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

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 308-188-773. 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 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 7:08 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Bruder (*arrival noted below*), Daggett, Fried, Lapuk, Lorenz, Mitoma, Nocton (*arrival noted below*)

Excused: Evans, Vaughan

The Commission agreed by consensus to add New Business Item A, MLK Mural project, to the agenda and to discuss this item of business before Approval of Minutes.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the February 10, 2021 meeting were approved by consensus.

4. MEMBER REPORTS

Ms. Nocton reported that she attended a webinar, Racism in the Margins, that was hosted by UCONN. Ms. Nocton also stated that tomorrow night (3/11/2021) there is another guest speaker at EO Smith, he is a Brazilian film and screen writer, and Human Rights Advocate. He is really excited to talk to people in the community. This talk will be facilitated by students. EO Smith will host two more speakers. On May 13th there will be an encounters dialogue on race.

Mr. Mitoma reported that he was invited to join the Hamden Human Rights Commission Meeting tomorrow night (3/11/2021). They are interested in

developing connections with Human Rights Commissions across the State, and that he will share any updates at the next meeting.

Ms. Bell gave an update from Youth Services. CYSA has developed a coalition on making their agency more anti-racist, and that she has been participating in the work that they are doing with examining how youth services bureaus across the State can do better and disrupt the problematic perceptions that exist. Ms. Bell also reported that Youth Services had their Jazz and Friends Day of Reading virtually. She is also preparing with other departments on how to celebrate Pride Month.

Ms. Fried said on March 20th the NAACP is going to have an open discussion of *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson. Everyone is welcome and video clips are being sent for the discussion. Anyone is able to sign up with the Windham Chapter of the NAACP.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Juneteenth Recognition

This item was tabled by consensus.

B. Equity Review

Mr. Mitoma stated that there he was able to obtain some data from the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, and that he has a meeting with Ms. Lyman, Superintendent of Mansfield Public Schools, tomorrow to see what information the BOE has readily available. He also has reached out to EO Smith.

i. Review of Script for Outreach Opportunities

Ms. Fried introduced the script she drafted and there was a brief discussion of the document. The script was approved on consensus.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. MLK Mural Project *(to be added to the agenda at the meeting)*

Mr. Aylesworth introduced the MLK Mural Project from the Rise UP Group to the Commission. He was interested in seeing what role the HRC is willing to play in this project. Mr. Mitoma and Ms. Nocton are going to discuss how the HRC can assist with the MLK Mural project.

Ms. Bruder and Ms. Nocton arrived.

B. Statement for Town Newsletter

Ms. Chatey, Town of Mansfield Communications Specialist, briefly discussed the Town Newsletter with the Commission. She stated that the HRC could have a 250 to 300-word section. It was agreed by consensus that Mr. Mitoma will draft the statement and send it to Ms. Chatey for the next Town Newsletter.

C. Drafting an Equity Statement

This item was tabled by consensus.

D. Naming of New Elementary School

This item was tabled by consensus.

E. Windham Hospital

There was a brief discussion of the closing of Windham Hospital Maternity Ward. Mr. Mitoma suggested that when certain issues come up the Commission deem them to have a detrimental effect to the enjoyment of rights in our region. He suggested drafting a statement or letter to address human rights concerns regarding the closing of the Maternity Ward.

On consensus the Commission decided to ask Ms. Evans to draft a letter of concern regarding the closing of the Windham Hospital Maternity Ward.

F. HRC Municipal Equity Index

Ms. Schaefer, Town of Mansfield Human Resources Director, explained the Municipal Equity Index. This was brought to the Human Rights Commission to assist with reporting. Mr. Mitoma commented that helping with this report and seeing the final product will also be helpful to the HRC in identifying and addressing gaps.

G. Right to Housing

Ms. Chatey, Town of Mansfield Communications Specialist, discussed the Planning survey for affordable housing. There was a brief discussion of affordable housing in Mansfield. More information will be gathered from Planning and Zoning, and will be brought back to the Commission.

7. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Town Charge

Ms. Nocton reported that the Town Charge Subcommittee met and that they were waiting on further instruction in regards to the equity review.

B. Communications and Outreach

None.

8. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned by consensus at 8:41 pm.