



## MEETING MINUTES MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

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

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Multicultural Advisory Commission was called to order at 6:03 PM.

### 2. ROLL CALL

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

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Item 3.1:** The February 8, 2018 minutes were approved with a spelling correction.

### 4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

### 5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**Item 5.A:** Continue Discussion, Approval, and to Set a Spending Plan for a Proposed “Not in Our Town Meeting” and Partnership with “March for Our Lives” on March 24<sup>th</sup>.”

**Recommendation:** Continue Discussion, Approval, and to Set a Spending Plan for a Proposed “Not in Our Town Meeting” and Partnership with “March for Our Lives” on March 24<sup>th</sup>.”

Commissioner Florez stated that the “Not in Our Town” event that was held last month was a success. She requested to hold a special meeting of the Multicultural Advisory Commission in April inviting interfaith groups to watch a “Not in Our Town” movie followed by presentations. After brief discussion, the Commission agreed to hold a special meeting in either the first week or second week in April depending on the availability of a room at City Hall.

Commissioner Florez distributed a pledge form asking all to sign pledging that one would be an upstander, not a bystander, one would be engaged in cooperative

community building based on respect and collaboration, and one would stand together with neighbors to create safer, more inclusive communities. She would return the pledges to the "Not in Our Town" Marin County movement.

**Item 5.B: Continue Discussion and Decide on Formation of Novato Multicultural Advisory Commission Book Club Including a Presentation on Diverse Perspectives and Book Selection.**

**Recommendation:** Continue Discussion and Plan the Novato Multicultural Advisory Commission Book Club Including a Presentation on Diverse Perspectives and Book Selection.

Amy Sonnie, Branch Manager of the Marin County Library, discussed how the Library would assist in establishing the Multicultural Advisory Commission Book Club. She stressed the importance and value of books as they are the center voices of the diverse community, the underrepresented. The library's role would be to help with the book selection, including cost, marketing (flyers, display of books), and offer space. Three books were suggested for the first meeting to be held in June: *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi, *We the Animals* by Justin Torres, and *We, Too, Sing America*, by Deepa Iyer.

**Motion:** Commissioner Burt moved to select the book *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi for the first meeting in June and the book *We, Too, Sing America* by Deepa Iyer for the second meeting in August. Commissioner Seltzer seconded. The motion passed without objection.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**Item 6.A: Discuss and Decide on Supporting the Childcare Commission's April 3, 2018 event for Social Equity for Youth and Underserved Communities.**

**Recommendation:** Discuss and Decide on Supporting the Childcare Commission's April 3, 2018 event for Social Equity for Youth and Underserved Communities.

Kelsey Lombardi touched on the Marin County Child Care Commission's role and responsibilities in terms of care and services. She further touched on the 2014/2019 master plan, which guides the County and the Childcare Commission, and briefly went over the plan's recommendations: availability and affordability, workforce and program practices, and infrastructure and policy advocacy. She announced that the Marin County Child Care Commission is hosting its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Community Meeting on Child Care and Early Education on Tuesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>; 6 to 8 PM, in the Novato City Council Chambers, 901 Sherman Avenue.

**Motion:** Commissioner Florez moved to have the Multicultural Advisory Commission partner with the Marin County Child Care Commission and sponsor the April 3<sup>rd</sup> event. Commissioner Selzer seconded. The motion passed without objection.

## **7. COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMENTS AND REQUESTS**

Commissioner Florez noted that in the strategic plan the City mentioned about transparency and meaningful engagement with the community referencing the Multicultural Advisory Commission.

The spending plan was distributed for review.

Liaison Lt. Winter provided the following update:

- Per the City Clerk, there are no applications for the vacant seat on the Multicultural Advisory Board. The City Clerk will need to do a recruitment.
- She is looking into and will report back on increasing the 5-member Multicultural Commission to 7-members.
- She is looking into and will report back on the Multicultural Advisory Commission getting their own logo.
- She is looking into and will report back on whether the City maintains the Multicultural Advisory Commission's social media site or if it would be her responsibility.

Lt. Winter requested to take possession and manage the tags from the Forum on Equity event that was held earlier this year. She is working on getting the tags that have the wishes/dreams written on them from those who attended the event displayed at either City Hall or the Police Department.

At the request of the Commission, Lt. Winter will check with the City Clerk to inquiry if the Commission has the authority to review applications of those who applied or are applying to serve on the Multicultural Advisory Commission.

## **8. COMMISSION SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

## **9. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

The regular meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.