



Mayor's Multicultural Council of Stamford Meeting held virtually

MINUTES
February 28, 2022

Attendance and quorum check:

Members attending the meeting: Eva Weller, Shobhna Bhatnagar, Sandra Jean Barrett, Peter Dao, Deborah Goldberg, James Hinton, Francise Jean-Louis, Eva Padilla, Sonal Patel, Malinda Polite and Ana Gallegos.

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

Welcome:

Eva as Chair welcomed members and thanked everyone for attending the virtual meeting. Eva expressed congratulations for the celebration of Black History Month.

Approve Minutes:

January 24, 2022, Minutes:

Eva Weller, Chair, asked members to review and approve the minutes from the January 24, 2022, meeting. Peter Dao made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Sonal Patel seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Budget Report:

Shobhna Bhatnagar, treasurer, reported the remaining budget amount is \$9,250. Eva added that a \$500 fee for the 1/31/21 author presentation has not been processed yet, so the remaining budget will be \$8,750 after processing.

Projects/Events:

-Author Presentation: Eva reported that the MMC and Friends of Ferguson co-sponsored Roya Hakakian, author of "A Beginner's Guide to America" on January 31st. Eva thanked Shobhna. Ana and other council members for attending. Those in attendance agreed that the author gave an excellent presentation with interesting facts and information about immigrants. Also, members suggested the Council could consider using the recording for an open discussion about immigrants. The author answered all questions from those who attended in person and by zoom. One disappointment was the number in attendance in person and by zoom. Most agreed that since this was one of the first in person events, turnout could be related to Covid-19 concerns.

Old Business:

-Stamford Stands Against Racism update: Eva W. asked Shobhna to share updates. Shobhna said that because of the high cost of having Anu Gupta introduce the book "Caste", we will look into the option to invite the author, Isabel Wilkerson, instead. The committee of Eva W., Ana G. and Donn Reid is continuing the conversation because having the author would be meaningful to the community and she could offer different insights about the concepts in the book. Eva informed that we will reach out to other groups to see if they will contribute financially. Shobhna said that she will continue sharing updates.

-Film: "Reflecting on Anti-Bias Education in Action: The Early Years". Eva requested updates. Sonal Patel informed that she shared the film at the meeting with Jennifer Hallissey, Anna Witkowski and Linda Barge at CLC. Sonal reported that they were interested in introducing the film in their curriculum with a possible start date of March 11th. Sonal said that the film is appropriate given the diversity of their classes and behavior of students. They will also introduce the film and its concepts to the parents. She added that they are thinking of creating a pilot program and later share what they learn with the community and other childcare centers. Eva and all the members applauded and thanked Sonal for contacting CLC and for the resulting successful outcome.

New Projects:

-Afternoon of Jazz: Eva informed that she has been in touch with the Law Department at the Government Center and because of copyright concerns, we will not be allowed to live stream and record the jazz concert. The Council can hold the concert in person as in the past. Eva informed that Curtain Call is willing to work with us and we could possibly hold the concert outdoors. She also shared that the Ferguson Library is another venue to consider. They are open to MMC holding the concert there. It is downtown and is a

larger space with a piano. It would be different in a different venue but could work well. Last year was not in person. After discussion it was decided to hold the concert in June and focus on Stamford Day on May 15th. By then we hope Covid-19 will not be an issue. James Hinton made the motion to hold the "Afternoon of Jazz" concert in June. Deborah Goldberg seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

-Stamford Day 2022: Eva said she confirmed with Mill River Collaborative the Stamford Day reservation for May 15th. She asked members to share ideas about how to proceed with Stamford Day this year. It was agreed that last year's first-time event was successful. This year we want to consider additional ideas to make it even better. Some of the ideas that were suggested were:

- Tables for organizations/groups to share information about their mission & culture through fun "games"
- Incorporate history activities as part of the event.
- Create a recipe book
- Position the food trucks around the park.
- Have the historical scavenger hunt expanded.
- Have a passport for the children and families to visit the different community organizations' tables
- Provide opportunities to learn about different ethnic groups in different ways
- Incorporate Stamford's history with information about Stamford today

Eva Weller and event co-chairs Shobhna Bhatnagar and Ana Gallegos invited all council members to attend the first planning meeting on Thursday March 10, 2022, at 6:00 pm. Ana will send the link for the zoom.

Announcements:

Eva informed that on Tuesday, March 1 at 5:30pm in front of the Government Center, Mayor Caroline Simmons will be joined by Ukrainian American community leaders and elected officials to stand in solidarity with Ukraine. Eva invited members to attend the rally. Ana added that she posted this and other information on the MMC Facebook and Instagram pages. She requested members like and share the information posted in the MMC social media.

Next Meeting: March 28, 2022

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 pm.

Submitted by: Ana Gallegos, MMC Secretary