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

## MINUTES

In accordance with PA 21-2 §149 and social distancing guidelines recommended by the CDC to slow community spread of COVID-19, this meeting will be held virtually. A video recording of the meeting will be available on YouTube at "MANSFIELD CONNECTICUT STREAMING CHANNEL" (<https://mansfieldct.gov/video>) within seven (7) days after the meeting.

Public Comment will be accepted by email at [FerraraMT@mansfieldct.org](mailto: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). Please email [Ferraramt@mansfieldct.org](mailto:Ferraramt@mansfieldct.org) or call 860.429.3304 by 4:00 PM on the day of the meeting to receive instructions for how to view, listen, or comment live.

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Mitoma called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

### 2. ROLL CALL

Present: Fried, Lorenz, Mitoma, Nocton, Vaughan

Excused: Allopena, Evans

Guests: Myra Clark-Seigel, Jay Tulin

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 9, 2022

Minutes were approved by consensus.

### 4. MEMBER REPORTS

It was agreed by consensus to discuss old business item A. IHRA before member reports to allow for discussion from our guests.

Ms. Vaughan contacted Mr. Bruder (town council member) about the Affordable Housing Committee. Mr. Bruder will keep Ms. Vaughan informed about when the meetings will start – he believes the first meeting will be next month.

Ms. Lorenz has been looking into ways that different Towns have been celebrating Juneteenth. She found that there are various types of celebrations and she has ideas on how to mark the holiday.

Ms. Bell gave an update on the Human Services budget. Two major additions were approved in the Youth Services budget. One is a new full time youth social worker, and the second is that there are going to be new translation services for youth and their families.

Ms. Nocton reported that there will be a deliberation on Mental Health and Wellbeing. Students believed that this topic is increasingly important, especially with the added stress of the pandemic. Students at EO Smith spoke with the president of the NAACP at UCONN; they also had an encounters on cultural appropriation vs application. Members of Deliberation and Discourse drafted a proposal which was accepted by the National Council Teachers of English Conference. They are looking at embracing multiple cultures in Mansfield and looking literacy that way.

## **5. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. IHRA**

Mr. Mitoma introduced Mr. Jay Tulin and Ms. Clark-Siegel who were at the meeting to discuss the IHRA Working Definition of Anti-Semitism. Ms. Clark-Siegel answered questions from Commission members.

Ms. Fried moved and Ms. Nocton seconded to endorse the resolution received today and further consider next steps in implementing and publicizing it in our Town. Motion passed with all in favor.

### **B. Sustainable CT**

Mr. Mitoma briefly discussed the equity statement draft and stated that the Town Charge subcommittee will be revising it a bit before it goes to the full Commission for a vote.

### **C. Juneteenth Celebration**

Mr. Mitoma talked with a representative of CORE Mansfield and of the new NAACP youth focus group. The NAACP youth group is taking charge of the Juneteenth celebration and the Mansfield Human Rights Commission will assist as a cosponsor.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Discussion on Public Transportation and Sidewalks**

It was agreed by consensus to table this item.

### **B. HRC Vacancy/Vacancies**

Mr. Mitoma reported that there are currently two vacancies in the HRC and that there is one applicant who will be interviewing for one of the vacancies

tomorrow. Ms. Fried stated that she thinks it is very important to recruit people who have a more diverse background to the Commission.

There are a limited number of seats but the HRC should see if others would like to collaborate with the Commission whether they are appointed to a seat or not.

Reza Shahroudi, community member, introduced himself to the Commission, and stated that he is interested in applying for one of our vacancies.

### **C. HRC Charge**

Ms. Fried stated that she believes the HRC should have an elevator speech. Members discussed a theme for the HRC's work for the 2022 calendar year. It was suggested that this year be focused around "Community Building Dialogue".

Ms. Fried moved and Ms. Nocton seconded to add the "Pride Month Proclamation" under section 6. New Business item D. It was added to the agenda with all in favor.

### **D. Pride Month Proclamation**

Ms. Bell stated that there were many proclamations that the Town Council recognized and signed over the past year. She explained that the HRC's first target for education might be the Town Council, as it is a way for the HRC to "...advise our elected officials about the importance of issues of equity, diversity, and celebrating our community in ways that we might miss if we are not paying attention to it". With that being said, she asked if the HRC would bring the Pride Month Proclamation to the Town Council.

Ms. Nocton moved and Ms. Vaughan seconded, that the Human Rights Town Charge Subcommittee draft and send to the Town Council a resolution recognizing Pride Month. Motion passed with all in favor.

## **7. COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

## **8. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

### **A. Town Charge**

Mr. Mitoma reported that there was not a forum at the last meeting, but that the members present discussed the equity statement for Sustainable CT.

**B. Communications and Outreach**

Ms. Fried stated that Ms. Chatey, Town of Mansfield's Communication Specialist, created comment boxes for the Human Rights Commission. These boxes will be placed around Town for community members to leave questions and comments.

**9. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned by consensus at 8:31 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Monica Ferrara, Assistant Town Clerk