
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 (646)749-3122 and using the access code 983-876-717. 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 7:03 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

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

Excused: Lorenz

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 13, 2021

Minutes approved by consensus.

4. MEMBER REPORTS

Commission members agreed by consensus to move new business item A before member reports.

Ms. Nocton reported that EO Smith has their speaker series dates all set and that there will be more information coming out soon. EO Smith put out an Equity, Diversity, and Justice Statement, which Ms. Nocton shared with the group. Ms. Nocton also reported that students presented on the participatory budgeting project last Tuesday to the Board Education. They are hoping to increase diversity among staff.

Ms. Evans reported that there is a two-part series for educators called “Racism in the Margins” that will be put on by UCONN. She shared a link to the website. It is a series on racism and how student work is assessed in academics. She encouraged everyone to look into it, especially the narratives section.

Ms. Bell reported that the CT Youth Services Organization has started work-group meetings to address racism. On Thursday February 25th Mansfield’s Youth Services will be participating in Human Rights Campaign’s Jazz and Friends day of community and school readings over Zoom.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Update from Town Council Meeting January 25, 2021

Mr. Mitoma briefly talked about the presentation at the Town Council meeting.

B. Assignment of Roles for Equity Review

Ms. Evans will join Ms. Lapuk in interviewing business owners/employees. Ms. Bruder will join Mr. Mitoma in interviewing Town Council, boards, commissions, and employees. Mr. Mitoma will join Ms. Lorenz in reviewing documentation.

There was a brief discussion of who to reach out to and how to do so - especially in regards to residents. Mr. Mitoma suggested reaching out to Sustainable CT to see if there were some already established ways to best engage town residents.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Sustainable CT Framework Discussion with Sustainability Committee Staff

Ms. Walton introduced herself, and gave a brief explanation of her work on the Mansfield Sustainability Committee and the work of Sustainable CT. She also suggested that the Human Rights Commission draft a Statement of Equity. Ms. Walton introduced Ms. Lynn Stoddard, Chair of the Mansfield Sustainability Committee and Executive Director of Sustainable CT.

Ms. Nocton arrived 7:07 pm.

Ms. Stoddard presented on some of the major workings of Sustainable CT. She discussed their programs on equity, including equity coaches who would be happy to help the Human Rights Commission. There is an equity coffee hour on February 19, 2021 and the Human Rights Commission was invited to participate. In addition, Ms. Stoddard also stated that the equity coaches have been discussing how to make an equity survey that can reach everyone.

There was a brief discussion of a collaboration between the Sustainability Committee and the Human Rights Commission in the future.

B. Questions for Equity Survey

Commission members discussed waiting to see if there was related data already collected through the Town, schools, etc. Mr. Mitoma will reach out to try to obtain this data.

Ms. Fried and Ms. Vaughan volunteered to reach out to the Sustainability Committee and Sustainability CT to see what is already out there and they will report back to the larger commission.

C. Update on Public Library, SE and MMS

Ms. Evans reported on the book list that the Human Rights Campaign Foundation created. The list addresses diversity in many ways and includes a breakdown by age group. The Mansfield Public Library and South East Elementary School will be ordering all of the books. The Middle School will also consider ordering the books. Ms. Evans will reach out to Annie E. Vinton Elementary School and Dorothy C Goodwin School to provide them with this list.

7. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Town Charge

Ms. Nocton reported on the Town Charge Subcommittee. The subcommittee was really focused on creating and developing a survey for the Equity Review. Ms. Evans reported that the subcommittee also briefly brought up the process of naming the new elementary school and that she thinks the Human Rights Commission should make a suggestion.

B. Communications and Outreach

Ms. Fried reported on the Communications and Outreach Subcommittee. The subcommittee was also really focused on creating and developing a survey for the Equity Review.

8. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned by consensus at 8:26 pm.