

**HUMAN RELATIONS DIVERSITY
BOARD**

1 N. Bluford Avenue
Ocoee, Florida

November 2, 2023

MINUTES

6:15 PM

• **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by **Chair Moyer** at 6:19 p.m. in the Commission Chambers of City Hall located at 1 N. Bluford Avenue, Ocoee.

Chair Moyer requested the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag be led by Vice-Chair Maxwell, followed by a moment of personal reflection. **Recording Clerk Torres** performed roll call and declared a quorum present.

Present: Chair Moyer, Vice-Chair Maxwell, Members Singh, Cummings, and Cease

Absent: Member Mellen

Also Present: Commissioner Hart, Support Services Director Doug Gaines, and Recording Clerk Torres

Guest(s): Commissioner Kennedy, Tom Mottlaw, Tim Levell, and Tom Lowery

Chair Moyer began the meeting by prioritizing public comments right after attendance. He introduced the idea of having a theme for each meeting, and for this session, he proposed that the theme be centered around Veterans Day. Following this, he invited his two guest speakers to address the assembly.

The first speaker, **Tom Lowery** of American Legion Post 63, presented a video focusing on the concerning suicide rates among veterans. He expressed a deep commitment to raising awareness and shared compelling statistics demonstrating the organization's successful efforts in preventing suicides. **Mr. Lowery** also informed the audience about an upcoming Challenge 22 event in Winter Garden on November 11.

Next, **Tim Levell** of American Legion Post 63, took the stage to further advocate for the event. He stressed the significance of attendance and the overarching goal of eradicating veteran suicides.

Additionally, **Tom Mottlaw** of American Legion Post 109, emphasized the importance of involving more youth in these efforts.

• **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Approval of Minutes for the HRDB meeting held October 5, 2023:

Motion: Move to approve the October 5, 2023, Minutes; Moved by Member Cease, seconded by Member Singh. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chair Maxwell expressed his desire to incorporate equity and inclusion into the board's mission statement. He suggested that the board should approach the commission to pursue this goal.

In response, **Member Cease** acknowledged that the mission statement had been previously addressed. He clarified that while he does not oppose the current mission, he remains open to engaging in further discussions on the matter.

- **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Discussion on the verbiage for Facebook post and promotional materials:

Member Cease presented the Facebook post he had written, capturing the board's attention. **Vice-Chair Maxwell**, in response, expressed his keen interest in involving elderly individuals and those less technologically proficient in the board's meetings, aiming to gather their valuable recommendations to present to the commission.

Chair Moyer suggested a proactive approach, proposing that they reach out to members of local Homeowners' Associations (HOAs) to join their discussions and share their perspectives. This prompted a discussion among the board members who shared their insights on how to foster a more engaged and involved community.

Chair Moyer urged the acceleration of DEI training to ensure that all board members receive this important training promptly. **Vice-Chair Maxwell** voiced his concerns and concurred that DEI training would be advantageous for the entire board.

Public Comment - Brad Lomneck, Ocoee resident, expressed his satisfaction with the board's current direction. However, he also suggested some modifications to the Facebook post presented by Member Cease and provided the board with valuable ideas on how to demonstrate their progress to the City as they embark on community involvement efforts.

Motion: Move to recommend to the City Commission to expedite DEI training; Moved by Vice-Chair Maxwell, seconded by Member Cease. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: Move to recommend for guest speaker, Rachel Allen, to come and speak about EJI (Equal Justice Initiative); Moved by Vice Chair Maxwell, seconded by Member Cummings. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Moyer expressed a desire for each meeting to be distinguished by a specific theme. The upcoming meeting has been designated with the theme "History." During discussions, **Member Cummings** enthusiastically revealed that her family boasts a remarkable five generations with roots deeply embedded in Ocoee. To enrich the meeting, she has graciously volunteered to extend an invitation to her mother, who will share insights and stories reflective of Ocoee's history.

- **DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

- Veteran's Day Ceremony - November 9th
- Movie in the Park December 1st
- Jolly Jamboree and Dog Parade - December 9th
- MLK Parade and Event January 15th
- Black History Essay Contest

- **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Commissioner Kennedy expressed his enthusiasm for the ongoing discussion and eagerly anticipates the growth and progress of the HRDB. In addition, he announced the forthcoming addition of a new member to the board.

Brad Lomneck, Ocoee resident, provided positive feedback, emphasizing the importance of the HRDB's involvement in event recommendations and increased activity. He commended their efforts, acknowledging the board's excellent work.

Commissioner Hart shared insights on the transformative city improvements that are shaping a new vision for the City of Ocoee. He emphasized the significance of recognizing both the past and future, expressing support for training initiatives. He looks forward to endorsing the HRDB at the upcoming commission meeting.

- **Set Next Agenda**

- A. Approval of Minutes for the November 2, 2023, meeting
- B. New Business – Discussion: Ideas for next year 2024

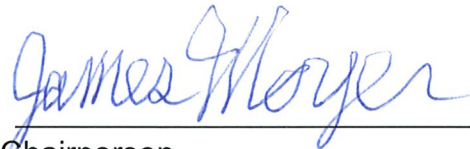
Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

ATTESTED:



Recording Clerk

APPROVED and DATED:



Chairperson