

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

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

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Velda Alfred-Abney, Jane Fried, Ray Fricano, Sabrina Hosmer, Jeannine Kanadia, Barbara Vaughan (arrival noted below)

Excused: None

Student Volunteer: Derek Cameron

Staff: Katherine Bell, Monica Ferrara

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 14, 2023

With the correction of the misspelling of the word minutes Jeannine Kanadia moved to approve the minutes, Sabrina Hosmer seconded. Motion passed with all in favor.

4. MEMBER REPORTS

None.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Affordable Housing Check In

Velda Alfred-Abney moved, Jeannine Kanadia seconded to appoint Ray Fricano to serve as a liaison between the Affordable Housing Committee and the Human Rights Commission.

Barbara Vaughan arrived at 7:05pm.

B. Community Conversations

Jeannine Kanadia stated that she made contact with Carolyn Stearns regarding a community conversation at Mansfield Elementary School. Maybe the 23, 24, or 25th of October. The one that stood out to her the most was one entitled My Roots are Showing which is an interactive story telling time that she does with students and she will do a craft afterwards. Jeannine was hoping to promote this event at Celebrate Mansfield.

Jeannine also stated that she is still attending the Sustainable CT equity training, that she is enjoying it, and seeing that Mansfield is trying to adhere to the standards set forth by Sustainable CT.

The tentative community conversations schedule is as follows: What's it like to live in Mansfield in September, story hour in October, and interfaith conversation in December. The goal is to do three on different subjects before the end of 2023, assess and see how they went to see if the Human Rights Commission should host more in the winter/spring of 2024.

C. Equity Statement

Members reviewed Sustainable CT guidelines and compared it to the already written equity statement. Members believed that there was a missing element regarding the history of inequalities. Other members also voiced concerns on process. Katie Bell wrote an introduction and sent it to the Human Right's Commission via chat. Barbara Vaughan moved to adopt the equity statement sent to the town manager's office for review with the added introduction, Sabrina Hosmer seconded. Motion passed with all in favor.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Celebrate Mansfield

Jane Fried stated that the Human Rights Commission will have the map from past years and pins for people to put where their family comes from on the map. There will also have a board where you can write hello in your native language. Jane will also bring some copies of the Declaration of Human Rights for people to view.

B. October Town of Mansfield Newsletter Article

Jane discussed some of her ideas for the October Newsletter article. Members briefly discussed her ideas and agreed with her assessment for the article. Jane will write the article.

C. Say Hi to a Stranger

Jane Fried introduced her idea of Say Hi to a Stranger. Members briefly discussed this idea.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

8. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:57 pm Barbara Vaughan moved to adjourn Velda Alfred-Abney seconded. Motion passed with all in favor.