

HUMAN RELATIONS DIVERSITY BOARD

1 N. Bluford Avenue
Ocoee, Florida

June 5, 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 (arrived at 6:45 p.m.), Member Cummings, Member Singh, Member Mellen and Member Henderson

Absent: None

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 April 3, 2025, and May 1, 2025

Motion: Move to approve April 3, 2025, and May 1, 2025, Minutes; Moved by Member Mellen, seconded by Member Cummings, Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Beck welcomed Member Henderson as the newest appointee on the board.

- **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Q3 and Q4 2025 Goals and Objectives**

Chair Beck shared that she followed up with Kavita Sawh regarding potential topics for future board presentations. Two topics were suggested: Veterans Affairs and Multilingual Outreach. **Member Mellen** expressed support for the Veterans Affairs topic. **Chair Beck** noted that the speaker would need to be scheduled for the August meeting, due to the July 4th holiday.

Member Henderson inquired about events, and **Chair Beck** clarified that the board does not plan events; those are managed by the city. She also informed Member Henderson about DEI-related posts the board shared on the City's Facebook page in 2024, as well as the DEI brochure that was distributed through the City's water bill mailing.

- DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Fourth of July Block Party – July 4th

Family Recreation Day – July 19th

- PUBLIC COMMENTS

Joseph Richardson, a member of the VoxPopuli advisory board, addressed the board regarding a National Day of Reason resolution he proposed to the City of Winter Garden. The resolution was intended as an inclusive alternative to the National Day of Prayer, particularly for individuals who do not follow a specific religion. He noted that Winter Garden ultimately rejected the proclamation.

Vice-Chair Maxwell arrived at 6:45 p.m.

Chair Beck shared that the mayor has indicated he would permit non-secular invocations prior to City meetings. **Norine Dworkin**, Chief Editor of VoxPopuli, also commented, stating she had previously presented a proclamation and felt that the City of Ocoee is taking steps toward allowing a broader range of invocations, beyond just Christian ones, before meetings.


Vice-Chair Maxwell informed the board of the passing of the mayor's firstborn and shared details about the upcoming service. He also expressed his appreciation for the speaker who presented at the May meeting. **Vice-Chair Maxwell** mentioned that he had spoken with Minuteman Press regarding printing paper copies of the 2020 Day of Remembrance booklets for residents. **Chair Beck** requested that he bring an estimate to the July meeting for consideration.

Additionally, **Vice-Chair Maxwell** suggested that the History of Ocoee book be reproduced. He noted that while the City could authorize the reproduction, a digital copy would first need to be located.

Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

ATTESTED:

APPROVED:



Recording Clerk



Chairperson