



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

**April 22, 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, Sandra Barrett, Shobhna Bhatnagar, Beatrice Chodosh, Jeré Eaton, Deborah Goldberg, James Hinton, Eva Padilla, Corey Paris and Ana Gallegos.

Eva Weller, Chair called this meeting to order at 6:15 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 March 25, 2019. Corey Paris made the motion to approve the minutes. Sandra Barrett seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

**Election of officers:**

It was announced at the February meeting that the election of officers would be held at the April meeting where Marty Levine, the Mayor's representative encouraged all members, especially those interested in serving, to attend the meeting. Eva was appointed by the Mayor in February. Jeré Eaton was elected treasurer at the November meeting, so the positions to be filled were Vice Chair and Secretary. Ana Gallegos nominated Corey Paris for the Vice Chair position, seconded by Eva Padilla. Corey was elected Vice Chair unanimously and Ana Gallegos was unanimously re-elected as Secretary.

**Updates**

Eva read Mayor Martin's statement regarding the special meeting of Board of Representatives for the purpose of censuring one of their members, Rep. McGarry for her remarks about Hispanics and Muslims. Eva mentioned that she was asked by the Mayor's Office, as the MMC Chair, to write a statement. Eva stated "My feeling was that since we serve on the Mayor's Multicultural Council at his pleasure, we should support statements that are in keeping with the Council's mission. In this case, if I did not speak out with a supporting statement, it could be viewed that "silence is consent" and that would indicate the support was for Rep. McGarry's statements. Eva read her statement: "The Mayor's Multicultural Council strives to bring people of all backgrounds, culture and faith together and celebrates the City's rich diversity. Representative Marion McGarry's biased and prejudiced messages are the antithesis of everything the Council stands for. We do not believe Rep. McGarry is representing her constituents or the greater Stamford community by spreading such hurtful messages to the public. I support Representative Jonathan Jacobson's motion to censure Representative McGarry. We need representatives who believe in uniting our community, not dividing it."

It was agreed that although we are non-political, we could write a statement that the Council members could approve and use should another situation arise that would make it appropriate. The consensus was the statement should not be political. It was agreed that the first sentence of the statement reflected the Council's view. Eva suggested that this unfortunate incident is one of the reasons the MMC, should consider holding a retreat to discuss further the potential role of the Council, events, projects, programs and use of the Council's budget to benefit Stamford. Everyone supported her idea. Donn Reid was suggested by several members as the facilitator and Eva said she would see if he would work with us. Corey added that we are living in a place and time where prejudice is with us and we should do what we can to address it. It was concluded that Eva did the right thing and it was an opportunity for us as the MMC to make a statement on behalf of those who make the city diverse and culturally rich.

## **Projects/Events**

### **Art Festival update:**

Beatrice thanked Ana for presenting the Art Festival proposal on her behalf during the last meeting. Each member received a copy of the written proposal. The event will be held on Sunday, June 9, 2019 at the Café of the Government Center from 2:00 to 5:00pm.

Eva presented two estimates, researched by Roberto and sent prior to the meeting, for a dance floor that the MMC could provide to the dancers who participate at the different events of the MMC:

1. Swisstrax Corp. Indio, CA 92201. 20x20 Dance floor for the total amount of \$2,222.50
2. SnapLock Dance floor 20x20 Oak w/edging Total: \$2,553.20

It was decided that this expense was too high at this time and Jere offered to do some additional research and report back at the next meeting.

Ana informed the Council that potential participants had been sent formal letters inviting them to contact Beatrice. Upon confirmation of participants, Certificates of Participation will be requested of the Mayor's office. James confirmed that DJ Thomas Hardy, "Big T", would again be the DJ as he did an excellent job last year.

1. Dance Groups: (different from the Children's Parade) India, Colombia, Peru, Irish Group
2. Show of traditional costumes from Guatemala: María Sandoval
3. Singers: Michael Nunzianta (USA), Juan Nahuenir (Argentina), Wilma Cárdenas (Chile).
4. Rappers: Michael L. Stackhouse, Clayton Person, Candice Hall (USA)
5. Instrumental musicians: Anthony DePaz
6. Artists: Inna Linov, Mayelin Gonzalez and Fabian Cortés.
7. Photography: Santiago Sierra.

\* It was recommended by Jeré that the Dance group from the MIC Contest be invited to participate in the Children's Parade and International Festival.

The budget for the event is: Water/snack: \$300; Flyer/design: \$100; Program/printing: \$200; Sound system music: \$380; Misc. expenses: \$50. The total is: \$1,030.

Jeré made the motion to accept the proposal. Eva Padilla seconded the motion. The proposal was approved.

### **Jazz Festival update:**

Ana thanked Eva and Corey for their guidance and support planning the "Afternoon of Jazz" that takes place on May 5, 2019 at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation from 2:00 to 4:30pm. She added that we are working on the details and budget that was proposed to the Council. The event has been advertised in the MMC Facebook, newspapers, emails, radio and by mouth. Postcards were distributed to different places around the City. Reservations have been received by phone and the MMC email. Many members offered to volunteer and help during the day of the event with set up, clean up, registration, etc.

### **Retreat Update**

Need for a retreat was discussed, as well as the need to better organize our events, branch out with new ideas and find ways to involve people from different parts of Stamford in all that we do.

### **Announcements**

Deborah announced that the United Jewish Federation will present the survivor and author of "Four Perfect Pebbles, A Holocaust Story" by Marion Blumenthal Lazan on April 28 at 5:00 pm in the UConn-Stamford Auditorium. She invited members to attend the event.

Jeré invited the Council to attend A Town Hall meeting organized by the Connecticut Black & Puerto Rican Caucus; on April 27, 2019 at 10:00 am at the Government Center.

**Next Meeting:** May 20, 2019 at 6:00 PM. Government Center 10<sup>th</sup> floor.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Submitted by: Ana Gallegos, Secretary