

NAUGATUCK CULTURAL COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Regular Meeting of Wednesday, February 16, 2011
Naugatuck High School Resource Center

Attendees: Chair Ralph Roper, Co-Vice Chair Maria Fidalgo, Ed Carter, Jeannette Deschesnes, Maria DiPerna, Felipe Flores, Fred Fulcher, Father Charles Hagearty, Sandra Heller, Mary Johnson, Bridget Mariano, Don Mariano, Bob Mezzo, Francis Serratore, Mayor Joan Taf, Len Yannielli, Shagufta Zahid, Syed Zahid Arshad

Press: None

The following matters were discussed:

- Pledge of Allegiance and introductions;
- Report from Naugatuck High School Principal Francis Serratore regarding International Cultural Heritage Night planned for Thursday, March 24, 2011, at Naugatuck High School. Discussion of logistics and organization for event.
- Discussion of progress of installation of Town Hall Cultural Heritage map.
- Discussion of need to establish stronger internet presence to promote Cultural Council and encourage greater participation. Discussion regarding new look to Borough website.
- Review of articles submitted by Jeannette Deschesnes and Leonard Yannielli for inclusion on website and Facebook pages.
- Discussion regarding partnership with Naugatuck Recreation Department Connecticut Trails Day, Saturday, June 4, 2011 – “Telling Our Stories”.
- Discussion of additional cultural recognition ceremonies like mayor-for-the-day.
- Minutes from January 19, 2011, meeting approved unanimously (Motion by Ed Carter, Second (2nd) by Marya DiPerna).

The following ACTION ITEMS emanating from the meeting:

- Investigation of logistics and requirements for providing food for International Cultural Heritage Night. (Bob Mezzo and Ed Carter).
- Promotion of International Cultural Heritage Night to increase participation and attendance through all means including but not limited to media, flyers, internet, signage and public postings. (All Council Members, coordinated through Troy Bond).
- Attendance at meeting to coordinate International Cultural Heritage Night at Naugatuck High School Main Office on Thursday, March 3, 2011, at 3:00 PM. (Meeting organized by Anne Marie Chuckrey and Francis Serratore. All Council Members encouraged to attend if possible).
- Seek potential businesses interested in participating in International Cultural Heritage Night (All Council Members).
- Complete installation of Town Hall Cultural map and begin promotion for people to link to their heritage. (Ed Carter and Bob Mezzo).

- Meeting to discuss increased internet presence in numerous forms. (Shagufta Zahid, Syed Zahid Arshad, Bob Mezzo and applicable Borough staff).
- Create calendar of different ethnic and cultural celebrations throughout the year. (Jeannette Deschesnes and Bob Mezzo).
- Continue to search for ethnic and racial demographic information for Naugatuck. (Ed Carter, Bridget Mariano and Don Mariano).
- Continue to seek articles of cultural significance for inclusion on the Council's internet presence (All Council Members to send to Jeannette Deschesnes).
- Pursue partnership with Naugatuck Recreation Department regarding Connecticut Trails' Day (6/4/2011) and seek participants for the "Telling Our Stories" portion. (Len Yannielli to coordinate. All Council Members encouraged to seek participants.)
- Subcommittee chairs to discuss ideas for future initiatives. (Troy Bond, Marya DiPerna, Mary Johnson, Indira Reyes and Len Yannielli in coordination with Ed Carter and Bob Mezzo. Ideas to be presented at next meeting).

NEXT MEETING – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2011, 6:00 PM
NAUGATUCK HIGH SCHOOL RESOURCE CENTER

Respectfully submitted,



Robert A. Mezzo