
Virtual | Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
4 So. Eagleville Road, Mansfield, CT

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). Please email Ferraramt@mansfieldct.org or call 860.429.3304 by 4:00 PM on the day of the meeting to receive instructions for how to view, listen, or comment live.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Mitoma called the meeting to order at 8:04 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Allopenna, Evans (arrival noted below), Fried, Lapuk, Lorenz (departure noted below), Mitoma, Nocton

Excused: Bruder, Vaughan

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 12, 2022

Minutes were approved by consensus.

4. MEMBER REPORTS

Ms. Nocton reported that Deliberation and Discourse had Brianna Jones do a speaking event February 8, 2022, and that there was a speaking event a few weeks ago, that was also well received.

Ms. Bell reported that the Willington, Mansfield, Ashford Restorative Justice Team is officially open for referrals for youth diversion. The Town Council approved the memorandums of agreement in late January. Youth Services is in the stages of setting up a celebrate pride event, that they are anticipating will take place on June 10, 2022.

Ms. Fried reported that she is taking a course about whiteness and it is one of the best online courses she has ever taken. It focuses on asking Americans who

identify as white to find their ethnic and spiritual roots in Europe. They also have a few different caucuses, one of which is a Jewish caucus, and explores the complexity of being Jewish and all the families who came here – changing their names and trying to assimilate. It really is about uncovering the roots of whiteness in Northern Europe and how we got to where we are today. This course is being put on by White Awake.

Mr. Mitoma reported that the Town is starting the rural welcoming initiative, run by Welcoming America. The goal is to support rural communities in becoming more welcoming to people of different cultures, backgrounds, etc. He will be joining a call with the Town Manager at 3 pm on the 15th as a representative of the Human Rights Commission. Ms. Fried expressed interest in joining that call as well.

Ms. Evans entered the meeting at 8:10 pm.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. HRC Annual Report Activities

Mr. Mitoma briefly discussed the HRC Annual Report, and stated that it will be presented at the Town Council meeting on February 28, 2022. He requested that a group from the Human Rights Commission present the report, since the whole Commission had a role in creating the report and everyone had a hand in the activities.

Ms. Lorenz left the meeting at 8:12 pm.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion with Chair of Farmington Human Relations Commission – Jay Tulin

Ms. Nocton introduced Mr. Tulin, Chair of the Farmington Human Relations Commission. Mr. Tulin discussed “A Resolution to Further Combat Discrimination by Adopting the May 26 Working Definition of Antisemitism”. Commission Members briefly discussed the resolution and it was decided by consensus that it would be added to the next Human Rights Commission meeting agenda to further review and discuss the document.

B. Budget Requests

Mr. Mitoma reported that he talked with Town Manager, Ryan Aylesworth, regarding budget requests and that the Commission would be able to request funds through the Town Managers Office. It was agreed by consensus that Ms. Fried and Ms. Allopenna would create a budget for the speakers series.

C. Sustainable CT

Mr. Mitoma reported on the joint Sustainability Committee meeting for Sustainable CT. It was agreed by consensus that the Town Charge Subcommittee will revisit the equity statement, which was drafted some months ago to contribute to Sustainable CT certification.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

8. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Town Charge

None.

B. Communications and Outreach

None.

9. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned by consensus at 8:53 pm.