



HUMAN RELATIONS DIVERSITY BOARD

1 N. Bluford Avenue
Ocoee, Florida

June 5, 2025

AGENDA

6:15 PM

• CALL TO ORDER

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

1. Read aloud Mission Statement - "The general mission of the Human Relations Diversity Board ("HRDB") is to promote understanding, respect, goodwill, and equality among all citizens and businesses of the City of Ocoee."

• APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes from April 3, 2025 and May 1, 2025

• OLD BUSINESS

1. Q3 and Q4 2025 Goals and Objectives

• NEW BUSINESS

• DEPARTMENT UPDATES

• PUBLIC COMMENTS

• ADJOURNMENT

Notice: Any person who desires to appeal any decision at this meeting will need a record of the proceedings and for this purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made which includes testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based. In accordance with Florida Statute 286.26: Persons with disabilities needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the Office of the City Clerk, 1 N. Bluford Avenue, Ocoee FL 34761, (407) 905-3105, 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

More than one Commissioner may participate or hear discussions regarding a matter which will come before the Commission for action.



HUMAN RELATIONS DIVERSITY BOARD

1 N. Bluford Avenue
Ocoee, Florida

May 1, 2025

MINUTES

6:15 PM

• **CALL TO ORDER**

The workshop was called to order by **Chair Beck** at 6:15 p.m. in the Commission Chambers of City Hall located at 1 N. Bluford Avenue, Ocoee.

Chair Beck led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of personal reflection. **Recording Clerk Torres** confirmed the presence of a quorum.

Present: Chair Beck, Vice-Chair Maxwell, Member Cummings, Member Mellen, Member Cease

Absent: Member Singh

Also Present: Mayor Johnson, Parks and Leisure Services Assistant Director Gaines, and Recording Clerk Torres

Speakers: Kavita Sawh and Katherine Virella

Speaker Series – Enhancing Accessibility to Build Community

The session focused on everyday disability-related scenarios in both professional and social contexts. Participants explored the root causes of accessibility barriers and discussed strategies for addressing them. Emphasis was placed on inclusive customer service, communication, and environmental design. The workshop featured real-world examples, interactive discussions, and practical tools applicable to course design, event planning, and community engagement. Key takeaways included inclusive strategies tailored to various disability experiences and actionable insights for educators, event organizers, and community leaders.

Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

ATTESTED:

APPROVED:

Recording Clerk

Chairperson



HUMAN RELATIONS DIVERSITY BOARD

1 N. Bluford Avenue
Ocoee, Florida

April 3, 2025

MINUTES

6:15 PM

- **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by **Chair Beck** at 6:15 p.m. in the Commission Chambers of City Hall located at 1 N. Bluford Avenue, Ocoee.

Chair Beck led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of personal reflection. **Recording Clerk Torres** proceeded with the roll call and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

Present: Chair Beck, Vice-Chair Maxwell, Member Cummings and Member Singh

Absent: Member Cease

Also Present: Parks and Leisure Services Assistant Director Gaines, and Recording Clerk Torres

First line of Mission Statement was read by **Chair Beck** "The general mission of the Human Relations Diversity Board ("HRDB") is to promote understanding, respect, goodwill, and equality among all citizens and businesses of the City of Ocoee."

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Approval of Minutes for the HRDB meetings held on February 6, 2025

Motion: Move to approve the February 6, 2025, Minutes; Moved by Member Mellen, seconded by Member Cummings, Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Beck informed the board that Dr. Moyer has resigned and thanked him for his time and dedication. **Assistant Director Gaines from Parks and Leisure Services** shared that the terms for Chair Beck, Member Singh, and Member Cease end in May, and they will need to reapply. **Vice-Chair Maxwell** mentioned he invited a fellow veteran who is interested in joining the board. **Clerk Torres** let him know the application is available online and reminded the group that board members are appointed by their district commissioner.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Revisit Survey Results

Chair Beck stated that the survey sent out with the water bill to 16,000 homes has been active for three months with no new responses and recommended that it be taken down.

Motion: Move to deactivate survey; Moved by Member Mellen, seconded by Member Cummings. Motion carried unanimously.

Parks and Leisure Services Assistant Director Gaines shared that new legislation in Florida prevents local governments from creating DEI policies. **Chair Beck** responded that the city attorney

may need to provide clarification, as there is often confusion between DEI as it relates to hiring policies and the purpose of this volunteer board, which is to promote diversity.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Q3 and Q4 2025 Goals and Objectives

Chair Beck shared that new federal bills have impacted UCF and their DEI program, leading them to rebrand the topic for their upcoming talk to “Enhancing Accessibility to Build Community.” They are still reviewing other topics, to make sure they don’t risk losing federal funding for the next speaker series date. The board is paying the speaker \$250 and while the objectives remain the same, the focus is on removing labels that might affect how the speakers are perceived.

Motion: Move to bring in the UCF speakers to the May meeting; Moved by Member Mellen, seconded by Member Singh. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Beck said she would get the updated promotional materials for the speaker to Parks and Leisure Services Assistant Director Gaines. She also mentioned that she plans to attend the upcoming commission meeting to formally invite the commissioners to the May meeting. She also added that during their June meeting, the board can revisit the idea of hosting another speaker.

• DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Chik-fil-A 5k – April 12th

Easter Extravaganza – April 19th

Centennial Bash- May 9th

Centennial Time Capsule – May 13th

Chair Beck stated that the board should include the HRDB pamphlet in the time capsule. **Vice-Chair Maxwell** added that they should also include a copy of “The Day of Remembrance.”

Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

ATTESTED:

APPROVED:

Recording Clerk

Chairperson