



## **Mayor's Multicultural Council of Stamford**

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

**August 28, 2017**

### **Our Mission:**

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

### **MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Pilar Pelaez, Roberto Figueroa, Eva Weller, Eva Padilla, Jeré Eaton, Nino Antonelli, Sandra Barrett, Meera Banta, Beatrice Chodosh, Deborah Goldberg, Shobhna Bhatnagar and Ana Gallegos.

Meeting called to order by Chair Pilar Pelaez at 6:12 p.m.

### **Welcome**

Chair Pelaez welcomed MMC members and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She asked MMC members to take few minutes to review and approve the minutes of the last meeting. Sandra Barrett made the motion to approve the minutes; Nino Antonelli seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Pilar lead the board members in a minute of silence to honor Leila Montier, a dear MMC Board Member who passed away on July 26. She mentioned that, according with Leila's daughter, a special ceremony would be held at the Palace Theater. Also, Pilar added that Shelly has offered the Hampton's Inn to the family to use if they want to do something for Leila. More details will be share upon they are available.

Pilar welcomed and introduced Shobhna Bhatnagar as the new member of the MMC. Shobhna said that she had learned about MMC through Ana and she is thankful to her. Shobhna stated that she has been a Stamford resident for many years. She is married and has two children. She is a Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) graduate. She has been an active participant in different community events such as: Thanksgiving Parade, Stone Soup, community conversations and other community events. Shobhna thanked the Council for welcoming her and for the opportunity of being part of the MMC because this will allow her new opportunities to serve our community.

Pilar said that Elizabeth Joseph, our guess, would attend next meeting.

### **Project Updates:**

#### **Children's Day Parade & International Festival 2017**

Pilar thanked Roberto for attending the walk through with Matt Quinonez and Lynn Tusa. She informed everyone that the venue for the Children's Parade has been changed due to construction. It will take place at the other side Mill River Park by the carousel. Another change is the limited number of food trucks; there will be two because of the reduced space and because the Café will be open to the public and the carousel open for the children for an hour.

It was asked if we have any ideas about the expenses related to the Children's parade and International festival from previous years. Pilar said that there are no records with that information, and that she has received information from the Mayor's office, which was passed on to the treasurer. Robert presented a copy of the last year budget from the Mayor's office, which has information about expenses. The total of expenses were \$6,972.55. Pilar said that this summary is not complete because the amount related to copies doesn't appear on it. Eva Weller asked if the tent requested by Robert and approved for the council had been purchased. Pilar said that she submitted an invoice, but she was informed that the funds were closed for new expenses. Pilar informed everyone that the MMC received \$15,000.00 for the budget year July 1, 2017 to June 30 2018. The Mayor has asked that all departments "hold" 3%.

It was asked if the Committee has been taking the necessary steps related to the Children's Parade. Ana read the minutes related to the steps and recommendations made by Nino and Roberto. First she said, following their recommendations, the committee members: Pilar, Leila, Hayate and Ana have met with Matt Quinonez (SPEF) Sharon Beadle (Board of Education) and Eden Huang (Health department). The idea was to make sure that we are going to work together with SPEF; we will send the invitations to the elementary schools and obtain contact information from private schools, respectively.

About the International Festival, Pilar informed everyone that she had sent invites to different groups and four of them had confirmed their participation. Also Pilar stated that there are activities for children such as: face painting, Bouncing House and Draw Kids Free. Also raffle tickets will be given at time of registration and prizes will be drawn at the beginning of the Festival and at the end of the Parade. Nino and Hayata are in charge of this assignment.

Jeré requested to have a report about the expenses of the Children Parade from the treasurer. Roberto volunteer to talk with Paul to see if he would like to continue as a treasurer. Ana asked about the number of years that the event has been taking place, and Eva Padilla replied that it has been ongoing for five years. The Secretary doesn't have records about details or budgets of this event.

Sandra Barrett asked if we are giving a monetary donation to the participating groups. It was decided at previous meetings not to but instead to follow Meera's suggestion of presenting a Certificate of Participation from the Mayor's office, to each group.

Jeré asked about shirts and caps for the new MMC members. Pilar responded that as it was proposed, the MMC would purchase caps and hoodies for the MMC members and T-shirts for the volunteers. It was also approved to give the children bags with the MMC logo. Pilar will contact Shelly to ask whether we can use his place to fill the bags and about his offer to arrange for the snacks. Sandra mentioned that last year there were many volunteers, and she questioned giving extra t-shirts away that we had from previous years. Pilar agreed with Sandra and said that this year it will be more organized. Pilar said that we would need volunteers around 10:00 am for registration, around 11:00 am to coordinate the International Festival and 12:00 to organize the Children's Parade.

Jeré made a motion to allocate \$5,000.00 for the Children's Parade, Meera seconded. The budget was approved.

### Annual Senior Center Picnic

Ana informed that, as we agreed at the last meeting, the MMC is the co-sponsor of the Annual Senior Picnic again this year. This event will be on September 8, 2017 at the Cove Park pavilion from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Ana added that she had been in touch with Christina Crain, Executive Director of the Stamford Senior Center, and she is thrilled to have the MMC co-sponsor the picnic. Cristina has also shared that a local band has offered to perform at the picnic at no cost. Since the MMC offered to sponsor the DJ, Christina requested that perhaps instead, the MMC can help by getting gift cards from supermarkets or local restaurants to be used as raffle prizes. Ana also stated that with Leila and Pilar, it had been requested that the MMC get gift cards from Casa Viila and free tickets from the Palace Theater. The council approved the budget of \$300.00 to buy 12 gift cards of \$25 each from Stop & Shop and ShopRite. Ana thanked the council members for their support and advised she will contact the Mayor's office.

### **New Business**

Beatrice Chodosh presented the proposed Multicultural Arts Festival. Objective: To bring the multicultural communities of Stamford together by featuring the arts of many cultures and people represented in Stamford. The arts can include: music, dance, digital, canvas, poetry/spoken

word, etc.

Date - Time: TBD Sunday 2:00 to 6:00 pm Costs: \$1,500.00

Ana asked Beatrice if that event was different from the one that was suggested by Eva Weller at the last meeting, where Jeré and Eva Weller were to serve as co-chairs (see minutes of prior meeting). Jeré said that Beatrice and Eva Padilla are the co-chairs. Eva Weller replied that her idea last meeting was to have a Multicultural Music event and she is surprised that she was not invited to meet and prepare the proposal. When Eva was asked to help, she said that she always liked to help, but it took her by surprise.

Pilar asked Beatrice to set a date for her event and then questioned whether the venue was too small. Pilar suggested the matters of insurance and the number of people allowed in the lobby of the Government Center be investigated.

Sandra Barrett presented the proposed Black History Month Celebration. Objective: To bring the multicultural communities of Stamford together by featuring the arts of the African American culture and people represented in Stamford. The arts can include: music, dance, digital, canvas, poetry/spoken word, etc. Date - Time: February 17, 2018 from 2:00 to 6:00 pm Costs: \$2,500.00  
Pilar suggested having the names of representatives of organizations that are going to partner for the event.

Jeré presented the proposed A Discussion on Race Objective: To provide a SAFE educational environment to discuss race and the impact of historical activities on the current day events and activities. Date: January, 2018 Costs: \$400.00

Pilar thanked everyone and stated that she is very happy to see members presenting proposals, as she had been requested in previous meetings. She suggested having a set date for each event, budget, and names of people that represent the different groups that are going to partner with the MMC on the great events and to present more details of their proposal by the next meeting.

Robert said that at the next meeting, when the groups have more details about their proposals, and we know more about the MMC budget, we can review and approved.

### **Open Discussion:**

Eva mentioned that the US Day, Marcus for Change and the Mayor's Children Parade & International event, PLTI will have a table including Leila's project to honor her as a PLTI graduate. Also, there will be a request to have a moment of silence before the Children's Parade. Roberto requested by the next meeting to have a budget break down presented by the treasurer. Deborah requested to invite members of the Art and Culture Commission to the next MMC meeting.

It was requested to ask Hyate to attend the next meeting and let us know about the prizes for the event on October first.

### **Next Meeting:**

Next meeting will be held at the Government Center on September 25, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Submitted by:  
Ana Gallegos,  
Secretary