



Mayor's Multicultural Council of Stamford

Meeting held via Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 992 184 1396

Passcode: 374400

MINUTES

March 22, 2021

Our Mission:

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

Attendance and quorum check:

Members attending the zoom meeting: Eva Weller, Corey Paris, Shobhna Bhatnagar, Sandra Jean Barrett, Deborah Goldberg, Eileen Heaphy, James Hinton, Hayate Jandar, Francise Jean-Louis, Eva Padilla, Pilar Pelaez, Malinda Polite and Ana Gallegos.

Eva Weller, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:16 PM.

Welcome:

Eva welcomed MMC members and thanked everyone for attending the virtual meeting.

February 22, 2021 Minutes:

Eva, as Chair, asked members to review and approve the minutes from the February 22, 2021, meeting. Malinda Polite made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Deborah Goldberg seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Shobhna Bhatnagar, Treasurer presented the treasurer's report:

Approved Budget 7/1/2020-6/30/2021 Fiscal Year \$9000	
Marc Us for Change	\$250.00
Afternoon of Jazz:	\$3534.74
Remaining:	\$5465.26

Budget Update & Report:

Shobhna reported that the Jazz event was a success and the venue was appropriate for streaming the concert and for social distancing. People from five countries and nineteen states watched the concert. Ten musicians performed in the event. Ana managed the registrations through Eventbrite, with an estimation of 400 people attending the concert.

Shobhna reported that originally the Council approved and allocated **\$4,000**. An additional \$1000 was approved at the March meeting to cover any additional expenses, if needed. A detailed account of the total expenses for the concert is below:

Items	Cost Estimate	Actual
Recording Studio	\$600	\$300.00
Musicians \$100 each honorarium, including Project Music	\$1,000	\$1,000.00
Videographer and Boxcast platform:	\$2,000	\$1,700.00
Audio/sound	\$0	\$ 200.00
Program and flyer	Ana created both - in kind	\$0
Printing	Printed Flyers - in kind	\$0
Advertising	Advocate	\$12.00
Food for musicians and video/audio personnel	\$0	\$222.74
Curtain Call	\$1	\$100.00
TOTAL OF EXPENSES:	\$4,000 + \$1,000 = (\$5,000)	\$3,534.74

Projects/Events:

Jazz Concert: Eva reported that the concert was held on Sunday, March 21st from 3:15 to 5:00pm. She informed that the original proposed venue was unavailable due to Covid-19 concerns. The committee's plan was to record the concert and show it virtually, so that many could participate safely. It was suggested that MMC reach out to the Law Department to address any potential concerns. The Law Department drafted contract/agreements for all participants and the musicians and directed us to livestream the concert. The MMC was fortunate that Curtain Call agreed to co-sponsor and host the concert for one live-streamed performance. Their license agreements covered the music and performances. Eva added that we were fortunate to have Curtain Call's executive director, Lou Ursone, provide theatre space and use of the sound system and lights. She added that Jordan Frankenthaler, videographer, worked with us on this new way to reach out to the public. The artists who performed live in the concert were Cookie Thomas, accompanied by Joe McWilliams, Barbara's Serenade with Barbara Occhino, Steve Clarke and Jim Olbrys, Roylety Steel Pan Band with Jim Royle, John Mobilio and Brian Ente. Subhi Khanna and Project Music were included as recorded performances. Eva thanked the Mayor and MMC members for taking the time to record the introductions before the event. Eva also thanked James Hinton for acting as stage manager. Eva mentioned that creating and using the Eventbrite website to promote the event has been a learning process and she thanked Ana and everyone who was involved to make this a successful venture. Eva thanked the Jazz and the Publicity committees (Shobhna, James, Corey, Roberto, Malinda, Francise, Eileen, Eva and Ana) and all the Council members for their time and help promoting and attending the event. She added that the concert's success was a team effort. Ana informed that 278 registered on Eventbrite, people from 5 countries (Ecuador, Canada, United Kingdom, Ireland and USA) 19 states attended the concert with an approximate audience of 400 people. She added that a short survey will be sent to people who registered asking the following questions:

1. How was your virtual experience?
2. How can we improve for future virtual events?
3. Would you like us to add you to the Stamford MMC distribution list via this email?

Members attending the meeting congratulated Eva and everyone involved in the successful event. It was suggested that since the streamed/live concert worked well, we should consider having other online events so we could widen our audience and outreach.

Stamford Day: Eva announced the possibility of holding Stamford Day this year on May 16th, at the Mill River Park. The Mill River Park Collaborative would co-sponsor and we would work with President and CEO, Dudley Williams and Nia Rhodes Jackson, Director Visitor Engagement. Stamford Day celebrates Stamford's founding and how it has grown to be a diverse city. The MMC can be a leader on Stamford Day in sharing the many cultures and their history. The MMC through this event can be better known in the city and bring people together for a positive experience. Eva shared Board of Representatives' resolution establishing Stamford Day on May 16, 2019. Last year, public gatherings were prohibited, but this year we will be able to gather under new Covid-19 guidelines. Eva mentioned some ideas for the event. Banners could announce the event and could also be used to collect memories and stories from the public. The MMC would incorporate the Art and International Dance Festival concept and groups. Dance groups (limited number of adults), singers and artists representing different nationalities would be invited. Shobhna suggested to also invite youth to participate, working on a paper quilt display and possibly showing virtual exhibits of art and music. Eva shared that initially a plan to hold an art display in the pavilion was proposed. The idea for the event is to offer a variety of activities. We would invite partners like the Ferguson library and others to participate. Eva said that she had contacted Matt Quinones, BOR President and SPEF Executive Director to see if he and SPEF would be interested in participating. The Mill River Collaborative would hold a History Hunt activity for families and co-sponsor. Eva asked for volunteers for this committee, Sandra, Debbie, Shobhna, Francise and Ana accepted.

Budget Presentation: Eva reported that she was invited to present to the Fiscal Committee of the Board of Representatives regarding the budget proposal for the next fiscal year. She shared they she reviewed the notes taken at the retreat and the four projects below received the most votes to go forward:

- MMC Afternoon of jazz 2. Stamford Day 3. Festival/Expo of Art 4. Impact Stamford

The consensus was to include these items in the 2021/2022 budget proposal.

Call to Action: Debbie shared that she attended a discussion about the book "Caste". She said that different groups were reading and discussing the book. Shobhna said that this book would be better for people with privileges, so they would understand that this discrimination has been happening for many years and there is a need to do something to change it. A suggestion was made to consider a webinar or to invite the author to speak about the concepts in the book and to encourage people to read the book. Eva suggested that Donn Reid could facilitate the community conversation by zoom. Shobhna will contact

Anup to see if he would be interested in presenting a webinar. It was suggested to invite other groups to be part of this conversation.

Announcements:

Debbie said that it's important to think of ways to reach the community and also to partner with other organizations. She shared that on August 29th a "Silent Walk for Peace" would be held and invited the MMC to participate. The MMC could consider incorporating music, dances, etc. More information will be forthcoming.

Eva read part of the Mayor's April 5th press release: Mayor David Martin was the first Mayor to sign and support the American Jewish Committee's (AJC) Mayors United Against Antisemitism joint initiative with the U.S. Conference of Mayors. A discussion was held about the Mayor's Multicultural Council making our own statement.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 26, 2021 at 6:15 pm.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Submitted by Ana Gallegos
MMC Secretary