



**CITY OF NOVATO**  
CALIFORNIA

**Multicultural Advisory Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, September 28, 2022**

**Council Chambers, 901 Sherman Avenue**

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

Meeting called to order by Chair Osotio at 6:00pm.

Commissioners present: Camillo, Gardner, Olmanson, Osotio, Schwarze, Suraci

Staff Present: Senior Management Analyst Drew Bendickson, Assistant City Manager

Jessica Deakyne, Senior Office Assistant Monica Castillo, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services Katie Gauntlett

**B. APPROVAL OF FINAL AGENDA**

Commission Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Schwarze and seconded by Vice Chair Suraci the Commission voted **6-0-2** to approve the final agenda.

AYES: Camillo, Gardner, Olmanson, Osotio, Schwarze, Suraci

NOES: None

ABSENT: Jacobs, Sato

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**D. CONSENT ITEMS**

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

**D.1 Approve the meeting minutes of August 24, 2022.**

Commission Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Olmanson and seconded by Commissioner Gardner the Commission voted **6-0-2** to approve the meeting minutes of August 24, 2022.

AYES: Camillo, Gardner, Olmanson, Osotio, Schwarze, Suraci

NOES: None

ABSENT: Jacobs, Sato

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

### **E.1. Receive update from the Community Partnership Ad Hoc Committee on cultural calendar**

Commissioner Olmanson presented the 3 main items the Ad Hoc Committee discussed and wants to focus on for 2023: 1) Celebrating Dia De Los Muertos; 2) Celebrating Indigenous People's Day; 3) Creating land acknowledgments.

Commission Action: Upon motion by Chair Osotio and seconded by Commissioner Olmanson the Commission voted **6-0-2** to agendize a presentation about land acknowledgements for a future meeting.

AYES: Camillo, Gardner, Olmanson, Osotio, Schwarze, Suraci

NOES: None

ABSENT: Jacobs, Sato

Commission Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Olmanson and seconded by Vice Chair Suraci the Commission voted **6-0-2** to have City staff find partners for and hold an event to celebrate Dia De Los Muertos beginning in 2023 and onward.

AYES: Camillo, Gardner, Olmanson, Osotio, Schwarze, Suraci

NOES: None

ABSENT: Jacobs, Sato

Commission Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Olmanson and seconded by Commissioner Schwarze the Commission voted **6-0-2** to broaden the Ad Hoc Committee's focus to include community engagement.

AYES: Camillo, Gardner, Olmanson, Osotio, Schwarze, Suraci

NOES: None

ABSENT: Jacobs, Sato

## **F. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **F.1. Presentation from Michele Sheehan to discuss and consider recommending the Novato City Council recognize October 2022 as Bullying Prevention Month**

Michele Sheehan presented the item and recommended adding the following partners to the proclamation: Marin County District Attorney's Office, Marin County Board of Supervisors, North Marin Community Services, Marin County Office of Education including NUSD, Marin Sheriff, Police departments including Novato Police Department.

Commission Action: Upon motion by Chair Osotio and seconded by Commissioner Gardner the Commission voted **6-0-2** to present the proclamation to Novato City Council with the additional edits presented by Michele Sheehan.

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

**F.2. Receive an update from Assistant City Manager, Jessica Deakyne on Not In Our Town Marin County Coalition; and discuss and consider recommending Novato City Council recognize United Against Hate Week in November.**

Assistant City Manager Jessica Deakyne presented the item and discussed a brief presentation she gave regarding Not In Our Town and celebrating United Against Hate Week in November.

Public Comment:

1. Marin County District Attorney Lori Frugoli

Commission Action: Commissioner Suraci motioned to create a Liaison Committee with Not In Our Town Marin. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Commission Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Olmanson and seconded by Chair Osotio the Commissioner voted **6-0-2** to have the City and MAC partner with the County Office for the November 16 showing of "Repairing the World".

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

**G. COMMITTEE PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM(S)**

**G.1. From Chair Osotio - Consider recommending the Community Partnership Ad Hoc Committee find a partner to work with stopping the spread of antisemitic messaging**

Chair Osotio presented the item and encouraged a standardized response to hate incidents and hateful messaging.

Commission Action: Chair Osotio moved to agendize a discussion on responding to hateful messaging in the community. Commissioner Schwarze seconded the motion and suggested a friendly amendment to include a discussion on how to promote awareness in this Committee about these hateful incidents, to which the maker of the motion agreed. The Commission voted **6-0-2** to agendize a discussion on responding to and promoting awareness of hateful messaging in the community, including a discussion on how to promote awareness in the Committee about these hateful incidents.

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

**G.2. From Chair Osotio - Consider receiving a presentation from Marin Board of Supervisors on recognizing racism as a public health crisis**

Chair Osotio presented the item and requested to receive a presentation from Marin Board of Supervisors on recognizing racism as a public health crisis.

Senior Management Analyst Drew Bendickson shared that the presentation is available online and the link will be distributed.

**H. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS**

**H.1. Commissioner Reports**

Commissioners reported on related incidents and meetings they've attended.

**H.2. Staff Liaison Reports**

Senior Management Analyst Drew Bendickson reported on City business.

**I. ADJOURNMENTS**

The meeting adjourned at 7:09pm.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing minutes were duly adopted at the Multicultural Advisory Commission meeting of October 26, 2022.**

/ Monica Castillo /  
**Senior Office Assistant**