



Mayor's Multicultural Council of Stamford

Meeting held via Zoom

Monday, June 24, 2024

Attendance and quorum check: Members in attendance: Eva Weller, Carmen Hughes, Sandra Barrett, Deborah Goldberg, Yelena Klompus, Naomi Osei-Mensah, Sonal Patel, Malinda Polite, Ajmal Qureshi, and Ana Gallegos. Shobhna Bhatnagar gave reasons for her absence.

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

Welcome: Eva Weller welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approve Minutes: May 28, 2024, Eva asked members to review the minutes from the May 28 meeting. Malinda Polite made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Deborah Goldberg seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously. Carmen suggested that minutes only reflect major topics and take-aways.

Budget Report: Chair Eva Weller said that the proposed and approved budget for Stamford Day 2024 is \$4,534. The budget report is not final yet. The treasurer sent a report with actual expenses of \$3,365 to date. When all expenses are paid and reported, Shobhna will submit the final year-end report.

Projects/Events Report:

* **Stamford Day 2024:** Eva reported that Stamford Day 2024 was the largest and most successful. She thanked everyone who contributed to make it such a success. Feedback from several sources was that the event was well organized, started and ended on time. Fifteen dignitaries made meaningful presentations. Many volunteers helped to set up and clean up. The passport activity was very popular. It was suggested that more passports be available next year. Children liked doing the Quilt activity. It was suggested to have a table or an area for the children to sit and draw. Clipboards could then be returned and reused for next year. Having a completed quilt on display was also suggested. The registration table gave one bag to each family. One water bottle was in the bag and additional bottles of water were needed for families. There were 224 bags left over. Ana thanked Council members who led different stations: Sonal – Volunteers, Malinda Polite – Quilt, Deborah Goldberg – Passport (100), Yelena Klompus - dance groups, Pilar Pelaez - food trucks and food (Eden Huang), George Johnson - Tell Your Story, Malinda Polite - Quilt (31), Naomi Osei-Mensah – Registration. Carmen Hughes ordered supplies, program and organization posters and coordinated printing quilt and passports and increased the size to make them more appealing. There were 53 registered volunteers, and around 42 amazing volunteers attended and were most helpful during the event. We have a list of 80 organizations and 55 community organizations registered and 47 attended. Marlene and Mauricio filled the Stamford Day Banner with community organizations flyers and pictures. One large group of Chaplains helped with parking, street crossing and security, and the other group with set-up & clean up and where needed during the event. Council member, Shelly Nichani, donated snacks and water for 500 bags. We had sixteen groups performing; INTEMPO and a new Greek group participated for the first time. There were three food trucks.

It was suggested to have a separate meeting to focus on Stamford Day 2024 on Monday, June 8. Eva Weller said that it was a fun family event and thanked everyone for their time and help and asked members to highlight successes and bring suggestions to make the event even better.

List of organizations:

<i>100 Black Men of Stamford</i>	<i>ABILIS</i>	<i>Adult Education</i>
<i>ARI</i>	<i>Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens</i>	<i>Bookmobile Ferguson Library</i>
<i>Boys and Girls Club of Stamford</i>	<i>Building One Community</i>	<i>Caring with Grace</i>
<i>Casa Otoñal</i>	<i>Charter Oak Communities</i>	<i>Housing Authority</i>
<i>Child Guidance Center</i>	<i>Chinese Language School</i>	<i>Institute for Refugees and Immigrants</i>
<i>Color Me Marigolds</i>	<i>Crisol-Acuarela- Quetzal</i>	<i>Domus Kids, Inc.</i>
<i>Ecuadorian Civic Committee of Fairfield</i>		<i>Family Centers</i>
<i>Future 5</i>	<i>GOALS</i>	
<i>Global Organization of People of Indian Origin: CT (GOPIO)</i>		
<i>Haitian American Collaborative and PTM Consulting Group</i>		<i>Hispanic Advisory Council of Greater Stam</i>
<i>Hispanic Chamber of Commerce</i>		<i>Housing HDF</i>
<i>INTEMPO</i>	<i>International Alliance of Chaplains & Law Enforcement Organization</i>	
<i>Irish American Cultural Society of Stamford (IACSOS)</i>		<i>Jewish Community Relationships Council</i>
<i>Journal of Hope</i>	<i>Kinds Helping Kids</i>	<i>La Tertulia</i>
<i>Latin Colors</i>	<i>Latino Foundation</i>	<i>Lauren Center (SH)</i>
<i>Orchestra Lumos</i>	<i>Master Na's Traditional Martial Arts -TMA</i>	
<i>Members Credit Union</i>	<i>Mill River Park Collaborative</i>	<i>Moroccan House of America</i>

<i>Stamford Museum & Nature Center</i>	<i>NAMI Southwest CT</i>	
<i>National Association for the Advancement of Colored People NAACP</i>		
<i>Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)</i>	<i>Project Music YES.</i>	<i>Peruanos Unidos</i>
<i>Quetzal Group of Stamford</i>	<i>REACH Prep</i>	<i>ROSSCO</i>
<i>Saint Joseph Parenting Center</i>	<i>SEED Center (Autism and ABA Therapy)</i>	
<i>Sparkler</i>	<i>St. Mary's Church YES</i>	
<i>Stamford Cares – HIV Prevention</i>	<i>Stamford Cradle to Career (SC2C)</i>	
<i>Stamford Public Education Foundation (SPEF)</i>	<i>Stamford Public Schools (SPS)</i>	
<i>Stamford Veterans Resource Center</i>	<i>Toys for Tots</i>	<i>Starfish Connection</i>
<i>Tell your Story – Ferguson Library</i>	<i>Trabajadoras del Hogar "Nosotras CT"</i>	
<i>United Parents for Students' Success</i>	<i>UNICO</i>	<i>Women Mentoring Network</i>
<i>Family Centers</i>	<i>Stamford Pride</i>	<i>Ballet Folklorico de Las Americas</i>
<i>SEED Center</i>	<i>Board of Representatives</i>	
<i>Prevention Specialist Family Centers Inc</i>	<i>Ferguson Tell a Story</i>	<i>BSA Troop 15 Stamford</i>
<i>New Covenant Center</i>	<i>Saint Joseph Parenting Center</i>	
<i>Board of Representatives</i>	<i>Reina de Guatemala</i>	

***Juneteenth:** Carmen Hughes informed that Juneteenth held on June 15th was a huge successful event. The flag was raised at the Government Center, and local representatives spoke. The Juneteenth song was sung followed by a March to Mill River Park accompanied by drums and music. Performances by different groups were well received. There were food trucks, family activities and vendors. MMC contributed bags with snacks and water bottles for vendors and organizations. The event was well planned and well attended. There was a mix of vendors selling a wide array of items. Eva suggested that some of the organizations could be invited to participate in Stamford Day. Every year Council members are asked to recommend names of organizations and send contact information to her or the secretary.

***HBCU: WEE Act Movie Night** to be held on August 23rd. Eva reported that Angela Edward asked the MMC to again be a sponsor of the event and requested that MMC donate popcorn as was done last year. Eva Weller made a motion to provide popcorn at a cost of up to \$100 and give away the snack-filled bags from Stamford Day. Yelena Klompus seconded the motion. Motion was approved. Eva reported that set-up would start at 5:00pm with event starting at 6:00pm and movie at dusk (around 9:00pm). She asked for council members to attend and help at the event.

*** Stamford Town Center Block Party:** Eva Weller shared that the Stamford Town Center Block Party was held on June 22 and June 23, but MMC was not invited to participate this year.

New Business: Ideas and Planning for next year

For Hispanic Heritage Month – September 15th to October 15th. The Mill River Park Collaborative will again co-sponsor with MMC two Rhythm and Rumba Salsa Nights this year. They will pay for the percussion and MMC would pay for the dance instruction with Alisa's House of Salsa at the same cost as last year. Yelena Klompus made the motion to have the two Salsa Nights in partnership with Mill River Park Collaborative. Ana Gallegos seconded. Motion was approved unanimously. Eva said that we'll need to get ready to promote it in social media and more. It was suggested that Alissa be asked to spend more time on dance instruction. Yelena motioned for MMC to co-sponsor the Ferguson Library's September 15h event for Hispanic Heritage Month. Also suggested for consideration was an event at Mill River Park modeled after Stamford Day. Carmen will check dates with Mill River Park.

***Announcements:**

*Eva Weller invited MMC to Argentina's Independence Day, on July 13 at the Government Center.
 *Yelena Klompus invited the Council to attend the Dance of Ukraine, an Arts & Culture Program, on Sunday, June 30, from 2:00 to 3:30 pm. at the Ferguson Library (Main Auditorium)..
 * Ana Gallegos shared the Ecuadorian Civic Committee of Fairfield County, with support from the Commission of Arts and Culture and the Mayor of Stamford, held a successful Drawing Contest "Knowing Ecuador" on June 9. Stamford school students from different countries won the contest. Also on June 23, the ECCFC gave scholarships to five Ecuadorian and Latino high school students who are registered in colleges this fall.

Next Meeting: Monday, July 22, 2024

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 pm.

Submitted by: Ana Gallegos, MMC Secretary