal is to try to count as many people as possible. He stated that it's important to let everyone know about the importance of getting information and to encourage them to participate. Marty said that if you know someone who wants a job, let him/her know that the Census is hiring people and it pays \$25 per hour. He mentioned that it's preferable to have people who live in the area for this job. Marty added that for now, it's required to be US citizen to work for the Census.

Open Discussion:

Announcements

Pilar invited to the two following events: The Love of Art Auction on May 30, 2019 at 7:00pm to 10:00pm and to Sabor Together on Sunday June 23, 2019 from 10:00 am to 5:00pm; both events will be taken place at Stepping Stones Museum, Norwalk.

Beatrice asked to share the invitation made by the Loft Artists Association for children ages 7 to 14 years old to participate in the 2019 Summer Art Workshops from June 22 to August 10, 2019.

Eva W. invited the Council to attend the 3rd Annual Norma and Milton Mann Lecture: Seeking Justice and Protecting Human Rights in a Perilous World presented by Roya Hakakian on Sunday, June 16, 2019 at 11:00am, hosted by Temple Beth El, Stamford. The event is free and open to the public.

Next Meeting: June 24, 2019 at 6:00 PM. Government Center 10th floor.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Submitted by:
Ana Gallegos
Secretary