

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Karen Lapuk called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Famularo, Fried, Lapuk, Mitoma, Vaughan Guest: Chatey

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 14, 2021

Minutes were approved by consensus.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Survey Results Outreach

Mitoma shared that the summary of the survey results has been drafted, with Fried drafting an executive summary. The goal is to present to the Town Council as a part of marking Human Rights Day. The draft will be reviewed at the next meeting for dissemination on December 10.

B. MLK Mural Project Update

The celebration event was hosted Saturday November 13th unveiling the mural. There was music and speakers, and the group agreed it was an excellent event with over 100 people. Chatey and Fried agreed that there was a great mix of ages and different types of people. Chatey mentioned that the mural should continue to be celebrated and used as a focal point for outreach and future celebration.

There is a small amount of money left (\$500) to do a pop-up mural.

Mitoma said prints were being made to be sold by CT Murals.

Fried suggested that a mobile display about the mural project be created to share around the town in multiple locations. Chatey explained that a time lapse video was created that could be part of that exhibit. There was discussion about whether the remaining dollars could be allocated to that instead of an additional mural, but Mitoma felt additional fundraising is possible to support more public art-related projects

C. Speaker Series Update

Fried shared that the grant proposal for the speaker series event has been written and that People with Disabilities, Families, and Faith are among the series topics. Mitoma will be writing a supporting statement for the grant proposal.

Reverend Hollis Cotton, who helped write some of the ADA act related to public transportation, will help chair the session on People in Mansfield Living with Disabilities.

Fried needs help with advertising (creating a logo for the series, promotional flyers, and other elements) for the events and finding panel participant for the series. Suggestions for naming the series to include the concept of Conversations with Neighbors are also invited, and it was agreed that the quilt theme of the mural might provide a creative tie-in.

D. Indigenous Peoples Website

The website page for Indigenous Peoples' Day was posted for October 11. Some work still needs to be done with formatting and putting up more information.

Kelly Lyman sent out a link to the webpage to the staff across the district so that teachers and students might access it as a resource.

The Mansfield Historical Society will be hosting a zoom meeting on December 3rd at 7:30 PM with the state archaeologist about Indigenous Peoples in Mansfield. Info about this will be added to the website and should be promoted via the HRC.

E. International Human Rights Day

There is a plan to put a survey report together as well as support events at EO Smith and endorse them. (see New Business B)

There was also discussion about getting the town to issue a proclamation through the Town Council prior to the December 10 date.

Chatey commented that it would be helpful for CAB and the Human Rights Club to publish a flyer or some kind of special invitation to the town council to participate.

F. Discussion about Future Outreach Opportunities

Fried mentioned that it would be important to have a public forum with people in the community to share their opinions and experiences with the Outreach Committee of the HRC about human rights issues in Mansfield.

Town members would have to fill out a form and sign up for a zoom meeting. It is up for discussion about how exactly this would be formatted. Lapuk recognized the formats for Deliberation & Discourse public forums at EO Smith as a possible discussion format.

It was agreed that more effort be put into making sure community members are aware of the HRC and the opportunities for public comment prior to each meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Winter Welcome Display Opportunity Dec. 4

Chatey explained that this event is happening in Downtown Storrs from 4:30-7 (correction 4 to 6:30 PM.) It will be a winter stroll through downtown kicked off with a sing-along from the EO Smith choir. There will be music and displays. This could be an opportunity to have some sort of pop up tent or have the commission claim a tree for the tree trimming contest to open a discussion about the different cultural holidays of this time.

This opened a long discussion about how specific religious holidays should not be celebrated by towns or how organizers should shape these types of events into something that celebrates all cultures. Fried hopes that in the future the town events focus on light or the solstice in general. The committee may reach out to MDP about this after this event occurs.

B. Supporting EO Smith Events Dec. 10

There will be a candlelight vigil from 4-5 PM on the sidewalk outside of EO Smith for the Human Rights Club where the Declaration of International Human Rights will be read. The day before there will be a Write for Rights event connected with Amnesty International from 2:30-4 PM. EO Smith Cultural Awareness Brigade is also hosting an event on that day at 2:15 PM.

Future meeting item for December will include setting the meeting calendar for 2022 and there is an opportunity to change the meeting times.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus.

Minutes prepared by Felicia Famularo