



## Mayor's Multicultural Council of Stamford

### Meeting held via Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 992 184 1396

Passcode: 374400

### MINUTES

April 26, 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, Shobhna Bhatnagar, Sandra Jean Barrett, Deborah Goldberg, James Hinton, Eva Padilla, Pilar Pelaez, Malinda Polite and Ana Gallegos.

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

#### **Welcome:**

Eva welcomed MMC members and thanked everyone for attending the virtual meeting, the last meeting before the Stamford Day event.

#### **March 22, 2021, Minutes:**

Eva, as Chair, asked members to review and approve the minutes from the March 22, meeting. Malinda Polite made the motion to approve the minutes. Deborah Goldberg seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously. Debby informed us that the walk on 29<sup>th</sup> August will be called "Silent Walk for Unity" instead of "Silent Walk for Peace".

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Shobhna Bhatnagar, Treasurer reported that currently there are no changes in the treasurer's report since last meeting, the remaining amount is \$5,465.26.

Eva suggested that we consider if we want to hold another MC event before June 30<sup>th</sup>. Some ideas were hosting a guest speaker, a webinar or hosting a presentation of a documentary with discussion led by a moderator. Eva also mentioned that we could look for opportunities to be part of initiatives in the community. Two projects were suggested: participate with the Jewish Community Social Action Committee, where we would co-sponsor a guest speaker and invite a diverse group to be part of the conversation. The other idea was the project Building Bridges to Books which is planning to hold an event in January. Eva said that this an invitation and opportunity for the MMC to be part of this exciting project where we can learn about the culture and religions of different groups through books and discussion etc. The MMC was invited to participate by having a person on the selection committee. That person should be someone who loves to read. The Ferguson Library has been helpful in selecting the books. Shobhna expressed interest in being part of this project.

**Stamford Day:** Eva reported that Stamford Day which MMC is co-sponsoring with the Mill River Park Collaborative, celebrates Stamford's founding and how it has grown to be a diverse city. It will take place on May 16<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Eva informed that the planning committee of Eva, Sandra, Debby, Shobhna, Francise and Ana have met and would like to present the budget proposal to be approved. Officials and guest speakers have been invited to present about their organizations representing the current diversity of Stamford such as: The Mayor, a representative from the Board of Representatives, the Town Clerk, The Stamford History Center, the Interfaith Council of Southwestern Connecticut, Haitian American Collaborative, and others. She added that the idea is to have a mix of speakers who will present about the history of Stamford including those groups who were here when Stamford was founded. Eva added that dance groups, singers and artists have been invited to be part of the event and share their talent and culture. Ana informed that she had contacted dance groups, singers and artists from Peru, Ecuador, Albania, Guatemala, India, Greece, India, Colombia, Korea, Poland, Haiti, Mexico, Cuba, USA and Puerto Rico. Some of them reached out to Ana and have expressed their interest in participating. Ana asked if anyone would like to recommend artists and Ana will follow up by sending a formal invitation. Shobhna suggested to have blocks of participation during the event in order to keep the flow and interest: speakers, dance groups and singers. Eva also said

that there will be other activities where children and teens can participate: the history scavenger hunt, run by the Mill River Park Collaborative will reward participants with tokens for the carousel as prizes for those who complete the family friendly activity. The quilt project invites young people to express their ideas by working on a paper quilt which will be displayed at the Government Center and library. PLTI graduates will help with this project. There will also be a banner where organizations and individuals can write memories on post it notes or post pictures for a Stamford Day display. Eva asked the MMC to help at the event and also spread the word about the event and invite organizations to participate with a photo or story.

Eva presented the following budget for Stamford Day:

<b>Stamford Day Proposed Budget</b>	
<b>Items</b>	<b>Cost Estimate</b>
Quilt	\$168.94
Snacks (200)	\$300.00
Water	\$100.00
Banners (3)	\$1,000.00
Extra Duty Police Officers	\$1,628.64
Permit	25.04
Electricity	\$348.12
Advertising	\$200.00
Program flyer & printing	\$200.00
Raffle \$10 gift cards of \$20	\$200.00
DJ	\$350.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,520.70</b>

James made the motion to approve the budget of \$4,520.70 requested by the Stamford Day Committee with a limit of \$5000.00. The Committee would need additional approval if the budget request is over that limit. Eva Padilla seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Pilar suggested that a Save the Date be added to the MMC Facebook page. Eva Padilla asked for an explanation about Stamford Day. Eva Weller said that the Board of Representatives established Stamford Day on May 16, 2019 and held a small ceremony at the Government Center. No event was possible last year due to Covid-19. This is the first year that MMC and Mill River Park Collaborative are co-sponsoring an event celebrating the founding and history of Stamford and its diversity today. Eva Padilla said that Galdino Velasco is one of the first Latinos in Stamford and founded the Latino Foundation. Eva Weller thanked her for this reference and said that she will contact him.

Ana shared that we are asking organizations for their logos for our promotional flyers and to let the community know about them. Eva Padilla said she will request the logo from the Latino Foundation and Crisol-Accuarela. Shohhna will ask for a logo from GOPIO. Eva also said that Francise recommended someone from the Haitian community who will present an art pottery demonstration for the public.

**Announcements:**

Pilar shared that she started working as a Parent Facilitator at Scofield School.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, May 24, 2021, at 6:15 pm.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Submitted by Ana Gallegos  
MMC Secretary