
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 view the meeting live at <https://mansfieldct.gov/video> or on Charter Spectrum Cable Channel 191 (the website is recommended as it is a higher image clarity). A recording of the meeting will be available at that website as well 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 6:03 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Daggett (arrival noted below), Evans, Fried, Lapuk, Lorenz, Mitoma, Nocton

Excused: Vaughn

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 14, 2020

Ms. Evans realized a missing word under Old Business Part A. The section should read "Commission Members briefly discussed the impacts of declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis in the Town of Mansfield. This will be further examined."

Minutes as amended **passed** by consensus.

Ms. Daggett arrived at 6:05 pm.

4. MEMBER REPORTS

Mr. Mitoma reported that he attended the EO Smith Democratic Dialogue on Racial Equity, and that he had a terrific discussion on equity. Mr. Mitoma also reported that students at the University of Connecticut had been updating a word cloud on terminology surrounding the election and that human rights kept coming up, which shows the relevancy of the Commission's work.

Ms. Fried reported that Columbia Law School link in the packet was very useful and encouraged other members to read it.

Ms. Evans provided a link and information on a free Zoom event on Saturday November 7, 2020. Topics included a discussion of the only Jewish refugee camp located in the U.S. during the time of the Second World War, and the current policies regarding refugees in our country today.

Ms. Nocton discussed the Democratic Dialogue event on Racial Equity. She also discussed an event she held on Political Divisions which went well and that people left feeling encouraged. A dialogue from the event will be distributed shortly. She also attended an event at the University of Connecticut on Race, Gender, and the Election, which was interesting discussion.

Ms. Daggett reported that her group at the EO Smith Democratic Dialogue event on Racial Equity had a great discussion about making a safer school community for students of color.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Heath Equity Solutions: Racism as Public Health Crisis

Commission members discussed whether or not to suggest that the Town Council to declare that Racism is a public health crisis.

Glenn proposed, as a member, that this topic be sent to one of the Human Rights Commission's Subcommittees to draft a statement that is more inclusive and in line with the Commission's stance. Motion **passed** on consensus.

B. Member Profiles

Profiles will be added to the website pending edits to Ms. Daggett's prolife and the addition of Ms. Lorenz's. Motion **passed** on consensus.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Vice-Chairperson

Ms. Fried volunteered to be the Vice-Chairperson. A motion to have Ms. Fried serve as the Vice-Chairperson **passed** on consensus.

7. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Town Charge

Ms. Evans reported that she has been working on the plan for the emancipation event. More information will be gathered and a draft will be brought to the Commission at the next meeting.

Mr. Mitoma discussed the draft plan for the Town Equity Review. Commission members briefly discussed the plan and how the Equity Review will span over multiple subcommittees and that everyone will have a role in the review process.

Ms. Evans moved to accept the draft plan for the Town Equity Review. Motion **passed** on consensus. Everyone will continue to review the plan and it will be further discussed at the next meeting.

Mr. Mitoma asked Katie Bell to introduce herself. She provided some of her thoughts on earlier discussion and gave some helpful resources.

B. Outreach

Ms. Fried reported that the Outreach Subcommittee met. They are discussing various forms of outreach including media (Town Website, Facebook, etc.), outreach to other community members/organizations, and that an official publicity statement of the HRC is under review.

C. Communications

Ms. Lapuk stated that the Communications Subcommittee will be meeting on Monday November 9, 2020.

The Communications Subcommittee was asked to look into Human Rights Day and put something together.

8. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn **passed** by consensus at 7:13 pm