

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.

Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

K. Lapuk called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Allopenna, Fried, Lapuk, Mitoma, Vaughan (late) Staff: Chatey
Absent: Famularo, Nocton

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 15, 2021 meeting minutes were approved by consensus.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Survey Results Outreach

The report which includes a survey results overview was submitted to the Town Manager on 12/9/21 and in time for Human Rights Day 12/10/2; report is posted on the Mansfield Human Rights Commission website with a link to download the report. Although the report was included in communications to the Town Council's January 10 meeting, G. Mitoma plans to outline the results in a more formal presentation to the Council in the coming weeks. The committee agreed that it should study the survey results closely to determine which specific areas need to be addressed, and what outreach can do to communicate that. Mitoma and Chatey will create a simple PowerPoint that could be the basis for upcoming presentations and conversations. The committee discussed again about presenting survey results to EO Smith Board of Education, COR Mansfield and Kelly Lyman's administrative team to facilitate conversations about shared key issues and potential solutions locally.

Fried is particularly interested in pursuing with the community the affordable housing struggles as outlined in the survey. Chatey shared that the Town is forming an Affordable Housing Commission and is seeking members, including residents who would qualify for subsidized housing, and will identify a contact for Fried. Co-hosting a

public program on the subject might be an appropriate role for HRC with this new commission.

B. Speaker Series Update

Fried shared that this project is on hold for now until HRC can source the money to pay presenters. Fried wants to go to another funding agency for grant help. It should cost about \$3,500-5,000 for the series. As an alternative, Fried is working to coordinate a two-part book club with the Mansfield Library to read and discuss the book, *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving that could be promoted and co-hosted by HRC.

C. Outreach Campaign

Vaughan reported that a professional, lockable suggestion box could be purchased for about \$30 online. Mitoma will explore whether HRC has a budget for purchasing items like this. It was agreed that it should not be a homemade shoebox-type box. Lapuk will check on student-built boxes at her school.

D. Discussion about Future Outreach Opportunities

- Chatey reported that an organizing meeting will be hosted soon by Youth Services around Pride celebration/festival plans for June so the commission might look to build on this project. Chatey will report to the committee on plans.
- Juneteenth is Sunday, June 19, which is also Fathers' Day this year. If the group agrees to coordinate a celebration, then it might want to schedule for the previous week. Since this falls close to the end of school, it may be doubtful E.O. Smith students (DD) will be able to take the lead. Mitoma agreed to ask COR-Mansfield and Windham-Willimantic area NAACP if they are making plans for a special event.
- Fried informed the committee that the local NAACP is hosting a special event to commemorate Dr. King's birthday Sunday, January 23 at 2:00 PM.
- Lapuk suggested committee members might each become subject area "experts" around some of the core International Declaration of Human Rights principles and commit to scouting information in that area, reporting out at meetings for the committee's benefit. This might include reading minutes of partner organizations and key town committees, emerging news stories, research trends, etc.

5. NEW BUSINESS

None.

6. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Vaughn, seconded by Fried. Meeting was adjourned by consensus at 7:47.