



**City of Salisbury
TRUTH Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 28, 2024**

Committee Members Present

Amber Green, Chair
Kenisha Le’Cole, Vice Chair (online)
Joe Venosa
James Yamakawa
Boni Rychener

Committee Members Absent

Kat Savoy
Samuel Henry
Nanay Paul
April Jackson—Council Representative

Others Absent

Jessie Turner—City Staff Liaison

Call to Order

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

Welcome & Introductions

Approval of Minutes

- May Minutes—Motion by J.Y. and second by J.V. to approve the May 2024 meeting minutes.
All agree.

Current Works For Discussion

-Welcome to new committee member Boni Rychener.

-Preserving African American History—Chipman Cultural Center & Other Landmarks—
Discussion continued about how to get Chipman involved in the discussion. J.V.
mentioned that he can speak with several members of the SU Nabb Center who have

connections to Chipman (Dr. Aston Gonzalez and Ian Post) as well as Councilwoman Shanie Shields.

- Increasing the committee's presence at 3rd Friday and including some additional literature/information was also brought up as a possible approach.
- Members discussed new ideas to reach out to community members about specific topics/community concerns. One point of deliberation was the framing of the TRUTH committee as a committee devoted exclusively to the local African-American community and experiences vs. a broader definition, including people of African descent more broadly. J.V. mentioned the complexity of such identity issues regarding specific immigrant populations such as Haitian Americans and specifically 2nd generation Haitian Americans in the community and how specific issues within those communities relates to the TRUTH committee's overall purpose and goals. A.G. and J.Y. emphasized the specific origins of the committee with regard to lynching and white supremacy/anti-black terrorism in Salisbury's past that grounds in more within the local African-American experience and thus other topics and related community concerns could be better filtered through HRAC.
- Another related discussion centered on how the committee frames itself and its goals to the community and what should be done about public engagement and our own "self-narrative" about our purpose and goals. There was some detailed discussion about the committee's relationship to and overall scope with engaging the public and city officials. Overall agreement that this is a very important issue in need of further discussion and broader consensus.

Next Meeting and Adjournment

- TRUTH Committee meetings are scheduled for the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm in the Salisbury Headquarters (HQ Conference room).
- The meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm.

Minutes Taken By: Joe Venosa, Committee Member

