



## Mayor's Multicultural Council of Stamford Meeting held virtually

### MINUTES

August 22, 2022

#### Attendance and quorum check:

Members attending the meeting: Eva Weller, Peter Dao, Deborah Goldberg, Sonal Patel, Pilar Pelaez, Malinda Polite and Ana Gallegos.

Eva Weller, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:22 PM.

#### Welcome:

Eva Weller as Chair welcomed members and thanked everyone for attending the virtual meeting. She sent Eva Padilla birthday wishes. Eva also informed that Shobhna Bhatnagar is traveling to India because of her father's illness, so, we'll wait for her to present the treasurer's budget report until the next meeting.

#### Approve Minutes:

##### July 25, 2022

Eva asked members to review and approve the minutes from the July 25th, meeting. Malinda Polite made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Pilar Peláez seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

#### Budget Report:

*Stamford Day:* Eva suggested waiting for Treasurer Shobhna Bhatnagar to present the final budget report.

#### Projects/Events:

- *Movie Night:* The MMC was one of the co-sponsors of the William E. Edwards Academic College Tours, Inc. (WEE-ACT) movie night event at Jackie Robinson Park on August 12. Eva Weller, Ana Gallegos and Malinda Polite attended the event and distributed bags and flyers advertising the different upcoming events presented by or sponsored with the MMC. Eva said that it was nice to have a representation of the MMC there. It was an opportunity to talk with Mayor Simmons, some of her staff and community members about the MMC.

#### New Project:

- *Rhythm & Rumba Sala Night:* Eva thanked Pilar for putting together the initial proposal. Eva informed that following recommendations made by Corey Paris and the council, she had been in communication with the Mill River Park Collaborative. During a meeting by zoom she learned that Mill River Park has no dates available on Thursdays or weekday nights. Instead, we'll have two Fridays for Salsa nights: September 23 (rain date - September 30) and October 7 (rain date - October 14). The event's committee, Eva Weller, Corey Paris, Pilar Pelaez, Meera Banta and Ana Gallegos, based on the costs, voted to having a DJ at a cost of \$750 for each night, instead of a live music band. Alisa's House of Salsa will be the instructor accompanied by DJ Harry Trinidad. Eva informed that Mill River Park will hire CT's Ritmos Latinos, a percussion group, and cover the cost of \$200 per night. Alisa Mercado will meet to see the venue and space. She thanked Ana Gallegos for creating the flyer and posting the Save the Date information in the MMC social media. She added, "it's exciting the MMC is offering a new and fun event as we celebrate the Hispanic Heritage Month between September 15 and October 15"  
Eva said that Mill River Park Collaborative will most likely hold the White Party in the spring.

#### Old Business:

- *Film: "Reflecting on Anti-Bias Education in Action: The Early Years"*. Eva requested an update. Sonal informed that Jennifer Hallissey said that she is waiting to know more about the proposal which would include training. They then plan to foster an event.

#### New Projects:

-*Food related JCare committee on October 2<sup>nd</sup>:* Debby Goldberg reported about the community project to be held on October 2 which has been changed. She will share more details next meeting.

- *Walk for Unity in our Community & Day of Action September 11<sup>th</sup>*: Debby said it will be held on Sunday, September 11th from 1:00 to 3:00pm at Mill River Park. There is no rain date. Day of Action will include volunteer opportunities at Mill River Park and at Sound Waters. She said the MMC logo has been displayed on the flyer and she invited the council to join the Walk.

-*Ferguson Library event*: Eva said that the MMC is one of the co-sponsors of the Community Conversation, with Dr. Robert Livingston, that will be hold at the Ferguson library, on Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 pm.

- *Vigil of Light Ceremony & Performance*: Ana Gallegos said this event by "*En Vivo con Maricarmen*" was held at the Ferguson Library and it was well attended. The Vigil honored essential domestic workers & victims of COVID-19. Musicians and dancers from Ecuador, Venezuela, Mexico, Guatemala, and USA participated. Pilar also mentioned the father of Director Miriam Reyes passed away the day before the event. The MMC will send a note of condolences to her, Taller Marinera has been a longtime participant and supporter of our events.

- Eva informed that Yelena Klompus from the Ferguson Library requested the MMC co-sponsor World Fest/One City. Everybody agreed it has been great to work together and co-sponsor events with the library. Ana Gallegos made the motion to co-sponsor this event. Malinda Polite seconded. All were in favor. Eva will give more details next meeting.

- It was suggested to have the annual Afternoon of Jazz concert in March.

#### **Announcements:**

- Eva informed the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County will be presenting an opening reception for a new traveling exhibit, on Sunday, September 18th at 2:00 pm in the Dudley N. Jr. Auditorium at the Ferguson Library

- Debby shared that there will be a movie at the Avon theater. She'll send more information.

-There was a discussion related to concerns about the impact of inflation. Many groups have had cuts or higher expense at this time. Eva said that she will request a meeting with Mayor Simmons and her staff to review policies related to the MMC. We would request the possibility of having an in-person meeting with the council in the future. She added, the MMC is doing more events than in the past and with less funds.

-Sonal Patel invited the council to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> Caribbean-Cultural Festival, to be held on Sunday. September 11th, at 10:00 am at Lione Park. There will be entertainment for the family, music, soccer, etc. Flyers has been posted on the MMC social media.

Eva Weller thanked everyone for all the work that is being done and planning for this fiscal year.

**Next Meeting:** Sept 19, 2022 (Sept 26 Rosh Hashanah)

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Submitted by:

Ana Gallegos, MMC Secretary