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**City of Salisbury**

**HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Minutes**

**February 5, 2025**

**Committee Members Present:**

Suzi Peterson

Jenn Berkman

Juan Carlos Zelaya

Julie Peters

Natalie Saint-Phard

Jeremy Alexander

Daniel McBride

Demetria Marshall

**Committee Members Absent**:

Devin LaFemina

Susan Ferrell

Angela Blake

**Others Present:**

Jessie Turner, City Staff Liaison

Members of the public

Cleveland Horton--MCCR

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:02

**Approval of January minutes:** SP motion to accept, JA second, and all agree

**Current Works For Discussion**

* **Maryland Commission on Civil Rights Presentation—Cleveland Horton**
	+ Mr. Horton introduced himself and the agency—a historically reactive agency working to increase education and outreach. The specific topic addressed at this meeting centered around immigration concerns and how to protect our state’s immigrants. The committee and members of the public were given time to ask questions, to express concerns, and to share contact information with Mr. Horton and one another. Protecting and educating immigrants will remain on future HRAC meeting agendas.
* **Interfaith Service**
	+ The Committee discussed adding an additional meeting to work on the proposed interfaith service. It was recommended that the event be canceled due to a lack of time to prepare. Motion by DM to cancel, seconded by SP and agreed upon by all.
* **Proclamation**
	+ NS shared that the Mayor presented a Human Trafficking Awareness proclamation. The committee extended its thanks to the Mayor and Council and agreed that it should be shared with other organizations.
* **Future of the Committee**
	+ JP stated that the committee needs to decide what its focus will be and set the goal of being more “actionable”
	+ A motion was made to issue a memo to the mayor and council on the current immigration crisis. Motion seconded and all agree. NS will draft a memo.
	+ The committee held a brief discussion on the possibility of having a second meeting each month. There was a motion and a second, but the committee voted against adding a second meeting at this time.

**Open Public Forum & Current Event**

* Affirming Families Group—screening of “Mama Bears” documentary. First Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at Asbury
* DM announced a Super Bowl party at Raines in the Twilley Shopping Center—free food and all invited.
* A member of the public shared an update on Habitat for Humanity and the Police Accountability Board

**Next Meeting and Adjournment**

* The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 5th in the HQ Conference Room.
* The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm

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