

NAUGATUCK CULTURAL COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Regular Meeting of Wednesday, August 17, 2011

Naugatuck High School Resource Center

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| Attendees: Chair Ralph Roper, Ed Carter, Marya DiPerna, Sandra Heller, Veronica Jimenez, Mary Johnson, Bridget Mariano, Bob Mezzo, Eileen Mezzo, Jocelyn Miller, Jeannette Deschesnes, Vanessa Vowe, Les Williams, Shagufta Zahid, Syed Zahid Arshad |
| Press: None |

The following matters were discussed:

- Pledge of Allegiance and introductions;
- Unanimous approval of Motion to Approve Minutes of July 20, 2011 – Motion by Mr. Carter/ Second (2nd) by Ms. Deschesnes;
- Review of the draft flier submitted by Ms. Fidalgo, Ms. Reyes and Ms. Heller.
- Further discussion relative to community outreach and strategies to reach more potential members.
- Discussion relative to the need for “action”.
- Discussion regarding need to increase participation with Naugatuck Cultural Council and strategies to reach more potential members including the use of the flyer.
- Discussion regarding need for members to take ownership of particular initiatives of the Council.
- Presentation of listing of community groups and organizations including contact names and information was presented by Ms. Heller and Ms. Miller. There were many ideas of how to approach using this list, including but not limited to, inviting a representative from each of the organizations to come to the next meeting, approaching these individuals and others on a face-to-face basis to build relationships, and asking representatives to come to the next meeting and explain who they are and what they see as a connection between their mission, their needs and the Naugatuck Cultural Council.
- Unanimous approval of Motion to Adjourn – Motion by Ed Carter / Second (2nd) by Sandra Heller.

The following ACTION ITEMS emanating from the meeting:

- The flyer was introduced by Mayor Mezzo who thanked the committee for their work. Members offered friendly feedback including: a) At the top of the flyer, include the mission statement of the Council, b) On the reverse side of flyer, have it translated into Spanish and any other language we are able to do, c) Color printing will show the “earth” most clearly. Les Williams volunteered to handle the printing of the flyer once it has been completed. The flyer can be disseminated at community gatherings, in face-to-face meetings, and by e-mail.
- It was agreed that the subcommittee working on the development of the list and making contact with the various representatives would complete their work by the next meeting. Chair Roper recommended that at the next meeting, once a list is create, the Council would discuss how members of each organization could possibly fit into one of the committees we had previously established (Events; Community Outreach; Issues; Education; Community Assistance).
- Mr. Williams volunteered to personally touch base with four organizations on the list to speak with them relative to our work, and he would report back at the next meeting.
- It was agreed that if individuals or groups inquire what the Council is working on right now that we would share that we are conducting an assessment of our community and its needs as it relates to the mission of the Naugatuck Cultural Council. Ms. Deschesnes and Ms. Mezzo indicated that our course of action may be: Step One: Assessment of Needs through community organization;

Step Two: Establishment of priorities in the form of goals; and Step Three: Creation of an Action Plan with timelines and responsible individuals.

- Mr. and Ms. Sahid explained that they would be holding a ceremony/celebration for the Eid, and that individuals on the Council would be welcome to come. Ms. Deschesnes offered to assist if needed. Further information to follow.
- Mr. Carter explained that on October 1, 2011, the Naugatuck Arts Council is having an open mic Arts Day, and they have asked us if we wanted to partner with them. We discussed having a table with information on the Cultural Council and we will ask for volunteers to staff it.
- Ms. Deschesnes volunteered to develop a short synopsis of each cultural holiday/event coming up for our website. It was noted and agreed that in the case of Columbus Day, and every holiday, we should exhibit sensitivity anticipating the reactions of a diverse audience.

**NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2011, 6:00 PM
NAUGATUCK HIGH SCHOOL RESOURCE CENTER**

Respectfully submitted,



Robert A. Mezzo