



THE CITY OF
NOVATO
CALIFORNIA

MEETING MINUTES MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

Thursday, February 15, 2018 – 6:00 p.m.
922 Machin Avenue, Novato, California
City Administration – Baget Conference Room, 2nd Floor

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Multicultural Advisory Commission was called to order at 6 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Veda Florez, Jennifer Burt, David Selzer, and Liaison Lt. Winter

Absent: Commissioner Cliff Jacobs

Note: Commissioner Burt left the meeting in progress at 7:15 PM.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Item 3.1: The January 18, 2018 minutes were approved as presented.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item 5.A: **Continue Discussion and Decide on Potential Partnerships with Local Members of “Not in Our Town.”**

Recommendation: Continue Discussion and Decide on Potential Partnerships with Local Members of “Not in Our Town.”

A member of the public, Dez Kuimelis, reported on a “Not in Our Town” event that was recently held in Kentfield stating that it was well-attended with much enthusiasm. Those who normally feel underrepresented did not feel that way at this event. She further noted there is wide support (Marin Board of Supervisors, DA Berberian) for a countywide “Not in Our Town” event.

Motion: Commissioner Selzer moved to partner with a local group for a “Not in Our Town” movement and to calendar this item to the next agenda to consider which local group to partnership with, select a date and location. Commissioner Burt seconded. The motion passed without objection.

Item 5.B: Continue Discussion and Decide on Spending Plan, Location, and Program Guide for the 2018 Multicultural Festival Event.

Recommendation: Continue Discussion and Decide on Spending Plan, Location, and Program Guide for the 2018 Multicultural Festival Event.

The Commission reflected on past preparation for this event and after lengthy discussion about holding a Multicultural Festival event in 2018, it was agreed that additional time is much needed to put together such an event.

Motion: Commissioner Selzer moved to request that the City Charter, by Council, be revised to read that the Multicultural Festival Event will be held biennially. A new day is to be determined. Commissioner Burt seconded. The motion passed without objection.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Item 6.A: Discuss and Decide on Formation of Novato Multicultural Advisory Commission Book Club, Location, and Spending Plan.

Recommendation: Discuss and Decide on Formation of Novato Multicultural Advisory Commission Book Club, Location, and Spending Plan.

Commissioner Burt distributed a draft proposal of the mission statement for the potential of creating a book club. Fiction books would be the focus of the book club and the books would be limited in length. Discussion continued about how often the club would meet, partnerships, who would select the next book to read, and any associated costs.

Motion: Commissioner Selzer moved to create the book club, with the leadership of Commissioner Burt, partnering with South Novato Library, meet five times a year on a Tuesday evening (6 PM or 6:30 PM) starting in June 2018, with an annual spending plan of \$375 (\$75/mo) for snacks and beverages. Commissioner Burt seconded. The motion passed without objection.

Item 6.B: Report and Discuss Feedback Received about the Forum on Equity.

Recommendation: Report and Discuss Feedback Received about the Forum on Equity.

Commissioner Florez reported back about the positive feedback received about the Forum. Commissioner Burt made a few suggestions for the next event: consider a panel for discussion rather than individual speakers, have police presence, and the need to make the event more kid friendly.

Motion: Commissioner Florez moved to set next year's Forum on Equity for January 19, 2019. Commissioner Burt seconded. The motion passed without objection.

Item 6.C: Presentation from Novato Age Friendly Committee

Recommendation: Presentation from Novato Age Friendly Committee

Gloria Dunn of Age Friendly Novato spoke about the committee and its purpose. She stated that Novato is an age friendly City and there are several cities in Marin County that are age friendly. She touched on the certain elements that make for an age friendly community stating that it is the committee's intent to eliminate ageism and to reframe our social language to do away with stereotypes and would like to work towards providing services for everyone for multi-generations to come.

A short video was shown of a lady dancing – breaking the stereotype image of a woman within a certain age group.

7. COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMENTS AND REQUESTS

At the Commission's request, Lt. Winter will look into the following:

- Excused/extended absences
- Increasing the Commission to seven members from five members
- Providing the Commission with a bi-monthly spending plan
- The Commission having their own logo
- Marketing the Commission via the City's social media and linking videos to the City's web page.

The Commission is considering the date of April 28, 2019 to hold the Multicultural Festival Event and they also talked about cancelling this year's Movies in the Park event.

8. COMMISSION SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

10. ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.