

## **Human Rights Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes January 3, 2017**

The January 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Human Rights Advisory Committee was called to order at 6:05pm. The Acting City Administrator, Julia Glanz, welcomed the group on behalf of the Mayor. The group introduced themselves. In attendance were members Amy Zaprowski, John Wright, Chalarra Sessoms, Julia Glanz, and Councilman Jim Ireton, as well as current non-members Vanice Atrium, Mark Decker, Jean Schrecengost, and Kelly Carey.

The group reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting, and John Wright motioned to accept them. The motion was seconded by Amy Zaprowski.

The Committee then discussed potential, new members such as Nance Held with the Health Department and Laura Bradford with the Board of Education. Vanice Atrium and Mark Decker had already sent in the necessary materials to become Committee members. Kelly Carey and Jean Schrecengost also displayed a desire to join the Committee. The group agreed on the importance of representation for the transgender community, and Julia Glanz offered to reach out to someone.

It was once again decided that the Committee will hold off on electing officers until the majority of seats are filled.

The group reviewed outreach initiatives from their last meeting. Councilman Ireton reported that he reached out to Marty Rouse, the National Field Director of the local area Human Rights Campaign and has thus far received no response. Councilman Ireton also reached out to Mary Ashanti, and she is amenable to welcoming the HRAC to a NAACP meeting to encourage collaboration. Councilman Ireton plans to reach out to both Attorney General Brian Frosh and the Honorable Matt Maciarelllo to explore resources available to the Committee.

The Committee reviewed the mission and vision statement from the Youth Development Advisory Committee, as well as mission and vision statements from other Human Rights Advisory Committees around the country. John Wright voiced a preference for the more extensive statements, as did Chalarra Sessoms. Councilman Ireton shared his drafted mission statement with the Committee, which read:

“Salisbury’s strength is in its diversity, its being the commercial and cultural center of Delmarva. The Human Rights Advisory Committee advises the Mayor and City Council, is a resource for citizens whom the City seeks to protect, and works to recognize and celebrate the growing diversity of the Salisbury community.”

The group decided to incorporate elements of the other mission statements with Councilman Ireton’s suggestions. They identified three key aspects of their mission: to advise the Mayor and Council, to advocate, and to recognize and celebrate diversity. Nancy Talbott offered to draft a general statement that included all of these elements and then send it out with the minutes from the meeting.

The Committee reviewed options for their logo, and there was a general consensus that they liked the idea of the logo shown at the bottom of this document. They decided to continue working on the image to make it their own.

It was requested by multiple members that Nancy Talbott send out a reminder email a few days before the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2017 at 6 p.m.

