



**CITY OF NOVATO**  
**CALIFORNIA**

**Multicultural Advisory Commission**

**Agenda**

**Wednesday, October 27, 2021 - 6:00 PM**

**[Agenda Teleconference Only](#)**

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**Chair**

**Nicole Gardner**

**Vice Chair**

**Jeremy Portje**

**Members**

**Angelo Camillo, Cliff Jacobs, Angela Olmanson,  
Sophia Osotio, Dennis Sato, Sierra Suraci**

**Staff Liaison**

**Jessica Deakyne**

Because the Governor's March 4, 2020, Proclamation of an Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic remains in effect and because Marin County local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, pursuant to Cal. Gov't Code sec. 54953(e)(1)(A) the Multicultural Advisory Commission intends to conduct this meeting remotely and without complying with Cal. Gov't Code sec. 54953(b)(3), through the use of the Zoom technology and will do so for the 30 day period following the meeting that is noticed by this agenda.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk at (415) 899-8986. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable accommodation to help ensure accessibility to this meeting. The Multicultural Advisory Commission may discuss and/or take action on any or all of the items listed on the agenda irrespective of how the agenda items are described.

**Public Participation/Comment Instructions**

Members of the Public may participate and provide public comments to teleconference meetings as follows:

- **Written public comments** may be submitted by email to [mac@novato.org](mailto:mac@novato.org). Written public comments received more than 3 hours before the start of the meeting will be distributed to the Commission. Written public comment received after the three-hour cut-off, including during and after the meeting,

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will be collected and placed in the public record. Written public comments will not be read during the meeting.

- **Spoken public comments** will be accepted through the Zoom meeting platform and via telephone. To address the Council orally, please read and follow the following instructions carefully:

1. Join the meeting at: <https://bit.ly/3pp1qYd> or [Zoom.com](https://zoom.com)

**Meeting ID:** 894 3507 1293

**Password:** 1960

-or-

2. Join the meeting via telephone by calling **(669) 900-9128**

**Meeting ID:** 894 3507 1293

**Password:** 1960

- a. You will be asked to enter an email address and name. We request that you identify yourself by name as this will be visible online and will be used to notify you when it is your turn to speak.
- b. When the Chair calls for public comment on the item on which you wish to speak please use the **“Raise Hand”** feature by clicking on the hand icon at the bottom of your screen if joining via Zoom or **press \*9** in joining via telephone to notify the Host that you would like to speak.
- c. The Host will unmute speakers in turn. Speakers will be notified when it is their turn to speak.
- d. When called upon, please limit your remarks to the time limit allotted by the Chair or as specified on the agenda. Speakers will be muted when their time is up.

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## **A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

## **B. APPROVAL OF FINAL AGENDA**

## **C. PUBLIC COMMENT**

*There is a three-minute time limit to speak although the Chair may shorten the time based on the number of speakers or other factors. A speaker may not yield his or her time to another speaker.*

*For issues raised during Public Comment that are not on the published agenda, except as otherwise provided under the Ralph M. Brown Act, no action can legally be taken. The Commission may direct that the item be referred to the Staff Liaison for action or may schedule the item on a subsequent agenda.*

## D. CONSENT ITEM

*All matters listed on the Consent Item are considered to be routine and will be enacted by a single vote of the Commission. There will be no separate discussion unless specific items are removed from the Consent Item for separate discussion and action. Any Commissioner may remove an item from the Consent Item and place it under General Business for discussion.*

**D.1. Approve the meeting minutes from September 22, 2021.**

## E. UNFINISHED AND OTHER BUSINESS

**E.1 Continue discussions on 2022 MAC event**

## F. GENERAL BUSINESS

*These items include significant and administrative actions of special interest and will usually include a presentation and discussion by the Commission. They will be enacted upon by a separate vote.*

**F.1 Discussion and Ad Hoc Report out on Partnerships/Calendar for 2022**

**F.2 United Against Hate Week in partnership with Not In Our Town-Novato**

## G. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

*This section is used for Commissioners and the Staff Liaison to orally report on topics that can be considered for discussion at a future meeting.*

**G.1. Commissioner Reports**

**G.2. Staff Liaison Reports**

## H. ADJOURNMENT

***Materials, that are submitted to members of the Commission after the distribution of the meeting's agenda packet will be available upon request.***

### AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

I, Christina Soares, certify that on the Thursday before the Multicultural Advisory Commission meeting of October 27, 2021 the agenda was posted on the City Community Service Board at 922 Machin Avenue and on the City's website at [novato.org](http://novato.org) in Novato, California.

/Christina Soares/

Christina Soares, Management Analyst I



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**CITY OF NOVATO**  
**CALIFORNIA**

**Multicultural Advisory Commission**

**Draft Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, September 22, 2021 - 6:00 PM**

**Teleconference**

**A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Meeting called to order by Chair Gardner at 6:02 P.M.

Commissioners present: Camillo, Gardner, Olmanson, Osotio, Portje, Sato, Suraci

Commissioners absent: Benjamins, Jacobs

Staff Present: Assistant City Manager Jessica Deakyne & Management Analyst I Christina Soares.

**B. APPROVAL OF FINAL AGENDA**

Commission Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Osotio and seconded by Commissioner Olmanson the Commission voted **7-0-2** to approve final agenda.

AYES: Camillo, Gardner, Olmanson, Osotio, Portje, Sato, Suraci

NOES: None

ABSENT: Benjamins, Jacobs

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**D. CONSENT ITEM**

*All matters listed on the Consent Item are considered to be routine and will be enacted by a single vote of the Commission. There will be no separate discussion unless specific items are removed from the Consent Item for separate discussion and action. Any Commissioner may remove an item from the Consent Item and place it under General Business for discussion.*

**D.1. Approve the meeting minutes from July 28, 2021.**

Commission Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Sato and seconded by Commissioner Camillo the Commission voted **7-0-2** to approve final agenda.

AYES: Camillo, Gardner, Olmanson, Osotio, Portje, Sato, Suraci

NOES: None

ABSENT: Benjamins, Jacobs

## **E. UNFINISHED AND OTHER BUSINESS**

None

## **F. GENERAL BUSINESS**

*These items include significant and administrative actions of special interest and will usually include a presentation and discussion by the Commission. They will be enacted upon by a separate vote.*

### **F.1 Identify partner organizations and create a 2022 calendar**

The Commissioners made suggestions on partnering with groups such as the Rotary Club, building Asian Community partnerships, Novato Community Hospital, Multicultural Center of Marin, and College of Marin's Diversity and Equity programs. Also suggested was creating a partnership with the Miwok community, Not In Our Town (NIOT) Novato and hosting a movie night to help bring awareness of other cultures, hosting an Equity Forum in partnership with Not in Our Town Novato, hosting a heritage month, and supporting local schools celebrating cultural month and diversity.

ACM Deakyne said she will make a list of the suggested partnerships to be presented at the October meeting.

Commission Action: Upon motion by Vice Chair Portje and seconded by Commissioner Olmanson the Commission voted **7-0-2** to create an ad-hoc committee to focus on building community partnerships. Vice Chair Portje and Commissioner Olmanson will be the ad-hoc committee members.

AYES: Camillo, Gardner, Olmanson, Osotio, Portje, Sato, Suraci

NOES: None

ABSENT: Benjamins, Jacobs

### **F.2 Discussion regarding observation of religious holidays**

The Commission discussed identifying multicultural holidays to avoid holding Committee, Commission, and Board meetings on those days and making a future recommendation to council. Suggestions were made to stick to the religious holidays, how they identify the holidays, and that it shouldn't be the Commission's responsibility to decide which holidays to observe. The Commission agreed to start thinking about which holidays should be avoided. ACM Deakyne suggested adding the holidays to the partnership list once they are identified.

Commission Action: Upon motion by Vice Chair Portje and seconded by Commissioner Osotio the Commission voted **7-0-2** to spend the next several months identifying which cultural holidays to avoid holding Committee, Commission, and Board meetings on.

AYES: Camillo, Gardner, Olmanson, Osotio, Portje, Sato, Suraci

NOES: None

ABSENT: Benjamins, Jacobs

### **F.3 Preliminary discussion of 2022 MAC event**

The Commissioners discussed the option of having guest speakers at the monthly meetings but were concerned about having enough time to address general business.

Commissioner Osotio suggested hosting an Equity Forum, noting that it is a good platform for community engagement. Discussions continued about guest speakers at the meetings and how it might increase public participation at their meetings but how do they identify topics and utilizing social media to engage in discussion with community members. Vice Chair Portje suggested being pro-active in educating people before it becomes an issue while Commissioner Camillo noted that issues need to be brought forward in order for them to be discussed.

This item will be agendaized at the October 27, 2021 meeting to continue discussion.

#### **F.4 Promotional materials for MAC Commissioners**

ACM Deakyne presented the promotional materials to the MAC Commissioners. The Commissioners appreciated the promotional materials presented and will receive hard copies at their next in-person meeting, whenever that may be.

### **G. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS**

*This section is used for Commissioners and the Staff Liaison to orally report on topics that can be considered for discussion at a future meeting.*

#### **G.1. Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner Sato shared with the Commission that the CEO of Sutter Health, Sarah Krevans, will be retiring in early 2022. Commissioner Suraci discussed creating a list of films to suggest to NIOT Novato for movie night, to be discussed in October. ACM Deakyne noted that United Against Hate Week will be agendaized to October's meeting. Commissioner Osotio noted that Lu Sutton is celebrating Hispanic Heritage month. Chair Gardner spoke about delivering Thanksgiving dinners to seniors that live alone and will be doing a fundraiser and looking for volunteers to help cook and deliver meals to seniors in the County.

#### **G.2. Staff Liaison Reports**

ACM Deakyne shared with the Commission that the next meeting will be October 27<sup>th</sup> and that there are no meetings scheduled for November or December due to the holidays.

### **H. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Camillo motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Portje seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

**I HERBY CERTIFY that the foregoing minutes were duly adopted at the Multicultural Advisory Commission meeting of \_\_\_\_\_.**

**/ Christina Soares /**  
**Christina Soares, Management Analyst I**