



City of Salisbury
TRUTH COMMITTEE
Special Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2023

Call to Order

Special meeting was called to order at 5:10 pm.

Committee Members Present: Amber Green, Terry Graham, Joe Venosa, Kat Savoy, James Yamakawa, and Samuel Henry

Others Present: Jessie Turner, *City Staff Liaison*

Election of Officers

- TRUTH Committee Chair, La'Tanya Christopher, was hired in the City's Department of Housing and Community Development. Per City policy adopted July 1, 2023, City employees can not be members of City boards/commissions/committees. Therefore, La'Tanya resigned from the TRUTH Committee and a new chair should be elected.
- Terry motioned to nominate Amber for Chair, Amber accepted the nomination, James seconded the motion, and the group agreed unanimously.
- Joe motioned to nominate James as Vice Chair. James declined the nomination. Terry motioned to nominate Kat, and Kat declined the nomination. Amber motioned to nominate Terry. Terry accepted the nomination, Joe seconded the motion, and the group agreed unanimously.

Current Works For Discussion

- Membership—The purpose of this special meeting was to discuss TRUTH Committee membership—the process and the reason that each member decided to be a part of the committee. Amber described the process of appointment as it currently stands. Each committee member took several minutes to explain why they chose to be a part of the committee. Discussion was had on the expectations of members and the goals and vision of the Committee. It was decided that expectations, goals, and vision would be something to add to the next meeting agenda for further discussion.
- Amber presented the idea of a Google form for new applicants with more in-depth questions as the next step in the appointment process. James motioned for this document to be created, Kat seconded the motion, and all of the group was in favor. The form will be presented at a future committee meeting for review.

Open Form and Current Events

- Terry shared about his recent certification with the US Institute of Diplomacy in Human Rights. The committee discussed whether requiring this type of certification would be something to

make mandatory for committee members. The cost of the certification could be a contributing deterrent. Membership certification will be discussed at the next meeting.

- James suggested it would be helpful for the current and future committee members to have access to a resource list—for example, a list of recommended readings. Kat presented the idea of a lending library that all committee members could use. Amber asked the group to bring a list of suggested readings to be reviewed at the next committee meeting.
- Jessie shared that a current project in the Mayor's Office is the creation of a Code of Ethics for members of City boards/commissions/committees. The consensus was that the members of the TRUTH Committee would like to be part of the review process of the Code of Ethics draft. Jessie will present it to members at a future meeting.

Next Meeting and Adjournment

- The next meeting will be held Wednesday, October 18th at 6:00 pm in the HQ Conference Room. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

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