

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:



Recording Clerk

APPROVED:



Chairperson