

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

Ms. Fried called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Alfred-Abney (arrival noted below), Allopenna, Farrow, Fried, Hosmer, Kanadia, Nocton

Excused: Vaughan, Alfred-Abney

Student Volunteers: Derek Cameron, Felicia Famularo

Staff: Katie Bell, Margaret Chatey, Monica Ferrara

Public: Raymond Fricano, Rene Mercado

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 11, 2023

February 8, 2023

Ms. Allopenna moved to approve both sets of minutes, Ms. Farrow seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

4. MEMBER REPORTS

Mr. Fricano and Ms. Mercado briefly introduced themselves.

Ms. Kanadia reported that she is spotlighting a woman in history during the morning announcements in celebration of Women's History Month. Ms. Kanadia also provided an update on the new school holiday calendar for the Board of Education, stating that it will be interactive and more inclusive.

Ms. Farrow reported that she has been working with the NAACP Legal Redress Committee, stating that she has been working with some of the local schools on diversity education. They also have been working on the case of the noose found at Rham High School.

Felicia Famularo, student volunteer, stated that on March 23, 2023 Deliberation and Discourse is hosting a speaker event on reproductive rights.

Katie Bell reported that she is in the process of locking down a movie for the second annual celebrate Pride Event.

Ms. Alfred-Abney arrived at 7:18 pm.

Ms. Fried reported that Debbie Irving is going to be at an event in Hebron on Saturday, March 11, 2023. She encouraged everyone to show up. She also reported that she attended a meeting on the events of the Community Center and better ways for Parks and Recreation to reach community members/provide for their needs. Ms. Fried reported to Town Council on the workings of the HRC. The Town Council would like to see what the Town is doing in regards to hiring processes. She will be attending a meeting with the Town Manager and Mayor next week.

Ms. Nocton suggested that Mansfield should be looking at diversity needs to make it a more welcoming town.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Affordable Housing Check In

Ms. Allopenna reported that she is in touch with staff and that the HRC is welcome to go to any upcoming meetings.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Pride Month and Proclamation

Ms. Bell introduced the Pride Month Proclamation so it can get on the Town Council's agenda before Pride Month. Ms. Bell will revise the Pride Month Proclamation and get it to the HRC for the next meeting to be approved and put on the Town Council's Agenda in time for Pride Month.

Ms. Chatey briefly discussed the Pride Flag raising event. She suggested the HRC set up a program for the flag raising ceremony.

B. Community Conversations

Ms. Fried introduced her idea on community conversations. She would like to host them at the library. The first she would like to make about the HRC and who we are and the second she would like to set up would be on religion. If there are other thoughts on what to have conversations about they should email/talk with Jane.

C. Meeting Schedule

Members briefly discussed changing the meeting schedule to better have more members present at meetings. It was decided that the meeting time did not need to change.

D. Dr. Craemer and Reparations

Ms. Allopenna stated that the Cultural Awareness Brigade hosted Dr. Craemer and he talked about his work on reparations. Members briefly discussed the topic.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

8. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Fricano stated that he was amazed with the HRC has been doing.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Allopenna moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm, Ms. Nocton seconded. Meeting adjourned with all in favor.