

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

Glenn Mitoma called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Allopenna, Famularo, Fried, Mitoma, Vaughan

Staff: Chatey

Excused: Lapuk

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 17, 2021 meeting minutes were approved by consensus.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Annual Report Posting/International Human Rights Day

Mitoma shared that the report was finished in time and thanked the Commission members for their contributions. Report was submitted to the town manager on 12/9/21 and in time for Human Rights Day 12/10/21

It was decided to hold off on formally submitting/presenting it to the Town Council until one of their meetings in January so that they have time to reflect on the report. Chatey mentioned that the report is posted on the Mansfield Human Rights Commission website with a link to download the report. It was also posted on Town of Mansfield Facebook with a link explaining International Human Rights Day.

B. Survey Results Outreach

Mitoma brought up that the plan is to use the report in additional outreach opportunities. Vaughan asked if there is a plan to have another survey with more people covered. Mitoma agreed that there should definitely be other reports. Fried wants to determine how to cultivate opportunity to host an open conversation with people and invite them to share their thoughts about human rights in Mansfield. There is a need for input from more diverse elements of the community. It should be advertised in places where people might not normally notice. The group acknowledged there is a need to manage an open Zoom meeting to avoid unruly interruptions or other

tech issues. Chatey recommends using the survey results part of the report and make a special press release of it with key issues. There was talk about going to the EO Smith Board of Education or Kelly Lyman's admin team present HRC's findings. The report was shared with Supt. Lyman.

C. Speaker Series Update

Fried shared that HRC and grant application partner submitted a grant proposal to pay the first speaker, but they do not know when grant decision will be made. This project will be put on the back burner for a couple of months. People are willing to help coordinate, HRC needs to source the money to pay presenters. Fried is meeting with Katie Bell and Amy Nocton on Monday, December 20th to talk about how to proceed with the funding logistics. Fried wants to go to another funding agency for grant help. It should cost about \$3,500-5,000 for the series.

D. Discussion about Future Outreach Opportunities

- Mitoma mentioned that it is important to utilize important dates and holidays as outreach opportunities (PRIDE, Juneteenth, Indigenous People's Day, etc.)
- Vaughan brought up that focus groups would be a good addition. Vaughan suggested that there be a suggestion box put in the Community Center or other places over town with a form to fill out. Mitoma expressed that the commission might not get a lot out of this. It is a low-investment, low-risk tactic, however, and may garner some input. Vaughan agreed to create these boxes.
- Chatey shared that inviting people personally who the commission thinks would provide very valuable input from and conduct an idea-generation initiative, while may be more effort, would probably be more successful over a general "we want to hear what you have to say."
- Chatey made a post on Facebook inviting people to the public comment area of this Communications and Outreach meeting, and will try to do that each meeting.
- Fried said there should be a focus on finding people that we need to hear from for the advancement of human rights, especially those who are not represented on the commission. It would be good to find 10-12 people who would be willing to speak up. Finding where these people live, work and go to school, who may not be active in the community organizations of Mansfield, is important. Mitoma brought up that churches and other faith communities could be good resources to collaborate with because they have more capacity to support the commission in connecting with some of these communities.
- Chatey suggested that a "Did you know?" approach could be used around communications sharing out facts or demographics or anecdotal information about the diversity/needs of the Mansfield community. This campaign could be placed on the suggestion boxes around town, posters with a phone number, forms, and other campaign elements including social media.
- Youth Services received a grant around doing a Pride celebration in June so the commission might look to build on this project. A suggestion was made by a local

teacher that Mansfield should advertise or make known that Mansfield is affirming and welcoming.

- Allopenna mentioned that it could be useful to just create a link to a survey and put it on our website where people can leave suggestions. This could also be a QR code put on posters or other things around town.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Meeting Schedule for 2022

Vaughan motioned that the meeting time be moved from 6pm to 7pm.

Motion was approved by consensus unanimously. Meeting schedule for 2022 was approved.

6. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned by consensus at 7:17.