

HUMAN RELATIONS DIVERSITY BOARD

1 N. Bluford Avenue
Ocoee, Florida

January 2, 2025

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, Mellen, Cease, and Moyer

Absent: Members Cummings and Singh

Also Present: Mayor Johnson, Parks and Leisure Services Assistant Director Gaines, 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 on December 5, 2024:

Motion: Move to approve the December 5, 2024, Minutes; Moved by Member Mellen, seconded by Vice-Chair Maxwell. Motion carried unanimously.

- **OLD BUSINESS**

Chair Beck informed the board that the City was not in favor of adding links to veteran resources on its website. **Mayor Johnson** emphasized that the board should focus on upcoming events, like the Martin Luther King Jr. Parade, and encouraged members to volunteer for the event. He clarified that the board's role would be to assist on the day of the parade, whether that involves setting up or helping with other tasks as needed, but not in the planning stages.

Member Cease proposed that the board should be involved in event planning to offer their expertise. **Parks and Leisure Services Assistant Director Gaines** clarified that city staff handles the planning and suggested reaching out to Community Relations Manager Joy Wright for any additional volunteer opportunities.

Vice-Chair Maxwell shared his concern, noting that the board used to make it a requirement to help plan the MLK Parade and asked for clarification on the board's current role. He felt the board should have some input in the planning process. **Parks and Leisure Services Assistant Director Gaines** reiterated that the board's involvement would be limited to volunteering on the day of the event, not planning it.

- **NEW BUSINESS**

Speakers for 2025

Chair Beck shared that she reached out to UCF but was unable to connect with the potential speakers due to the winter break. After reviewing their workshop offerings, she identified two topics she felt would be valuable for the community. The first, "Facilitating Disability Access," focuses on ensuring that everyone, regardless of ability, feels welcome and comfortable. The second topic, "The Unconscious Mind," lacked a full description. For the first topic, the board discussed the need for an ASL translator and considered the associated costs.

Members Mellen and **Cease** suggested that "The Unconscious Mind" should be the first topic presented to the city. This would give the board more time to finalize details for the disability access topic. The board agreed with this plan. **Member Mellen** proposed pushing the presentation to June, and **Member Cease** noted that June would be a good time since it coincides with Juneteenth. **Chair Beck** agreed to reach out to confirm the speaker's availability and bring that update to the February meeting.

Motion: Move to book speakers for the topic "The Unconscious Mind" for the June 5th meeting; Moved by Vice-Chair Maxwell, seconded by Member Mellen. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Beck decided that the Ocoee History Brainstorm would be best to table and focus on the speakers.

Member Cease asked if the HRDB pamphlet had been discussed at one of the recent City Commission meetings. **Chair Beck** explained that, after looking into it, she discovered the final survey for the HRDB pamphlet had not been completed by city staff. As a result, the pamphlet was not finished in time to be included with the water bill for 2024. **Parks and Leisure Services Assistant Director Gaines** suggested that Chair Beck email him and Community Relations Manager Joy Wright to help finalize the process. He also mentioned that he had checked with the water counter, and the cost for printing 16,000 copies would be \$1,520.00.

- **DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

State of the City – January 7th

Martin Luther King Parade – January 20th

HAPCO Ocoee Jazz Fest – January 31st

Chili Cook-Off – February 10th

Valentines Day Event – February 14th

Spring into Conservation – March 1st

St. Patrick's Day Event – March 14th

Member Cease asked Parks and Leisure Services Assistant Director Gaines if there was a way the board could have a liaison to assist with the centennial events. **Parks and Leisure Services Assistant Director Gaines** responded that the city had already planned everything, but he could send the board a list of events if they were interested in volunteering.

The board discussed the possibility of printing additional pamphlets to have on hand for anyone who may want one in person.

Motion: Move to allocate \$200.00 for pamphlet printing to be distributed in person; moved by Member Mellen, seconded by Vice-Chair Maxwell. Motion carried unanimously.

- SET NEXT AGENDA
- Read aloud Mission Statement
- Approval of Minutes for the January 2, 2025, meeting
- Finalize Speaker for the June 5th meeting
- History of Ocoee Resources

Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

ATTESTED:



Recording Clerk

APPROVED:



Chairperson