



HUMAN RELATIONS DIVERSITY BOARD

1 N. Bluford Avenue
Ocoee, Florida

December 5, 2024

MINUTES

6:15 PM

- **CALL TO ORDER**

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

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

Also Present: Mayor Johnson, Community Relations Manager Wright, and Recording Clerk Torres

First line of Mission Statement was read by **Chair Beck** "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 November 7, 2024:

Motion: Move to approve the November 7, 2024, Minutes; Moved by Chair Beck, seconded by Vice-Chair Maxwell. Motion carried unanimously.

- **NEW BUSINESS**

Speakers for Upcoming Meetings

Chair Beck agreed with **Vice-Chair Maxwell's** points from the November meeting and supports the idea of having speakers next year. She believes it will have a positive impact and also praised the organizations he suggested. **Member Mellen** added that the UCF speakers the board hired earlier this year did a great job and expressed he would like to have them return. He also suggested that Chair Beck reach out to see if the speakers are open to discussing other topics.

Member Cease agreed that the UCF speakers should return but suggested shifting the focus from DEI to other topics that could benefit the community. **Member Mellen** agreed and then asked Member Moyer if he knew of any other organizations that could come and speak. **Member Moyer** recommended inviting veteran groups to speak. **Chair Beck** shared her goal of bringing presentations to schools so students can learn about Ocoee's history. She emphasized wanting to find the right groups to teach students about Ocoee's past, present, and future. **Vice-Chair Maxwell** proposed inviting some of the descendants as potential speakers, noting that they are well-educated and would contribute to the discussion.

Chair Beck said she wanted to organize the ideas clearly and make sure the right speakers are chosen to cover topics like the founding of Ocoee, the 1920s, the post-citrus grove era, Ocoee today, and the

City's future. She offered to put together a formal proposal. **Vice-Chair Maxwell** agreed and emphasized that the final concept should be presented to the City Commission for approval.

Update on HRDB Pamphlet

Chair Beck mentioned she was not sure what had happened with the pamphlet since it was approved by the City Commission. **Community Relations Manager Wright** explained that she was not sure why the brochure had not been sent out with the water bill. However, since the brochure was approved last fiscal year to be paid with contingency funds, it would need to be presented to the City Commission again to be considered in this year's budget. **Chair Beck** said she planned to speak at an upcoming City Commission meeting to get the pamphlet approved again and ensure it gets sent to residents.

Veterans Flyer

Member Cease mentioned seeing a veterans flyer in the City Hall lobby, which contained helpful information for veterans looking for assistance. **Vice-Chair Maxwell** felt the board could do more to help veterans who are not sure how to find resources. **Chair Beck** suggested adding links to the City's website to help veterans access important local resources. She asked the board members to bring back any links they think would be helpful to add to the website at the January meeting.

Member Cease expressed that he would like the City Commission to involve the HRDB more and see them as a valuable resource. He also complimented the mural that was approved by the City Commission.

• DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Operation Santa – December- 5th, 7th, 12th, 14th, 19th & 20th
Monthly Community Market - First Thursday of every month
Jolly Jamboree – December 14th
Centennial Celebration Commences – January 1st

• PUBLIC COMMENTS

Reporter Kyra from Vox-Populi inquired about the Unity Park Memorial Marker. In response, **Vice-Chair Maxwell** provided a brief overview of how the City successfully created the memorial for the descendants and the efforts involved in bringing the project to fruition.

• SET NEXT AGENDA

- Read aloud Mission Statement
- Approval of Minutes for the December 5, 2024, meeting
- Speakers for 2025
- Ocoee History Brainstorm
- Veterans Links on the City's webpage

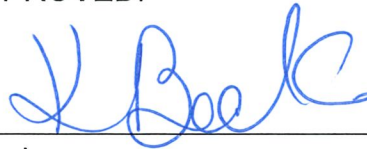
Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

ATTESTED:



Recording Clerk

APPROVED:



Chairperson