



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

Our Mission:

November 25, 2019

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

MINUTES

Members Present: Eva Weller, Marty Levine, Meera Banta, Sandra Barrett, Shobhna Bhatnagar, Deborah Goldberg, Eva Padilla, and Ana Gallegos.

Eva Weller, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

Welcome

Eva welcomed MMC members and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She also welcomed our guest: Donn Reid, Chief Values Officer, Domus Kids, Inc. who graciously agreed to facilitate the MMC's retreat.

Eva explained that last month's meeting didn't have a quorum, so the meeting was not considered official. She thanked Ana for taking notes from the informal discussion that was held on Monday, October 28th. Ana read the summary of the conversation listing the items below:

- The International Festival was successful thanks to the leadership of Corey and Ana as Co-chairs, with the great support, time and generosity of the MMC Chair, committee members and entire MMC.
 - The event did not have the expected attendance—only 314 children registered.
 - At the request of some participating groups, Ana will ask the Mayor's Office about the possibility of providing certificates to all participants at future events.
- Ideas of events which could be sponsored by the MMC or in partnership with other local business, corporations and organizations are:
 1. Different cultural events (Salsa Night, Sunday in the Park)
 2. Feature different countries / cultures (2 or 3 countries on the same date)
 3. Game Show, Naming a Cultural Performing Center
 4. Stamford Day 2020 event

Donn Reid our special Guest

Eva thanked Donn Reid for attending the meeting. She stated that Donn's background in facilitating should help MMC set goals and fulfill its mission.

Donn thanked Eva for the opportunity to work with the Council. He suggested we start with what would be most important for the MMC: that people know about the MMC, or that the MMC learns more about the community. These questions prompted a discussion about the role of the MMC in the community.

Eva read the May 16, 2019 Board of Representatives' proclamation establishing Stamford Day. Some follow-up ideas were to attend the Board of Representatives' meeting, and/or speak or meet with Matt Quinones, President of the Board of Representatives about the new Stamford Day event and help plan for this year's event if appropriate.

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Donn asked about events projected for this fiscal year, and invited the Council to review past events that MMC ran which had a significant impact on the community. After a brainstorming discussion, the following list was developed by those present:

Black History Month	Open Mic. (2x)	Speakers
Discussion on race	Gospel Musical Festival (\$)	Hispanic Heritage Month
Festival/Expo of Arts (2x)	Our Neighbors Faith	Afternoon of Jazz (2x)
Children's Parade	International Dance Festival	Columbus Parade
Impact Stamford	Flag Raisings	Immigration Panel
Stamford Day		

The Council also asked about the Sister City relationships with cities in Peru, Italy, Mexico, China and India. Because the details of how Sister Cities are established was not known by those present, the Council would need to research past procedures to see if there is a role for the MMC in the future.

Donn requested that a list of on-going concerns for the Council be prepared. The following were discussed:

Financial support	Respond to Issue	Participating in related events
Sharing info/community	Facebook	Mayor's Activity
Ambassador Role (business open)		A decision made, is a decision

There was a suggestion to have a protocol when attending community events as a representative of the MMC – possibly having cards or another way to identify that we are Council members when attending or signing in.

Another suggestion was to identify other communities that should be represented on the Council.

At the end of this discussion, Donn gave each member a tab to indicate priorities for selecting this year's events. Donn tallied the number of tabs by each event and the four with the most are listed below with potential months to consider for scheduling purposes:

1. Afternoon of Jazz (10 tabs) March?
 2. Festival/Expo of Arts (7 tabs) April or May?
 3. Stamford Day (6 tabs) May
 4. Impact Stamford (5 tabs) Summer- August?
- Eva Weller, Eva Padilla, Shobhna Bhatnagar and Sandra Barrett expressed interest in working on the jazz concert.
 - Ana Gallegos, Sandra Barrett and Eva Padilla expressed interest in working on the Art Festival/Expo.
 - Eva Weller, Ana Gallegos and Debbie Goldberg will follow up about Stamford Day.
 - Sandra Barrett, Debbie Goldberg, Shobhna Bhatnagar and Meera Banta expressed interest in working on the new Impact Stamford event.

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New Business

Ana shared that the Census 2020 is in need of workers.

- In order to encourage people to apply for Census-taking jobs, there was a change made that only USA citizens can apply for jobs.
- Currently those interested can apply for jobs if they have permission.
- She added that The Census job provides excellent pay, flexible hours, weekly pay and paid training.
- The applications are only online and the Ferguson Library is offering the space for recruitment.
- She also asked everyone to help spread the message that counting everyone gives Stamford better representation politically and financially. Everyone thanked Ana and agreed to share the information.

Announcements

Ana announced and invited all to the launch of the book "An Angel on Earth" by Mayole Gonzales, a Cuban artist and writer and UConn PEP graduate.

- She requested the support of the MMC by allowing her to use the MMC logo for the event.
- The MMC decided to obtain more information about the Cuban cultural connection in the story of the book and artwork before making the decision to approve support.
- Ana thanked everyone for their consideration and said she would request the information from Mayole.

Eva announced that the MMC, following past tradition, would hold a holiday dinner. Eva will make arrangements for the venue and send tentative dates. The date will be decided based on the number who can attend.

Next Meeting: January 27, 2020 at 6:00 PM. Government Center, 10th floor.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 PM.

Submitted by:

Ana Gallegos
MMC Secretary