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**City of Salisbury**

**HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Minutes**

**October 14, 2021**

**Committee Members Present**

Stephen Feliciano, *Chair*

Logan Prushansky

D’Shawn Doughty

Hannah Cechini

Rev. John Wright

Tyler Anderson
Cody Drinkwater
Amber Green

**Committee Members Absent**Ben Pheasant

Ron Pagano

**In Attendance**

Jessie Turner, *City of Salisbury staff*

Sally Perret, *Salisbury University*

Angela Blake, *City Council*

**Moment of Silence—**6:05 pm—reflection on those who have lost their lives and on those who are suffering.

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm by Mr. Feliciano and introductions were made.

**Review of Minutes**

A motion to accept the minutes from September’s meeting was made by Mr. Wright and seconded by Ms. Cechini.

**Current Works For Discussion**

* **Sally Perret Appointment Application**

The committee voted unanimously to move forward with Mr. Perret’s appointment. Jessie will forward to Mayor for approval and to the Council for appointment resolution.

* **Open To All Campaign**

Ms. Prushansky has reached out to Soul Yoga regarding the Open to All Campaign. Ms. Cechini and Mr. Feliciano has been working on a video series highlighting businesses who have agreed to be a part of the campaign. The have been to Together Café and Ugly Pie. The video consists of an interview with the business owner and of the business itself. The video can be a useful marketing tool and will also encourage other businesses that see the video to be interested in joining OTAC. They will be visiting Mud Hud next. Mr. Feliciano is also reaching out to Mogan’s, Revival, and Blackwater Apothecary to set up meetings to take pledge and appointments for video interviews. He would like a formal proposal to be made to the City of Salisbury regarding the importance and success of the campaign. Another component of initiative that will continue to be implemented is the involvement of the KindSBY and PFLAG. Mr. Drinkwater would like to be involved as an ambassador. Ms. Green asked if the Open to All Campaign is limited to businesses or if it could also include non-profit/human service organizations, and Mr. Feliciano explained that Open to All is open to any and all organizations. Mr. Wright proposed HRAC join Open to All and asked about timeline for proposal to the Mayor/City. Ms. Cechini said she could meet a December deadline, and Mr. Feliciano would like to get two more videos and then draft a formal proposal by our next meeting and then follow up with Mayor’s Office. Mr. Feliciano and Mr. Wright will work together to draft a proposal for the City and then send to the group as a whole.

* **Social Media Update**

In December, Mr. Feliciano created a private group for HRAC and within the past couple of weeks has started inviting the rest of the group. He has been sharing the type of content he believes should be shared on the group Facebook page and is asking for the group’s input as well.

* **Preparation for 2022**

Members were sent a form to vote for officer positions. Results will be announced in the November meeting.

* **Human Rights Award**

Follow up with Mayor’s Office with Human Rights Award & brochure. Mr. Feliciano is wondering about printing of brochures and banner for use in the community. Jessie recommended putting together a list of events at which HRAC might be present. Mayor’s Office is fine with January 2022 start for Human Rights Award, and putting together an application for the website was discussed.

**Public Forum and Current Events**

* Ms. Cechini attended the PFLAG meeting at Ward Museum on National Coming Out Day and said it was an awesome event.
* On the 30th of September there was a PFLAG panel discussion on how the religious community can be an ally to PLFAG. Several religious communities were represented, and Mr. Feliciano was able to attend. Mr. Wright felt that the discussion went well.
* Mr. Feliciano would like to see a network of people that would help individuals find a welcoming faith-based community to be a part of. Ms. Perret indicated some ally groups from the SU campus might be a good resource for that. Ms. Cechini suggested reaching out to faith-based organizations to get involved in the Open To All Campaign.
* Ms. Perret spoke of a Latinx task force meeting with pastors of Spanish-speaking churches.
* Mr. Feliciano attended the Peace in the Park event on September 25th and was able to meet and speak with several people, including individuals from the Muslim and Buddhist communities in Salisbury. Mr. Wright mentioned this event is a great example of where an HRAC table would be great.
* On October 7, Mr. Feliciano attended the open house at Salisbury University’s Center for Equity, Justice, and Inclusion and was able to introduce himself and the HRAC group to several different people. He believes our group can make connections within the University and the community to help provide education and insight into issues of Human Rights.
* Mr. Feliciano pointed out that Housing and Homelessness will continue to be topics of focus in the City of Salisbury, and there are opportunities to learn more about that by attending Council meetings.
* Ms. Green spoke of a youth Town Hall meeting addressing youth homelessness that will be held in October, led by youth advisory board and Salisbury University students. Additionally, Fenix Youth will be having the Lower Shore Sleep Out event on November 17th. This event raises awareness and funds to help overcome youth homelessness.

**Next Meeting and Adjournment**

The next weekend will be held Thursday, November 11, 2021 at 6:00 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 7:06pm.

**Minutes Taken By:** Jessie Turner, City of Salisbury staff liaison