

**HUMAN RELATIONS DIVERSITY
BOARD**

1 N. Bluford Avenue
Ocoee, Florida

December 7, 2023

MINUTES

6:15 PM

- **CALL TO ORDER**

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

Chair Moyer called for the Pledge of Allegiance to be led by Vice-Chair Maxwell, followed by a moment of personal reflection in commemoration of the 82nd anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. **Recording Clerk Torres** proceeded with the roll call, and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

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

Absent: Member Singh

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

Guest(s): Sherrall Applegate

- **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 Mellen, seconded by Vice-Chair Maxwell. Motion carried unanimously.

- **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Discussion: Ideas for next year 2024

Chair Moyer invited the newest board member, Kellie Beck, to introduce herself. In her introduction, Member Beck shared an innovative initiative: a complimentary Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) training program accessible to all members using their library cards. **Member Beck** curated four distinct training modules, which would allow board members to explore and select the one that aligns best with the board's objectives and interests.

City Clerk Sibbitt assured the board that she could verify members' completion of the trainings by requiring the submission of certificates. It was emphasized that participation in the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) training was entirely voluntary. Furthermore, she highlighted the flexibility for members to opt for an alternative approach by hiring a speaker, and utilizing their budget.

Chair Moyer inquired of Support Services Director Gaines whether, in the event of opting for a speaker, the session would take place in the City Commission Chambers. In response, **Support Services Director Gaines** affirmed this possibility and informed Chair Moyer that the training session would need to be scheduled for an hour, serving as a substitute for a regular meeting.

Vice-Chair Maxwell raised crucial considerations, and emphasized the significance of undergoing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) training in person under the guidance of a qualified trainer. He substantiated his stance by presenting the findings from the City of Sanford's Race, Equality, Equity, and Inclusion Committee report, contending that the training for the board should mirror the comprehensive approach recommended in the City of Sanford's findings.

Motion: Move to continue DEI training discussion to the next meeting and add it to the agenda; Moved by Member Mellen, seconded by Vice-Chair Maxwell. Motion carried unanimously.

City Clerk Sibbitt proposed a solution, and suggested that the board could convene a workshop earlier to engage in a portion of the training before proceeding with their regular meeting. This approach would allow ample time for thorough discussions and reflections on the training content.

Chair Moyer introduced several calendar observances that he proposed for the City Commission to acknowledge in 2024. He expressed the desire to have these observances included in the hard copy of the calendar, and was informed by Support Services Director Gaines that the 2024 calendar has already been finalized. **Chair Moyer** further requested the electronic distribution of the proposed observances to the board, with a specific request for them to be retained under Old Business for future consideration.

Chair Moyer initiated a conversation about Music Fest, and proposed the idea of setting up a booth for the HRDB board. His vision included distributing brochures and actively engaging with the community. **Member Mellen** expressed a desire for board members to enjoy Music Fest rather than being tied to a booth. In response, **Member Beck** suggested an innovative approach by incorporating a survey on the brochures, using QR codes. This survey would seek community input on diversity preferences and needs for the city. A brief discussion ensued.

Chair Moyer tasked Vice Chair Maxwell with determining the availability of Rachel Allen, the director of the Peace and Justice Institute, to speak at the next meeting as requested during their November meeting. After a brief discussion, **Vice-Chair Maxwell** shared he will extend an invitation to the Alliance for Truth and Justice (ATJ) to deliver a presentation in February and report back with the details at the upcoming meeting.

Motion: Move to invite ATJ to come and speak at the February meeting; Moved by Member Beck, seconded by Member Mellen. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hart, before departing, offered some parting words to the board. He encouraged members to vocalize their requests and emphasized the importance of bringing up these requests during Commission meetings, provided they could substantiate and justify them effectively.

Member Beck reported that she had retrieved census data for the City of Ocoee and expressed her intention to raise awareness among citizens not registered to vote, with a particular focus on the Hispanic community in the upcoming year.

- **DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

- Jolly Jamboree and Dog Parade - December 9th
- MLK Parade and Event January 15th

- **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Sherrall Applegate, the mother of Member Cummings, was a guest who shared the history of her family in Ocoee, spanning back five generations.

Susan Adams, representing the League of Women Voters for Orange County, attended to express her support for the board. She further highlighted an unpublished book by Nancy Maguire that delves into the history of Ocoee, specifically addressing the Ocoee Massacre. **Vice-Chair Maxwell** expressed a desire to acquire a copy of the book for the HRDB board.

- **SET NEXT AGENDA**

1. Read aloud Mission Statement
2. Approval of Minutes for the December 7, 2023, meeting
3. OLD BUSINESS – Review and Discuss 2024 Calendar Observances and DEI Training

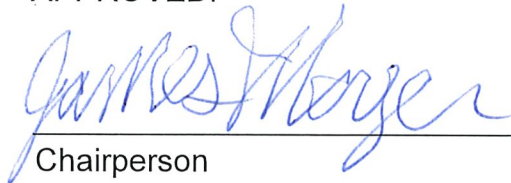
Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

ATTESTED:



Recording Clerk

APPROVED:



Chairperson