

MINUTES

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.

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

Meeting started discussing at 6:45 pm. Mr. Mitoma officially called the meeting to order once a quorum was present at 6:50 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Evans, Lorenz, Mitoma

Excused: Bruder, Nocton

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 26, 2021

Minutes were approved by consensus.

4. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

None.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Refugee Resettlement/Newcomers

Housing being sought—with support from the Town, the University, and others—for a refugee family arriving in February; Commission seeks to get involved. Standing meeting of stakeholders discussing refugee resettlement issue, broader issues surrounding Mansfield's inclusivity

recommended . Ms. Evans and Mr. Mitoma expressed support for this effort but were concerned that some refugees may need accommodations that are lacking in Mansfield, despite its many opportunities.

Note: This was discussed before the meeting was called to order. No action was taken.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of 2022 Meeting Schedule

Meeting schedule approved by consensus.

B. Subcommittee Ideas for 2022

Discussing the findings of the 2021 survey on human rights in Mansfield with the Town Council (which has yet to be accomplished) was discussed as one potential activity for 2022. They also suggested revising the previous survey so as to optimize the accuracy of its findings and ensure that certain ethnic/religious groups are properly categorized. Ms. Lorenz stated that she will provide some ideas as to how to celebrate Juneteenth at the next meeting.

C. Budget Requests

Questions were raised about whether or not an honorarium's recipient must be known prior to requesting funds for it. Mr. Mitoma suggested submitting a budget request at the full Commission's next meeting. Ms. Evans suggested requesting funds for advertising/marketing. A request for funds for an additional community human rights survey/means to ensure public access was also proposed.

7. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned by consensus at 7:08 pm.