

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 586-753-797. 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 6:31pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Lorenz, Mitoma, Nocton

Excused: Bruder, Evans

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 27, 2021

Minutes were approved on consensus.

4. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

Virginia shared out on her experience with the Hamden HRC. She had positive experience with the experience.

Glenn shared that we may need to tell the Town Council that we will need to push back the Equity report given that we need more data. Glenn, Livia, and Amy will be meeting with Lou DeLoreto, high school principal tomorrow to see what may happen with the Equity report and the high school population.

Glenn shared that he was able to pull policing data, both town and UCONN, to look at police stops and data. It does appear that people of color are more likely to be stopped, given a ticket, in Mansfield Asians are more likely to be stopped, too. Glenn is still looking at the data and examining what it reveals. 10.4% of stops are Asians, 24.4% of resident stops (nearly 5x more likely to be pulled over in Mansfield than Hispanics or other people of color).

We should all look at this data prior to our next meeting to see what patterns we see.

Virginia brought up that she would be interested in the information on the officers. Who is pulling over whom, etc.?

5. OLD BUSINESS

None.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Updates from Town Council Meeting

Town Council has agreed to adopt the proclamation for Pride Month and also for the Juneteenth Independence day. The latter, Juneteenth, was part of the Town Charge, so we are pleased with the positive outcome. We mentioned the MLK mural project.

Juneteenth is on a Saturday this year. Pick the site, short stand up in front of the site, the proclamation, maybe mention the witness stone project, maybe some poetry. Something that showcases our community and the group.

B. Drafting of an Equity Statement

Glenn has reached out to Kelly Lyman because the BOE is working on their strategic plan. They do have their mission and core beliefs drafted.

<https://www.mansfieldct.gov/DocumentCenter/View/10939/Non-Discrimination>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12Wgp4dvTrzrPQzNs0S-c17Vlk7JIEGMm/view?usp=sharing>

Amy has volunteered to start working on a draft of an Equity statement for the town. Something we can point to hold people accountable. Monica will put Amy in touch with the Sustainable CT for samples.

7. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Derek Cameron commented on Juneteenth and suggested a dialogue may be great in the future. He also reported that he was concerned about polarizing topics

Derek then shared that he is concerned about societal issues:

1. Issue of increasing violence against the Pacific Islander and Asian communities particularly during COVID. Derek said he hasn't heard much conversation about this in his community.
2. Sports: concerned about the ability of Trans students being able to participate in the sports of the gender they identify as...feels there is need for conversation to better understand each other's perspectives
3. Voting restrictions in CT and beyond
4. Gun violence and demographics for who is affected by gun violence
5. Immigration the surge of unaccompanied children and how they are being treated/housed

Perhaps we can invite speakers to discuss these issues within the community to broaden the perspectives of the people who live here. Their voices should be heard.

Derek also raised the idea of how these issues are or are not addressed at school (Region 19) and how the BOE is addressing these matters.

Glenn thanked Derek for his participation this evening and for raising these important matters.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned on consensus.