



City of Salisbury
HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2022

Committee Members Present

Amber Green, *Chair*
Stephen Feliciano, *Administrator*
Rev. John Wright
D'Shawn Doughty
Teresa Thaxton
Sally Perret
Hannah Cechini

Committee Members Absent

Cody Drinkwater, *Vice Chair*
Tyler Anderson

In Attendance

Jessie Turner, *City of Salisbury staff*
Angela Blake, *City Council liaison*

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm.

Review of Minutes

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

Current Works For Discussion

- Current vacancies and appointments: The committee has two applications pending and four vacancies: one from a religious organization, one from age group 16-24 years old, one representing LGBTQ+, and one at-large
- Stephen suggested before a conversation about membership can be effective, the group needs to be told about Amber's recent meeting with the Mayor. Amber shared that one of the options that was suggested for the group was transitioning from an advisory committee to a commission. Several committee members confirmed that in their research they have seen that most municipalities have a commission rather than a committee. The purpose of the group was confirmed by the Mayor that it is to do what the enabling legislation states. The question then becomes how does that happen as an advisory committee? Jessie explained the basic difference between an advisory committee and a commission, but will get more information for the next meeting. Committee members agreed to take a week to research more on the

difference, find examples of commissions, and to schedule a special meeting to decide how to move forward with commission vs. committee. Residency requirement was also discussed—should members of either committee or commission be required to be residents of the City of Salisbury? Hannah and Stephen mentioned a possible requirement of a member of law enforcement to be part of the committee/future commission.

- D'Shawn asked about the possibility of the City hiring an Equity and Inclusion officer. Angela explained that that might not be financially possible unless departments were restructured and recommended the committee ask the Mayor about the possibility. Amber suggested it could be possible to add that as a job description to an already existing position.
- Stephen and Amber encouraged the group to take their commitment to the group seriously and addressed the issue of attendance and involvement.

Open Form and Current Events

- This was Reverend John's last meeting, as he will be "retiring" from the HRAC in November. The committee thanks him for the time and wisdom he has invested as a founding member of the committee.

Announcements

- None

Next Meeting and Adjournment

- The next meeting will be held Thursday, November 10, 2022 at 6:00 pm in GOB 306. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

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