HUMAN RELATIONS DIVERSITY BOARD

1 N. Bluford Avenue
Ocoee, Florida

September 7, 2023 **MINUTES** **6:15 PM**

- **CALL TO ORDER**

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

Community Relations Manager Wright led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, followed by a moment of personal reflection. **Recording Clerk Torres** performed roll call and declared a quorum present.

Present: Members Maxwell, Singh, Cummings, Cease, Moyer, and Milien,

Also Present: Commissioner Hart, Community Relations Manager Wright, City Clerk Sibbitt, and Recording Clerk Torres.

Guest(s): Dr. Penny Walker with Alliance for Truth and Justice

- **ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

The floor was open to accept nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair.

Member Mellen nominated Member Moyer for Chair and, **Member Moyer** accepted.

Motion: Move to elect Member Moyer as Chair; Moved by Member Mellen, seconded by Member Cummings. Motion carried unanimously.

Member Mellen nominated Member Maxwell for Vice-Chair, and **Member Maxwell** accepted.
Motion: Move to elect Member Maxwell as Vice-Chair; Moved by Member Mellen, seconded by Chair Moyer. Motion carried unanimously.

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Approval of Minutes for the HRDB meetings held June 1, 2023 and August 3, 2023:

Motion: Move to approve the June 1, 2023, and August 3, 2023, Minutes; Moved by Member Mellen, seconded by Member Cease. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chair Maxwell requested for the members to re-introduce themselves.

- **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Discussion regarding Liaison (non-voting)

Vice-Chair Maxwell briefed the Board on his ongoing relationship with the Alliance for Truth and Justice who had been instrumental in working with the Board with their past Ocoee Remembrance Day

events. **City Clerk Sibbitt** asked for clarification on the request to discuss the Liaison (non-voting) as the City Commission is the appointing authority for that position. **Vice-Chair Maxwell** shared he is seeking the Board's permission so that he may continue to be the liaison representative from the HRDB to meet with the Alliance for Truth and Justice, and confirmed this is a separate request from the By-Law requirements.

Motion: Move to appoint Vice-Chair Maxwell as the Board Representative to work alongside the Alliance for Truth and Justice (ATJ); Moved by Member Mellen, seconded by Chair Moyer. Motion carried unanimously.

Member Mellen requested that members or at least the City Clerk be included in all correspondence between ATJ and Vice-Chair Maxwell. **Vice-Chair Maxwell** advised he would provide official reporting at the meetings.

- **DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

  Community Relations Manager Wright provided an update on the following upcoming events:

  - Unity Park Grand Opening - September 27th at 10 a.m.
  - Hispanic Heritage Month- Local Museum Exhibition at City Hall and Lakeshore Center "Arte Mundial" - October 18th,19th and 20th.
  - Halloween Howl Night - October 27th
  - Ocoee Remembers Descendants Dinner - November 4th
  - Veteran's Day Ceremony - November 9th
  - Jolly Jamboree and Dog Parade - December 9th

Member Mellen asked Commissioner Hart if there was a way to have McKey Street shut down for a Hispanic Heritage Month event and have food trucks/local businesses come out for the event. **Commissioner Hart** stated he would bring this topic for discussion during the next Regular Commission Meeting.

Member Maxwell shared his disappointment with the attendance at our Memorial Day event and suggested honoring Veterans on a weekend to maximize attendance.

Member Moyer asked what the process was for the Board to recommend ideas they have for the upcoming events the City hosts. **City Clerk Sibbitt** explained that the By-Laws state the board is able to make recommendations to the City Commission and staff on HRDB related matters. Therefore, they do not organize or create events. She further provided examples of recommendations that could be made to the City Commission to maximize a bigger outreach to the Community, if that is their concern.

Motion: Move to recommend to the City Commission the request to shut down McKey Street for a Hispanic Heritage Cultural Block Party event; Moved by Member Mellen, seconded by Member Cummings. Motion carried unanimously.

Further discussion ensued on the Veterans Day event, reevaluating the day selected due to low attendance at previous events, and the concern on lack of marketing and advertising.

Motion: Move to recommend to City staff to reevaluate the Veterans Day event and marketing efforts to increase attendance;

Community Relations Manager Wright addressed concerns expressed about the lack of attendance and shared the efforts her department will be making to increase attendance. She further shared the event program and how the dates were selected. Discussion ensued.

Moved by Member Mellen, seconded by Member Cummings. Motion carried unanimously.

- **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dr. Penny Walker, *Representative with ATJ,* asked why the Veterans Day Celebration was held on a Thursday and not on the weekend. **Community Relations Manager Wright** addressed her question.

Chair Moyer suggested to Commissioner Hart about asking the City Commission to change the Veterans Day event to the actual day which is on the weekend. **Commissioner Hart** stated he will bring it up at the next Regular Commission meeting.

Commissioner Hart thanked the Board for their input this evening and was glad to see the board actively discussing, and encouraged them to continue giving suggestions. He stated as a Liaison he was there to help implement the ideas that they had. He expressed that he wanted to see more involvement with local businesses and the community, and that this board is the voice of the citizens.

- **Set Next Agenda**

A. Approval of Minutes for the September 7, 2023, meeting
B. New Business – 1. Restructure of Mission Statement 2. HRDB Budget

Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

ATTESTED:

Recording Clerk

APPROVED and DATED:

Chairperson