



HUMAN RELATIONS DIVERSITY BOARD

1 N. Bluford Avenue
Ocoee, Florida

November 7, 2024

MINUTES

6:15 PM

- **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by **Vice-Chair Maxwell** at 6:25 p.m. in the Commission Chambers of City Hall located at 1 N. Bluford Avenue, Ocoee.

Member Cummings led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of personal reflection. **Recording Clerk Parks** proceeded with the roll call, and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

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

Absent: Chair Beck and Member Singh

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

First line of Mission Statement was read by **Vice-Chair Maxwell**: "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."

Vice-Chair Maxwell shared with the board that he thinks the mission statement should be updated to reflect Ocoee's changing demographics. Since the current statement is over 23 years old, he suggested it should be a collaborative effort and then presented to the Commission for approval. **Member Mellen** requested that the minutes be approved first, and then they could revisit the discussion about updating the mission statement.

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Approval of Minutes for the HRDB meeting held in October 3, 2024:

Motion: Move to approve the October 3, 2024, Minutes; Moved by Member Mellen, seconded by Member Moyer. Motion carried unanimously.

- **NEW BUSINESS – Budget 2025**

Member Mellen mentioned that he enjoyed the speakers at the May and June meetings and would like to see the board invite speakers again. **Vice-Chair Maxwell** agreed but suggested bringing in different speakers this time, proposing the Alliance of Truth and Justice and Peace and Justice Institute. ✓

Vice-Chair Maxwell brought up the idea of updating the mission statement again. **Members Mellen and Moyer** agreed it is something they can all collaborate on. **Vice-Chair Maxwell** also mentioned he wants to focus on connecting with the youth, sharing the board's mission with them, and encouraging their involvement.

Vice-Chair Maxwell congratulated **Parks and Leisure Services Assistant Director Gaines** on the success of the Veterans Day celebration. He emphasized the importance of the board connecting with

the community and expressed his hope that more veterans will benefit from the board's efforts. A discussion followed.

Vice-Chair Maxwell gave an update on the Descendants' Dinner, sharing how pleased he was to see multiple generations of families represented. He also expressed his happiness for the families who witnessed the unveiling of the new memorial. He reflected on how challenging it was to turn the Descendants' Dinner into the meaningful event it has become today.

- **DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

Jolly Jamboree – December 14th

- **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- **SET NEXT AGENDA**

- Read aloud Mission Statement
- Approval of Minutes for the November 7, 2024, Meeting
- Speakers for Upcoming Meetings
- Update on HRDB Pamphlet
- Veterans Flyer

Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

ATTESTED:



Recording Clerk

APPROVED:



Chairperson