

Human Rights Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes February 16, 2017

The February 16th meeting of the Human Rights Advisory Committee was called to order at 5:56 p.m. City Councilman Jim Ireton welcomed the group on behalf of the Mayor. The group introduced themselves. In attendance were members Maureen McNeill, Vanice Antrum, Mark Decker, Pranav Papali, Dillon Prochnicki, Amy Zaprowski, Nance Held, Kelly Carey, Laura Bradford, Billy Early Amos, and John Wright. Jim Ireton attended as a representative of City Council, and Nancy Talbott took minutes on behalf of the Mayor's Office.

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

The Committee then discussed the election of officers. After explaining the different positions, Chair and Vice Chair, the group decided to elect a Secretary as well. Maureen McNeill motioned to add the position, and Jim Ireton seconded the motion. Councilman Ireton motioned to move the election of officers to the end of the meeting. Mark Decker seconded the motion.

The first order of business was the Committee Mission and Vision statements. John Wright motioned to add "immigration status" to the first sentence of the Vision statement, as well as change "without regard to" to "with equal consideration for." Maureen seconded the motion. Maureen also motioned to move the second sentence of the Vision statement to the beginning. Councilman Ireton seconded the motion. Barring those edits, the group approved the Mission and Vision statements.

The group discussed the Committee logo and the aspects of different examples that they wanted to include in their own. Amy Zaprowski offered an example of a dove/hand logo, and the group as a whole discussed including the City's branding into the graphic. Nancy Talbott agreed to mock up some examples to send out with the minutes from the meeting.

Councilman Ireton led the review of outreach initiatives from the January 3rd meeting. Councilman Ireton reported that the Attorney General is interested in visiting the Lower Shore to present on his Civil Rights/Hate Crimes unit. Attorney General Frosh displayed interest in visiting Salisbury after the legislative session is over. Councilman Ireton also reported that he made an appointment for the Committee to present at the NAACP's March 23rd meeting. The group will present on the Committee as a whole, its mission, potential partnerships, and available resources. In addition, Councilman Ireton reached out to Judge Becksted, with the local Drug Court, to inquire about future relationships between the courts and the Committee. Judge Becksted referred him to Judge Sarbanes, whom Jim emailed.

Billy Earl Amos reminded the group about a political symposium that is scheduled to take place at Dove Pointe on March 4th.

John Wright shared a pro-immigration image with the group that his church, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, will have available for those who would like to display it. The group discussed different methods of interacting with the community, such as holding public meetings and attending rallies and marches. Some of the group made plans to attend a local "No Ban, No Wall, No Registry" Rally, which

will take place in Downtown Salisbury on Saturday, February 18th. Nancy agreed to send out a link to the group that will lead them to the Facebook event for the Rally.

Councilman Ireton reminded the group of the importance of remembering to celebrate the City's diversity in the midst of the Committee's activism. The group discussed the local Pride Week, as well as partnering with local coalitions to offer greater resources and celebrations for the community.

After such discussion, the Committee returned to the election of officers. Kelly Carey motioned to elect Billy Earl Amos as Chair, which was seconded by John Wright. Kelly motioned to elect John as Vice Chair, which was seconded by Amy Zaprowski. Kelly motioned to elect Laura Bradford as the Committee Secretary, which was seconded by Billy Earl.

The group concluded the meeting with a brief discussion on religious holidays that are often ignored, as well as their desire to influence the current political stance on immigration.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2017 at 6 p.m.

