

Naugatuck Cultural Council
Cultural Activities & Awareness Committee
Meeting of October 23, 2012
Naugatuck Savings Bank Community Room
87 Church St., Naugatuck CT 06770

Attendees: Suzanne Flores, Felipe Flores, Sandra Heller, Melissa Leonard, Bridget Mariano, Vanessa Vowe, Aaron Williams

Meeting was called to order by Vanessa Vowe at 6:10 p.m.

Melissa Leonard moved to accept the minutes of the October 9 meeting. Felipe Flores seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Event Discussion:

- All agreed that the “Celebration of People” event was successful, and comments were made about the great diversity of people participating in the event. Felipe suggested that we should do follow-up contacts with the people who participated.
- Publicity of the event appeared in “Naugatuck Patch,” “Citizens News,” and the “Republican American.” Activities such as the Piñata were very successful and may be expanded next time to three Piñatas. It was also suggested that one or two reliable vendors may be enough for the event. Next time it would be good to have the band set up before the scheduled time to be ready to perform at the beginning of the event. The Portuguese dancers, who were scheduled as the event was drawing to a close, were not seen by many people.
- A suggestion was made to schedule the event for September next year. It was thought that about 125 to 150 people attended. A discussion was held about the benefit of having a platform, but all agreed a platform was not needed. It gives more of a block party feel without the platform
- Melissa said she called all of the organizations in the town guide and got little response. Next year all of the organizations should be grouped together. The craft table by the Historical Society was successful for the children. The drawing table also attracted children. It was suggested that we have better signage in the future to point to activities and to add activities for adults, such as participating in the dancing. Sandra also suggested that a drum circle brings people together. Next year the Community Band should be included.
- The Mayor obtained the sound system and the street department delivered tables and chairs and picked them up after the event. Melissa will attend the next meeting of the Board of Mayor & Burgesses and personally thank the Mayor and the Park Department for their support and participation.
- Vanessa will follow up with thank-you notes to the other participants.
- It was noted that Robin Gerber did an excellent job of recruiting performers for the event.

Other Follow-Up Suggestions:

- Advertise earlier
- Sandra will investigate grants: Contact CT Community Foundation and Naugatuck Valley Savings and Loan Foundation
- Have more farmers next year

Vanessa made a motion that the committee break until January to assist the Environmental Initiatives Committee in getting their projects started. Melissa seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. was made by Vanessa, seconded by Felipe, and it was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget Mariano