



CITY OF NOVATO
CALIFORNIA

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION

Minutes
March 4, 2021

Chair

Harry Thomas

Vice Chair

Peter Pelham

Members

Michelle Mahoney

Anne Russell

Coy Smith

Rick Wells

John Williams

Miriam Hope Karell, Ex-Officio

Sylvia Barry, Ex-Officio

Staff Liaison

Vicki Parker

Community & Economic Development Director

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at 3:00pm

Commissioners Present: Mahoney, Pelham, Russell, Smith, Thomas, Wells, Williams
Ex-Officio Karell, Ex-Officio Barry

Staff Present: Vicki Parker – Community Development Director/Economic Development Director, Maggie Rufo

B. APPROVAL OF FINAL AGENDA

M/S/C Thomas/Wells

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Absent: 0

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

D. CONSENT ITEMS

D.1 Approve Minutes of January 7, 2021

M/S/C Pelham/Wells

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Absent: 0

E. GENERAL BUSINESS

E.1 Downtown Property/Tenant Improvement Grant Program Update – Vicki Parker

Vicki Parker reported that seven projects will be funded, and these projects will amount to most of the \$95,000 allocated in the General Fund for the grant program. As part of the upcoming FY 21/22 budget planning, more funding will be requested to have another round of grants.

F. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioners discussed the recent Planning Commission outcome for Costco Fuel Facility. The project was approved and goes to Council on March 9. Many comments from the public have been received. A support letter from the EDAC commissioners was forwarded to Council.

Miriam Karell, Directory of the Marin Small Business Development Center provided an update about small business funding sources, including a Marin County grant program which has 20% of funds allocated to Novato.

G. STAFF UPDATES

Vicki Parker provided updates about projects underway in Novato, as well an update on the outcome of the Non-storefront, retail Cannabis RFP process. She also reported that a Short-Term Rental program has been approved by Council. The department is currently recruiting for a Management Analyst for Economic Development.

Commissioners were informed of the State of the City Address on March 17, via Zoom, and that question may be submitted in advance at novato.org/opennovato. The closing of a portion of Grant Avenue, known as Weekends on Grant, returns on March 5.

H. ADJOURNMENT at 4:02pm

M/S/C Wells/Pelham

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Absent: 0