



HUMAN RELATIONS DIVERSITY BOARD

1 N. Bluford Avenue
Ocoee, Florida

October 2, 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 August 7, 2025 and September 4, 2025

• OLD BUSINESS

1. "Welcome to Ocoee" video
2. 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

August 7, 2025,

MINUTES

6:15 PM

- **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by **Chair Beck** at 6:15 PM 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 Singh and Henderson

Absent: Member 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 meeting held on July 3, 2025

Consensus of the board was in support of the approval of July 3, 2025, Minutes.

- **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **“Welcome to Ocoee” Video Demo**

Chair Beck presented a demo video and accompanying PowerPoint showcasing a proposed “Welcome to Ocoee” diversity campaign. In the video, local residents greet viewers in their native languages to highlight the cultural diversity within the City of Ocoee. She explained that, with additional submissions and the inclusion of a photo waiver or disclaimer, the final product could be used by the city to promote inclusivity and community pride.

Vice-Chair Maxwell expressed strong support for the concept, calling it a valuable and impactful idea. He referenced the “Fiesta de Colores” event, in which the HRDB previously participated, noting that residents representing 16 different Latin American countries were in attendance, a testament to Ocoee’s multicultural makeup.

Parks and Leisure Services Assistant Director Gaines shared that both the Mayor and City Manager are interested in viewing the concept before any further steps are taken.

Motion: Move to adopt the video project for Q4 pending Commission approval; Moved by Vice-Chair Maxwell, seconded by Member Singh; Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Beck asked Parks and Leisure Services Assistant Director Gaines whether the video concept could be presented at an upcoming City Commission meeting. **Assistant Director Gaines** advised that the board wait until feedback is received from the Mayor and City Manager before moving forward with a formal presentation.

2. Ocoee History Book Discussion

Chair Beck noted that legal concerns regarding copyright, along with the fact that the HRDB is not a historical organization, have prevented the board from moving forward with efforts to reproduce the "History of Ocoee" book. She suggested that, instead, the board consider utilizing unused funds to bring in a speaker for the November meeting.

Chair Beck invited members to begin thinking about potential topics for the speaker and to bring their ideas to the October meeting for discussion.

Member Henderson proposed inviting a speaker to address the issue of language barriers between educators and parents who may not speak English. **Chair Beck**, along with other members, agreed that the topic was both relevant and valuable. **Chair Beck** stated she would research potential speakers and provide additional information at the October meeting.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

- **Community Market** – October 2nd
- **Ocoee Remembers event** – November 1st
- **Veterans Day Ceremony** – November 11th
- **Ocoee Music Fest** – November 14th & 15th

Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 6:53 PM

ATTESTED:

APPROVED:

Recording Clerk

Chairperson



HUMAN RELATIONS DIVERSITY BOARD

1 N. Bluford Avenue
Ocoee, Florida

September 4, 2025,

MINUTES

6:15 PM

• **CALL TO ORDER**

The workshop was called to order by **Chair Beck** at 6:20 PM 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. **Chair Beck** confirmed the presence of a quorum.

Present: Chair Beck, Vice-Chair Maxwell, Members Henderson, Mellen, and Singh

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

Speakers: Kavita Sawh and Michael Kepner

Workshop – From Service to Community

The session focused on the various challenges veterans face when transitioning back to civilian life, particularly in higher education and the workforce. It highlighted the emotional and mental health struggles many veterans experience, including PTSD and the unpredictable nature of triggers. Barriers to educational success were discussed, such as navigating age differences, managing time independently, and adjusting from a highly structured military environment to student life. Emphasis was placed on the importance of community support through empathy and treating veterans with dignity rather than pity. Practical solutions like veteran success workshops and onboarding programs were also presented to help build essential executive functioning skills and prepare veterans for successful integration into civilian careers.

Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM

ATTESTED:

APPROVED:

Recording Clerk

Chairperson