

## 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 (571) 317-3122 and using the access code 980-998-365. 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](mailto: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 6:05 pm

### 2. ROLL CALL

Present: Bruder, Evans, Lorenz, Mitoma, Nocton

### 3. OLD BUSINESS

#### A. Town Equity Review

Mr. Mitoma began the meeting by reviewing the charge given to the Human Rights Commission by the Town Council. He outlined the five charges and five activities that have been selected for the HRC's attention. He then recommended that we dedicate some time reviewing a website that Ms. Evans shared, Racial Equity Tools, to begin gathering ideas and strategies for implementing our work. He reiterated past suggestions, too, that we begin exploring other resources as well to familiarize ourselves with some of the work that is being done and that could work for us as models. Ms. Nocton noted that she, too, has been starting to develop a list of other towns in Connecticut that have similar commissions. She will share these once the list is a bit more robust.

Commission members began to draft a list of possible questions for upcoming interviews that will be conducted as part of the Commission's work for the Town Council. Ms. Nocton offered to begin looking at equity in the schools. Ms. Evans volunteered to being interviewing people in Town

Offices. Mr. Mitoma will complete a list of questions for the interviews. It was agreed by consensus to table assigning other tasks until the next full Human Rights Commission meeting.

#### **B. Emancipation Day Recognition**

Ms. Evans shared the revisions made to the draft document for an Emancipation Day Recognition that were outlined at the last meeting of the Human Rights Commission. These revisions focused more on education and smaller activities (essay writing, art show, speakers, etc.). After going over the revisions Ms. Bruder and Mr. Mitoma suggested to replace the word event with recognition or a similar term to further emphasize that the Human Right's Commission is not promoting a large community gathering but rather smaller, educationally focused activities.

Ms. Evans and Ms. Nocton will draft a proposal for Emancipation Day Recognition.

#### **4. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. Meeting Schedule for 2021**

Members agreed to meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm on consensus.

#### **5. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

#### **6. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 7:12 pm.