

HUMAN RELATIONS DIVERSITY BOARD

1 N. Bluford Avenue
Ocoee, Florida

October 3, 2024

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

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

First line of Mission Statement was read by **Member Mellen** "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 meetings held in April, May and June:

Motion: Move to approve the April, May and June Minutes; Moved by Member Mellen, seconded by Member Singh. Motion carried unanimously.

- **NEW BUSINESS – Election**

Chair Moyer expressed his honor in serving as chair this year but indicated he would like to step down.

Motion: Move to nominate Member Beck for Chair; Moved by Member Mellen, seconded by Member Cummings. Motion carried unanimously.

Member Beck accepted the nomination and was voted in as Chair.

Motion: Move to re-elect Vice-Chair Maxwell; Moved by Member Beck, seconded by Member Mellen. Motion carried unanimously.

Member Mellen and **Vice-Chair Maxwell** both took a moment to thank **Chair Moyer** for his dedicated service this year.

Member Beck distributed a proposal suggesting that the current opening prayers for City of Ocoee Meetings be expanded to include diverse beliefs or a moment of reflection. She expressed her concern that the prayer may pressure individuals who do not share that faith to participate. In response, **Mayor Johnson** stated he would not support changing the prayer on behalf of the City, noting that he has not

received any complaints about it. He encouraged anyone who wishes to offer a different prayer to feel welcome to come forward and do so.

Motion: Move to maintain the current opening prayers for the City of Ocoee Meetings; Moved by Member Mellen, seconded by Vice-Chair Maxwell. Motion carried unanimously.

Parks and Leisure Services Assistant Director Gaines was asked about Hispanic Heritage Month, and noted that the City is currently hosting an event during the meeting. **Vice-Chair Maxwell** added that he had participated in organizing Ocoee's first Hispanic Heritage Month event.

- **DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

Hispanic Heritage Month Event – October 3rd
Halloween Trunk or Treat - October 25th
Descendants Dinner – November 2nd
Veterans Day Ceremony – November 7th
Jolly Jamboree – December 14th
Centennial Celebration Commences – January 1st

- **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- **SET NEXT AGENDA**

- Read aloud Mission Statement
- Approval of Minutes for the October 3, 2024, meeting

Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

ATTESTED:



Recording Clerk

APPROVED:



Chairperson