



**City of Salisbury  
TRUTH Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
March 20, 2024**

**Committee Members Present**

Amber Green, *Chair*

Kenisha Le’Cole, *Vice Chair*

Kat Savoy

Joe Venosa

James Yamakawa

**Committee Members Absent**

Nanay Paul

Samuel Henry

April Jackson—*Council Representative*

**Others Present**

Jessie Turner—*City Staff Liaison*

Members of the public (SU students)

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm.

**Welcome & Introductions**

**Approval of Minutes**

- **February minutes**—Motion by Kat to amend the minutes to include James’ and Joe’s email comments that were read at February’s meeting. Seconded by Joe and all agree. Jessie will amend February meeting minutes.

**Current Works For Discussion**

- **Meeting records**--Discussion on the pros and cons of recording meetings (either audio or video). It could be an option to elect a committee secretary who would do in-depth meeting minutes. Another option would be to do a Zoom recording and keep the recordings on file. Motion by Joe to record meeting and keep a catalog of the audio. Seconded by Kenisha and all agree.
- **Workplace Discrimination Training**—April 26, 2024 from 10 am-noon in HQ Council room. Jordan will advertise on the City’s social media. Amber and Kenisha are going to check on community connections who may be interested in providing refreshments for the event.
- **Member Recruitment**—Amber recommended each member find someone and ask them to apply. Joe suggested an outreach event at SU. It was suggested that it be added to the bylaws

a requirement that committee members either work or live in Wicomico County. Motion to move member recruitment to next agenda made by Joe and seconded by Kenisha. All agree. **SU. Amber believes the committee should have**

- **Outreach and community engagement**—Discussion was had on members being present at local events. It was asked if it should be required in the committee's enabling legislation, and the general consensus was no...it should be a goal but not a matter of legislation. The question then becomes how many community engagement events should be the goal? Five was recommended/quarter and it was recommended to add to each month's meeting agenda a section to report on community engagement. Kenisha motioned to add Community Engagement to the agenda. Kat seconded and all agreed.
- **Apology Resolution**—motion by Joe and seconded by Kat to send a copy of the apology resolution to the descendants. James will email the contact information to Jessie.

### **New Recommendations**

- The committee would like to add this topic to meetings beginning next month. Chipman Cultural Center will go on the agenda to discuss possible grants, other funding and event opportunities. It was asked why the City supports the Poplar Hill mansion but not the Chipman center. Registering for a webinar for grants in preservation of historical buildings was suggested. The African American Preservation Program has grants that could be applied for. It is the desire of the committee to see the City play more of a role in support and programming at the Chipman Center. It was also recommended that the City of Salisbury create a policy to ensure that black owned businesses are not neglected. A percentage of funding should be designated to black led organizations and businesses.
- James asked that the committee make a recommendation to the City about what should be done if a hotel is built on land that used to be a black community. He asked what can be done with the profits of the hotel to benefit the community that used to live in the area of Lot 10. Joe asked if we would recommend compensating both white and black communities. Joe motioned to add to the agenda for next time, James seconded, and all were in favor.

### **Next Meeting and Adjournment**

- TRUTH Committee meetings are scheduled for the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm in the Salisbury Headquarters (HQO Conference room).
- Motion to adjourn by Kat and seconded by Kenisha. The meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm.

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