



**City of Salisbury**  
**HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**August 11, 2022**

**Committee Members Present**

Amber Green, *Chair*  
Cody Drinkwater, *Vice-Chair*  
Stephen Feliciano, *Administrator*  
Rev. John Wright  
D'Shawn Doughty  
Tyler Anderson  
Teresa Thaxton  
Sally Perret  
Hannah Cechini

**Committee Members Absent**

None

**In Attendance**

Jessie Turner, *City of Salisbury staff*  
Kirsten Rhone, *Applicant*

**Call to Order**

Motion was made to call meeting to order at 6:03 pm by Stephen and seconded by D'Shawn.

**Review of Minutes**

A motion was made by John and seconded by Sally to accept the minutes from June's meeting and was approved unanimously.

**Current Works For Discussion**

- Amber began with discussion on the Purpose of the Human Rights Advisory Committee and suggested the purpose needs narrowed and focused on. As the purpose is determined, the community needs to become more aware of the mission. Amber asked what are our desired outcomes and stressed the importance of accountability. Stephen feels that group is important and has possibly lost focus. He explained that we have opportunities to connect with the community and that takes time and energy—it's not just a matter of finances. Jessie was asked to read the purpose of the group as stated in the Resolution that established the Human Rights Advisory Committee. D'Shawn feels the group is not doing the first part at all and if we can't do that, what is the point of the committee? Amber agreed and stated that the group has not been strategic in making recommendations. Community partners have been identified and HRAC is one, and Amber explained how the committee can then bring others in

and be strategic in communication. She believes the overall theme of purpose is advising, advocacy, and accountability and wondered is any disconnect because of the group itself or does it include the City Administration. Concerning one of the other parts of the committee's purpose—hate crimes...how is the group aware of what crimes are being committed and what access to that information can become more readily available so that HRAC put strategies in place to fulfill its purpose in relation to hate crimes? Hannah commented that an event like the National Night Out is the perfect event for the committee to attend. Amber stated that information about HRAC should be available at all City events. John suggested putting brochures about the Boards and Commissions in the lobby at the GOB. Amber said without goals in place the purpose of the Committee as described in the Resolution will not happen and recommended setting a goal-planning special meeting. There was group discussion again concerning the option for an online reporting system of hate crimes, human rights violations, and other issues related to HRAC that the public could use and then the committee could follow up and make recommendations based on the issues presented. Several committee members wondered what would happen to the concern/complaint after it was reported—who does it go to and what is the next step? There was a consensus that it would be good to have the Mayor and City Administrator speak to the group, and the Chair recommended a special meeting be scheduled for that as soon as possible so that they can provide clarity to the group on the mission and purpose of HRAC. Cody recommended that the committee transition to becoming more of a task force than an advisory committee.

- Briefly discussed was the relationship and similarities and differences between HRAC and the newly formed TRUTH Committee.

#### **Open Form and Current Events**

- No Discussion

#### **Announcements**

- None

#### **Next Meeting and Adjournment**

- The next meeting will be held Thursday, September 8, 2022 at 6:00 pm in GOB 306. The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 pm.

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