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

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 (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

Mr. Mitoma called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

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

Excused: Bruder

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 12, 2021

Minutes were approved on consensus.

It was agreed on consensus to add item B to new business, "B. Statement in Regards to Anti-Semitism."

Ms. Lapuk arrived at 7:04 pm.

4. MEMBER REPORTS

Ms. Nocton stated that EO had their last dialogue of the year on inclusion, equity, and justice. She stated that about 35 people attended, that there were presenters from many groups, and it went really well.

Ms. Fried reported that CORE had a meeting on equity and agriculture. They are learning about the African American farming movement, and are looking to help.

They have reached out to UCONN Ag Extension and decided to pursue further conversations about supporting black farmers and indigenous farming methods.

Ms. Bell reported that it is pride month and that there was a flag raising ceremony at Town Hall. There have been a lot of comments from community members who would like to have a flag raising ceremony when school is out.

Ms. Evans reported that she reached out to request that EO Smith students be allowed to attend the flag raising ceremony and there was no response from staff. She also reached out to South East and the principal was unable to allow students to see since it was not live streamed. Ms. Nocton also reported that she knew that they would not allow students to go to the flag raising.

Mr. Mitoma stated that he had a conversation with the Windham Regional Interfaith Working Group. They are hosting a forum on housing access and equity on Monday June 14, 2021 from 3-4:30 pm. Ms. Fried stated that she was hoping to attend. He also reported that he had conversations with the Ballard Art Museum and with the Vinton Art Museum and that their current exhibits pertain to human rights. He suggested they might be someone to partner with in the future.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. MLK Mural Project

Mr. Mitoma reported that the main decision point is around the site selection. The three finalists are EO Smith, the Mansfield Community Center, or the Mansfield Public Library. Top vote getter was the Community Center, second was EO Smith and Third was the Library.

It was agreed on consensus that the Community Center would be the best place for the location of the Mural.

B. Equity Survey

The current results of the survey were briefly discussed. A report will be sent around June 15, 2021 to Commission Members to see how it is going and another will be sent after the survey closes on June 30, 2021.

C. Naming of New Elementary School

Ms. Evans reported on the responses from Council Members regarding the naming of new schools. She suggested that we continue to talk with the Council members to see if the HRC can have a say in the naming of the new school. She also reported that the naming of other rooms/areas was not received as well by the Board of Education, as it would be more complicated.

D. Drafting an Equity Statement

Mr. Mitoma and Ms. Nocton reported that they will be bringing this to the Town Charge Subcommittee once school is out. This was tabled to a later meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Community Conversations – Discussion Series

Ms. Fried reported on her proposal for a speaker series that can happen sometime next January. Commission members were very supportive of this initiative.

B. Statement in Regards to Anti-Semitism

Mr. Mitoma stated that the Council reached out to him to draft a statement on anti-Semitism. Mr. Mitoma and Ms. Fried are going to do some outreach to see if there is something to recommend to the Town Council.

7. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

A. Town Charge

Mr. Mitoma reported that the Town Charge Subcommittee had its first public speaker. He also reported that they discussed the survey.

B. Communications and Outreach

Mr. Mitoma reported that the Communications and Outreach Subcommittee talked about the proposal from Ms. Fried and the outreach of the survey.

8. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned by consensus at 8:21 pm.