

March 23, 2021, 6:30 pm

GoToMeeting | Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
4 So. Eagleville Road, Mansfield, CT

DRAFT MINUTES

In accordance with Governor Lamont's Executive Order 7B and social distancing guidelines recommended by the CDC to slow community spread of COVID-19, this meeting is physically closed to the public. The public may listen to the meeting live by calling 1 (571) 317-3122 and using the access code 157-588-421. Additionally, an archive video recording of the meeting will be made available at <https://mansfieldct.gov/video> for 12 months.

Public Comment will be accepted by email at FerraraMT@mansfieldct.org or by USPS mail at Town of Mansfield, Attention: Monica Ferrara, 4 South Eagleville Road, Storrs, CT 06268 and must be received prior to the meeting (public comment received after the meeting will be shared at the next meeting).

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Mitoma called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Members present: Ms. Evans, Ms. Lorenz, Mr. Mitoma, Ms. Nocton

Excused: Ms. Bruder

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 23, 2021

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved on consensus.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Updates on Equity Review

Glenn brought everyone up to speed on the Equity Review and explained that we do not have disaggregated data right now and we will want to collect further data that better reveals what different groups are experiencing and so that we might attempt to have a better sense of where people are and the way they are feeling.

We will look at the draft surveys and work to merge them before the next all group meeting.

It was agreed on consensus that Heather, Amy and Glenn will work on this task. Outreach should continue.

Karen Lapuk had created a spreadsheet to document outreach and the script should be used as a guide, but does not need to be used verbatim. The spreadsheet is meant to organize and archive our conversations. We may not use this for comment on each other's notes. These are not interviews in the classic sense.

B. Emancipation Day Recognition

Massachusetts has recognized Juneteenth or Emancipation Day Recognition as a holiday already. Virginia shared that she would love to see an essay contest or the like for students. Glenn and Amy agreed that involving students at all levels is an excellent idea. It was agreed on consensus that Glenn and Virginia will work on the proposal for the Town Council.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion of Future Meetings

After April 20, we will have one more virtual full commission meeting, but our next subcommittee meeting (Town Charge) will be at Town Hall or at the library.

B. MLK Mural Project

MLK Mural project: Glenn and Amy will be providing a map as to what this would look like for the town. How might it be effective outreach and communications too? How might we make it an unveiling to encourage others to join/celebrate?

1. How might we tie this to Emancipation day/Juneteenth? Use this date as a launch date?
2. Annually the site of the mural perhaps becomes a recognition place for the day. In terms of equity building, the process of creating the mural should be one in which we practice equity and inclusion and our ability to lift up voices that aren't always highlighted or heard (engage with COR Mansfield, NAACP in Willimantic, etc). Might we ask students what they would like to see in the mural? How do we structure the process of gathering people's input? How do we select an artist? One of the artists is a UCONN grad. Do we want to consider other artists? How do we put together a steering committee for this? Are we the lead agency, but then we set up a steering committee? We will want to lean into being collaborative. We need other voices with maybe one person from the Town Charge. Virginia has offered to serve in such a role.

Should we also be sure that the mural is then touched up or re-newed from time to time?

This may play into where it goes. If it is on public property, the town would need to maintain it. What does it mean to add this as a feature of our landscape?

C. Windham Hospital

Windham Hospital (closing of the maternity ward)

Human Rights Committee write a letter expressing concerns and explaining that we do not want a decrease in services for marginalized people who might now have other options for services. Heather Evans will be helping us draft a letter on behalf of the HRC for us.

Glenn reminded us that we may call special meetings, if we need to. He was thinking about this in light of the Atlanta shootings. He wants all of us to feel empowered to initiate such a meeting to show solidarity to others.

6. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. on consensus.