



CITY OF NOVATO
CALIFORNIA

Multicultural Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 27, 2021 - 6:00 PM

Teleconference

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order by Chair Gardner at 6:06 P.M.

Commissioners present: Gardner, Jacobs, Osotio, Sato, Suraci

Commissioners absent: Camillo, Olmanson, Portje

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

B. APPROVAL OF FINAL AGENDA

Commission Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Sato and seconded by Commissioner Osotio the Commission voted **5-0-3** to approve final agenda.

AYES: Gardner, Jacobs, Osotio, Sato, Suraci

NOES: None

ABSENT: Camillo, Olmanson, Portje

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

Michele Sheehan shared with the Commissioners that Bullying Prevention Week, in collaboration with Not in Our Town-Novato and the Multicultural Advisory Commission, was shared at the Marin County Board of Supervisors meeting for review.

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.

Commission Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Jacobs and seconded by Commissioner Sato the Commission voted **4-0-3-1** to approve meeting minutes.

AYES: Gardner, Osotio, Sato, Suraci
NOES: None
ABSENT: Camillo, Olmanson, Portje
ABSTAIN: Jacobs

E. UNFINISHED AND OTHER BUSINESS

E.1 Continue discussions on 2022 MAC event.

The Commission continued discussions on event ideas for 2022 and focused on hosting a speaker panel with community members, or speakers from certain groups or organizations. It was noted by Commissioner Jacobs that April is “Celebrate Diversity” month and the last Saturday of April was deemed “Multicultural Day” in Novato by Resolution.

Michele Sheehan spoke during public comment and expressed support of April’s event and would like the Commission to collaborate with Not In Our Town-Novato at a future event.

Commission Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Sato and seconded by Commissioner Jacobs the Commission voted **5-0-3** for staff to begin preliminary planning for an April 2022 event.

AYES: Gardner, Jacobs, Osotio, Sato, Suraci
NOES: None
ABSENT: Camillo, Olmanson, Portje

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 Partnership/Calendar for 2022.

The Commissioners discussed potential community partnerships and Commissioner Jacobs noted that the Marin Asian Community Church will be holding their first service this Sunday since moving to Novato, while suggesting a potential partnership with them in community outreach. Commissioner Suraci asked if there would be any conflict working with the church and if there should be separation between church and state. Commissioner Sato recommended reaching out to Jan Derby at NUSD.

Michele Sheehan spoke during public comment and suggested adding Dia De Los Muertos to the event calendar of celebrations, in addition to attending ribbon cutting ceremonies.

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

The Commissioners discussed the shared partnership with Not In Our Town-Novato in the showing of a film at Novato High School, followed by a panel discussion. The Multicultural Advisory Commission is listed as a collaborator of the event and not a sponsor. Questions were asked if there was enough time to do a Proclamation this year.

Michele Sheehan spoke during public comment and noted the wording on the promotional flyer for the United Against Hate Week film event was a collaboration with the MAC ad-hoc commissioners. The film was to be shown at the new Novato High School gym on November 18th at 5:30-7:00 followed by a panelist discussion and a Q & A session.

Commission Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Jacobs and seconded by Commissioner Suraci, the Multicultural Advisory Commission agreed to work with Not In Our Town-Novato for United Against Hate Week and to hold a film presentation. Following additional discussions, Commissioner Jacobs amended his original motion.

Amended Commission Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Jacobs and seconded by Commissioner Sato, the Commission voted **5-0-3** to work with Not In Our Town-Novato for United Against Hate Week, to hold a film presentation, and to put forth a Proclamation to Council for United Against Hate Week.

AYES: Gardner, Jacobs, Osotio, Sato, Suraci

NOES: None

ABSENT: Camillo, Olmanson, Portje

Chair Gardner volunteered to represent the MAC at the United Against Hate Week event at Novato High School and Commissioner Jacobs noted he would be attending.

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 Jacobs gave an update on the Marin Asian Community Church.
- Commissioner Osotio mentioned the 2022 4th of July parade theme will include diversity and inclusion.
- Chair Gardner thanked Commissioner Sato for the Thanksgiving donation.
- Commissioner Osotio nominated Chair Gardner to represent MAC at the NIOT-Novato film screening, to speak from personal experiences, not as a commissioner. Commissioner Jacobs suggested approval from ACM Deakyne.

Commission Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Jacobs and seconded by Commissioner Osotio the Commission voted **5-0-3** for Chair Gardner to be a representative of the Multicultural Advisory Commission, to introduce the Commission at the event, but not speaking on behalf of the Commission. Chair Gardner agreed to be a panelist and to introduce the Commission.

AYES: Gardner, Jacobs, Osotio, Sato, Suraci

NOES: None

ABSENT: Camillo, Olmanson, Portje

G.2. Staff Liaison Reports

- Management Analyst Soares updated the Commissioners on the resignation of Benjamins from Commission.
- ACM Deakyne informed the Commission that there were no meetings scheduled for November or December.
- ACM Deakyne also mentioned that the Multicultural Advisory Commission has an email account monitored by staff: MAC@novato.org for commission-related items.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sato motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Osotio seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:38 P.M.

I HERBY CERTIFY that the foregoing minutes were duly adopted at the Multicultural Advisory Commission meeting of January 26, 2022.

/ Christina Soares /
Christina Soares, Management Analyst I