



City of Salisbury
HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
September 4, 2024

Committee Members Present:

Suzi Peterson
Jonathan Moore
Devin LeFemina
Julie Peters
Natalie Saint-Phard
Jeremy Alexander
Daniel McBride

Committee Members Absent:

Cody Drinkwater
Demetria Marshall

Other:

Randy Taylor, Mayor
Jessie Turner, City Staff Liaison
Angela Blake, City Council Representative
Members of the public

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm.

Approval of August Minutes: Motion by JA and seconded by NS. All approved.

Current Works For Discussion

- Discussion with Mayor Taylor—Committee goals
 - JA explained the committee's thoughts on an interfaith event. The event would invite participation from all congregations and ask each participant to bring a non-perishable item that will be donated to the Maryland Food Bank. Mayor Taylor expressed his support for the event and recommended presenting the idea to a pastoral roundtable. JA will prepare a formal letter to be sent to congregations. AB will talk to SU about use of the space. Motion to move forward by JA, seconded by JM and all agree.
 - JM and NS expressed need for continued prayer vigils.
 - Crosswalk—Mayor explained his stance in that all should be treated with dignity and respect, and the City should not use public assets to promote political agendas—not the appropriate place for government. A proposed alternative is a public art competition using all of the crosswalk spaces in this area as a designated “art corner”. Committee members expressed concern that the alternative could be exclusionary and communicated the crosswalk as currently painted is not political. There was a motion by SP to recommended the cross walk be preserved as is, seconded by JP, but there was not consensus. After further discussion, an alternative motion was put forth—motion by JA to recommend to the Mayor that the crosswalk stays this year as the Pride

Crosswalk and the process is revisited next year. DM seconded and the committee agreed.

Open Public Forum & Current Events

- A member of the public spoke to the committee on her belief that her human rights were violated a recent City Council meeting. She asked for the City acquire a “formal advisement” from an attorney compared to a “legal opinion”
- NS spoke of the large population of new residents on the west side and asked about plan for pedestrian walkways and school.

Next Meeting and Adjournment

- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 2nd in the HQ Conference Room.
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm.

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