

HUMAN RELATIONS DIVERSITY BOARD

1 N. Bluford Avenue
Ocoee, Florida

February 6, 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, Members Cease, Moyer, and Singh

Absent: Members Cummings and Mellen

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 in January 2, 2025

Motion: Move to approve the January 2, 2025, Minutes; Moved by Member Cease, seconded by Vice-Chair Maxwell. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Beck commended the City for mailing the pamphlets with the water bills, noting how quickly it was done. She also mentioned there were extra pamphlets available. So far, there have been 13 responses, most of which have been negative. She read some of the feedback to the board and suggested revisiting the results at the March meeting to allow more time for responses. **Chair Beck** further encouraged members to take pamphlets to distribute. **Parks and Leisure Services Assistant Director Gaines** shared that the Mayor received 10 calls from residents unhappy with the pamphlet. **Member Moyer** requested an update in March to assess the survey's progress and gather more feedback. **Vice-Chair Maxwell** suggested the issue might be specific to Ocoee, not DEI, and recommended holding a town hall meeting. **Chair Beck** agreed and mentioned that they would need to go before the Commission to discuss the possibility of organizing one.

• NEW BUSINESS

1. Finalize Speaker for the June 5th meeting

Member Cease suggested that the board prioritize the Disability Access topic and avoid potentially triggering subjects for now. **Vice-Chair Maxwell** acknowledged there may be opposition but emphasized that the board cannot abandon DEI efforts. In response to Member Cease, **Chair Beck** agreed, stating that the board must be strategic in how they approach the speaker series to ensure it is engaging without causing issues.

Motion: Move to prioritize the speaker series to the March meeting; Moved by Vice-Chair Maxwell, seconded by Member Singh. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Beck shared that she has prepared social media posts to announce the speaker series, keeping the branding consistent with last year. She also suggested moving the second topic, "The Unconscious Mind," to June. **Member Moyer** proposed that the first speaker series take place in March, and the board could evaluate its success before planning the next one. **Member Cease** expressed his desire to focus on facilitating disability awareness and table the "Unconscious Mind" topic for now. **Chair Beck** stated she would reach out to the speakers for both March and April and let them choose their dates based on availability. She also mentioned that she would attend the next City Commission meeting and invite the Commissioners to the first speaker series once it is scheduled.

- **DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

Chili Cook off – February 8th

Valentines Day Event – February 14th

Community Market- February 13th

Spring into Conservation – March 1st

St. Patrick's Day Event – March 14th

- **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Strother Bracey, an Ocoee resident, expressed his belief that the City should focus on building more senior-only luxury buildings. **Parks and Leisure Services Assistant Director Gaines** responded by encouraging him to voice his concerns at the next City Commission meeting.

Pearlin Bass, an Ocoee resident, mentioned that she received the pamphlet in her water bill and expressed her support for the HRDB.

- **SET NEXT AGENDA**

- Read aloud Mission Statement
- Approval of Minutes for the February 6, 2025, meeting
- Revisit Survey Results
- Q3 and Q4 2025 Goals and Objectives

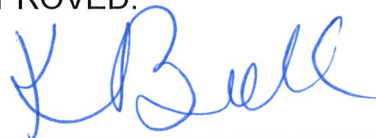
Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

ATTESTED:



Recording Clerk

APPROVED:



Chairperson