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

AGENDA

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 (646) 749-3122 and using the access code 779-602-965. 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**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
May 12, 2021
- 4. MEMBER REPORTS**
- 5. OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. MLK Mural Project
 - B. Equity Survey
 - C. Naming of New Elementary School
 - D. Drafting an Equity Statement
- 6. NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Community Conversations – Discussion Series
- 7. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES**
 - A. Town Charge
 - B. Communications and Outreach
- 8. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**
- 9. ADJOURNMENT**

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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 (872) 240-3212 and using the access code 487-408-021. Additionally, an archive video recording of the meeting will be made available at <https://mansfieldct.gov/video> for 12 months.

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Mitoma called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Evans, Daggett, Lapuk, Lorenz, Mitoma, Nocton

Excused: Bruder, Fried, Vaughan

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 14, 2021

Minutes were approved on consensus.

4. MEMBER REPORTS

Ms. Lapuk noted that it is Eid and that we should be careful about setting our meetings on a holiday that impact our community.

Ms. Nocton reported that the end of the speaker series at EO Smith was very successful and that their last dialogue was moved to June 3rd. She also stated that Katie Bell guest spoke at a GSA meeting recently.

Mr. Mitoma reported that he had a conversation with the Hampden Human Rights Commission and their hope to connect with Human Rights Commissions across the state. He was invited to their meeting tomorrow night at 7 pm which he cannot attend, but he was wondering if someone would like to be the Mansfield representative.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Equity Review Update

Members briefly reviewed the survey and flyer and suggested some small edits. It was agreed on consensus that with these corrections to the survey and the flyer that it can be sent out with a hopeful launch date of Friday, May 14, 2021. It was also agreed on consensus that June 30, 2021 will be the day the survey closes.

B. Emancipation Day Recognition Update

Commission Members briefly discussed the proposed Juneteenth Independence Day Proclamation.

It was agreed on consensus to send this to the Town Council for their May 24, 2021 meeting.

C. MLK Mural Project

Mr. Mitoma provided a quick update on the MLK mural project.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. LGBTQIA+ Month

Commission members briefly discussed the proposed LGBTQIA+ Month proclamation. The Commission discussed making some small changes. The Commission agreed on consensus that the proclamation as amended will be sent to Town Council for their May 24, 2021 meeting.

B. Drafting an Equity Statement

Mr. Mitoma stated that the Board of Education is going to have an equity statement on the agenda for their next meeting.

This agenda will be tabled until Mr. Mitoma is able to connect with Ms. Lyman and see what sort of collaboration we are able to do. It was agreed on consensus to send this to the Town Charge Subcommittee if Mr. Mitoma hears back before their meeting on May 25, 2021.

C. Naming of New Elementary School

Ms. Evans reported that she would like the Commission to be mindful of the name of the new elementary school. Commission members briefly discussed some options for naming the school or areas of the school to promote equity.

It was agreed on consensus that Ms. Evans will reach out to the School Board to see if a name has already been decided.

7. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Town Charge

Ms. Evans reported that the letter to Hartford Healthcare was approved unanimously by the Town Council. She further reported that the NAACP saw the letter and that they were interested in collaborating on future projects.

B. Communications and Outreach

None.

8. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

9. REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Community Conversations Proposal – Jane Fried, Vice Chair

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned on consensus at 8:43 pm.

Correspondence from Mansfield Town Council on Naming of New School

-----Original Message-----

From: Evans, Heather <hevans@usj.edu>
To: 'TownCouncil@mansfieldct.org' <TownCouncil@mansfieldct.org>
Sent: Wed, May 19, 2021 9:08 am
Subject: Name of school - HRC inquiry

Dear Mayor Moran and members of the Mansfield Town Council,

I am a member of the Mansfield Human Rights Commission. We have a question about the new elementary school, specifically the name of the new school. We've reached out to the Board of Education, and were informed that the Town Council will name the school. Has a name been chosen yet? If not, what will be the process for choosing a name? Will there be an opportunity to name rooms, halls, etc? Once we receive your responses to these questions, we will be discussing this topic more fully at our HRC meetings.

Respectfully,

Heather Evans, PhD, RNC-MNN, CLC (pronouns she/her/hers)
Assistant Professor
School of Interdisciplinary Health & Science
Department of Nursing

University of Saint Joseph
1678 Asylum Ave.
West Hartford, CT 06117
Ph: 860-231-5386
HEvans@usj.edu

From: Charles Ausburger <ausburger6@netscape.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2021 4:41 PM
To: Evans, Heather <hevans@usj.edu>
Subject: Re: Name of school - HRC inquiry

Hello Heather,
No, not as of yet have we discussed the naming of the school. It will eventually make its way as an agenda item, thus far it has not.
Thank you for the inquiry,
Charles Ausburger,

Town Council

From: Terry Berthelot <BerthelotT@mansfieldct.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2021 8:59 AM
To: Evans, Heather <hevans@usj.edu>
Subject: Re: Name of school - HRC inquiry

Heather,

Thank you for this! As of yet, I don't know the answers to your questions but believe, as I am sure the Commission does, that this is a wonderful opportunity to commemorate our community's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Take care,
Terry

Terry Berthelot
berthelott@mansfieldct.org



From: Ben Shaiken <ShaikenB@mansfieldct.org>
Sent: Friday, May 21, 2021 8:22 PM
To: Evans, Heather <hevans@usj.edu>
Subject: Re: Name of school - HRC inquiry

Hi Heather,

No, we haven't chosen it nor have we set up a process by which to choose it. It's been brought up that in the addition of the new, we're losing two schools named after trailblazing Mansfield women and that it'd be tricky to choose one to continue the tradition and name the school (given that the names of the existing schools would be fresh in everyone's mind). So, we don't have a process yet but we'll need to set one up.

I don't think our responsibility will include hallways or rooms, but it does include the building itself. I'd imagine if hallways and rooms are to have names, it's something the Board of Ed or the school administration itself would be involved in, so...not an elected official thing.

Ben

Ben Shaiken
he/his
Deputy Mayor
Town of Mansfield
(860) 429-3399 ext. 3402

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS PROPOSAL
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Submitted by Jane Fried, Vice-Chair
June 9, 2021

The best way to build trust in a community is through on-going personal relationships. These relationships should be respectful and give people opportunities to understand each other in the context of their mutual concerns. Areas of mutual concern often include schools, faith communities, places of business, town government, transportation and roads as well as community groups and activities

Creating opportunities for people to meet each other and discuss issues that matter to them can be one significant function of the HRC. The Town of Mansfield is very diverse but groups do not often have opportunities to get to know each other very well. I suggest that the HRC initiate a series of programs that give our residents opportunities to learn about the different groups of people who live here, their needs and the many ways in which each group contributes to our dynamic community.

1. Community Conversations – a series of 4-6 presentations to occur via WebEx or Zoom, open to the entire community. Speakers will be invited to inform listeners about their specific group or issue and its needs and interests. Potential topics include
 - people living with disabilities (especially students),
 - farming in Mansfield (history and current situation of local farmers),
 - being Muslim or Hindu in Mansfield,
 - being African American in Mansfield
 - Being white in Mansfield (the author of “Waking up White” has committed to working with us)
 - Being a member of the GLBTX community in Mansfield
 - “Dreamers” (people with DACA status) in our area
 - “Six Degrees of Separation,” a presentation on communication styles and mutual understanding among different groups (Speaker is willing to work with us. I have heard this presentation and it is excellent.)
2. The HRC is currently developing a community survey to identify human rights concerns in Mansfield. Once we have data from this survey we will have more information about the kinds of programs we would like to present to the community.
3. The program would occur in the early evening about once every two weeks between January and March, beginning with the Martin Luther King celebration and presentation of the mural which is currently being planned.
4. One person would moderate each program. Participants would use the chat function to ask the presenters questions and the moderator would screen the questions. All questioners would be anonymous.
5. The budget for this program would be about \$10,000, most of which would cover the costs of speakers. Typical cost of a speaker for a program like this is \$500-\$750, but people who are well known often charge more.
6. Sources of funding: There are several local foundations, one bank and a number of community partners who will be approached to collaborate with us including the Downtown Partnership, the UConn Agricultural Extension and the Mansfield Public Schools.
7. A set of questions will be developed that will ask participants their reactions to each program and then to the series in general. The questions will be displayed after each session and fed back to the moderator for tabulation. Sample questions will include:
 - a. Did you feel familiar with the needs of this population before the program? After the program (very familiar, somewhat familiar, not at all familiar).
 - b. Do you personally know any people who are members of the group discussed today? (not really, a few, many members)

- c. After listening to this presentation, do you feel more comfortable speaking with people who are members of this group?
- d. If you are a member of the group discussed today, do you feel more comfortable as a resident of Mansfield than you did before?
- e. If there are issues that affect your group, do you have a better sense of how to address them in this community?
- f. Do you feel welcome in Mansfield (if you belong to one of these groups)?
- g. Are you better able to welcome people who are members of these groups now that you know a little more about their needs and concerns?
- h. If you are a member of one of the groups we discussed would you be more likely to use town services and resources?