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 7:01pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Esme Allopena, Quincy Farrow, Jane Fried, Amy Nocton, Barbara Vaughan

Excused: Virginia Lorenz

Guests: Sabrina Hosmer, Jeannine Kanadia, Derek Cameron (student volunteer), Felicia Famularo (student volunteer)

Staff: Katherine Bell, Margaret Chatey, Monica Ferrara

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 15, 2022
August 10, 2022

Ms. Vaughan moved to approve the minutes from the June 15, 2022 meeting, and Ms. Nocton seconded. Minutes passed with all in favor.

Ms. Fried moved to correct the August 10, 2022 minutes to reflect that Ms. Fried wanted to spend some of the allotted budget on a speaker, not all of it.

Ms. Vaughan moved to approve the minutes as corrected, Ms. Farrow seconded. Corrected minutes passed with all in favor.
4. **MEMBER REPORTS**
   Ms. Bell reported that the youth services department is down two social workers and the senior center is down an adult social worker position. They hope to be back to full staffing soon.

5. **OLD BUSINESS**
   None.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**
   **A. Elections of Chair and Vice Chair**
   Ms. Vaughan nominated Ms. Fried as Chair, Ms. Nocton seconded. Motion passed with all in favor.

   Election of Vice Chair was tabled until the next meeting.

   **B. Budget Discussion**
   Ms. Fried introduced her idea for a book discussion with Debbie Irving on her book called “Waking Up White” that will cost a total of $2,500.00. Commission members briefly discussed spending a portion of the budget on the book discussion.

   Ms. Vaughan moved to spend the budget on this discussion, Ms. Nocton seconded. Motion passed with all in favor.

   **C. Organizational Mission**
   Ms. Fried introduced the Charge given to the Commission by the Town Council, and asked the rest of the Commission some of the issues that were important to members.

   Ms. Bell brought up protection of affordable housing as being an important issue in the community. All members agreed that affordable housing was a major concern for the community. Ms. Allopenna stated that she has been in contact with a staff member for the Affordable Housing Committee and that she will be notified when they start meeting. Members briefly discussed some ideas on how the HRC can help bring awareness to affordable housing in Mansfield. Ms. Chatey suggested that we invite a staff member from the Planning Department or a Planning and Zoning Commission to talk to the Commission on affordable housing.

   Members also brought up other issues including accessibility of information (town and school levels) for non-English speaking community members, hate speech and bullying, and advocating for community members with human rights concerns.

   Ms. Vaughan brought up the Celebrate Mansfield Festival. She stated that she needed help setting up, taking down, and booth. Ms. Fried, Ms.
Allopenna, Ms. Farrow, and Ms. Kanadia all stated that they will be able to help out. Ms. Bell stated that she will give the Youth services tent to the HRC for the event. Ms. Chatey explained some of the things that the HRC has planned for the Celebrate Mansfield Festival.

Restructuring of subcommittees, meetings in person or virtual, and reports of affordable housing will be on the next agenda.

7. COMMUNICATIONS
   None.

8. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES
   A. Town Charge
      None.
   B. Communications and Outreach
      None.

9. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
   Ms. Hosmer wanted to share that the local government academy starts tomorrow, and that she is very excited to start working with the commission.

   Ms. Kanadia reported on what she has seen in the schools thus far for the start of the school year with mental health, etc.

10. ADJOURNMENT
    Ms. Alopenna moved to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Farrow seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:03pm with all in favor.