



**CITY OF NOVATO**  
CALIFORNIA

**Multicultural Advisory Commission**

**Meeting Minutes**

**February 22, 2023**

**Council Chambers, 901 Sherman Avenue**

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

Meeting called to order by Chair Osotio at 6pm

Commissioners present: Alexandre, Osotio, Sato, Schwarze, Suraci

Staff Present: Senior Management Analyst Drew Bendickson, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services Katie Gauntlett, Assistant City Manager Jessica Deakyne, Senior Office Assistant Monica Castillo

**B. APPROVAL OF FINAL AGENDA**

Commission Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Alexandre and seconded by Commissioner Schwarze the Commission voted **5-0-4** to approve the final agenda.

AYES: Alexandre, Osotio, Sato, Schwarze, Suraci

NOES: None

ABSENT: Camillo, Gardner, Jacobs, Olmanson

**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 January 25, 2023**

Commission Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Alexandre and seconded by Commissioner Schwarze the Commission voted **5-0-4** to approve the meeting minutes of January 25, 2023 with the suggested edit from Chair Osotio to remove Commissioner Alexandre's double vote in item D.1.

AYES: Alexandre, Osotio, Sato, Schwarze, Suraci

NOES: None

ABSENT: Camillo, Gardner, Jacobs, Olmanson

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

### **E.1. Receive update from the Ad Hoc Committee on Community Engagement**

Commissioner Schwarze presented the item and shared ideas from their discussion. The Ad Hoc plans to meet with City staff to further develop their engagement ideas.

### **E.2. Receive an update from the Ad Hoc Committee on Multicultural Event Speakers**

Chair Osotio presented the item and shared the ideas from their discussion including:

- For Diversity Month event: Doing community outreach to get members of the public to be on the Diversity Month panel and inviting members of the Coast Miwok Tribal Council to be on the panel;
- For Pride month celebrations: Reaching out to parents and students at Novato schools who supported the May 24 Pride flag-raising to speak at the City's 2023 Pride flag-raising ceremony.

Commission Action: Upon motion by Chair Osotio and seconded by Commissioner Schwarze the Commission voted **5-0-4** to perform community outreach for Pride Month speakers with help from City Staff.

AYES: Alexandre, Osotio, Sato, Schwarze, Suraci

NOES: None

ABSENT: Camillo, Gardner, Jacobs, Olmanson

## **F. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **F.1. Discuss Diversity Day event and provide staff with theme and speaker direction**

The Commissioners and staff discussed possible speakers for the panel including Rabbi Landa of the Chabad Jewish Center of Novato, Marin County Assistant District Attorney Otis Bruce, Co-Director of Latine Programs at North Marin Community Services Maria Jaramillo-Botero, Jason Deschler of the Coast Miwok Tribal Council, Jean Bee Chan of the Asian American Alliance of Marin, and others. The Commissioners and staff also decided on a theme and presentation style for the event.

Commission Action: Upon motion by Chair Osotio and seconded by Commissioner Schwarze the Commission voted **5-0-4** to work with City staff to perform community outreach for acquiring Diversity Day event speakers.

AYES: Alexandre, Osotio, Sato, Schwarze, Suraci

NOES: None

ABSENT: Camillo, Gardner, Jacobs, Olmanson

Commission Action: Upon motion by Vice Chair Suraci and seconded Chair Osotio the Commission voted **5-0-4** to make the Diversity Day theme "Combatting Hate".

AYES: Alexandre, Osotio, Sato, Schwarze, Suraci

NOES: None

ABSENT: Camillo, Gardner, Jacobs, Olmanson

Commission Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Schwarze and seconded by Chair Osotio the Commission voted **5-0-4** to have the Diversity Day event be “panel style”.

AYES: Alexandre, Osotio, Sato, Schwarze, Suraci

NOES: None

ABSENT: Camillo, Gardner, Jacobs, Olmanson

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

None.

**H. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS**

**H.1. Commissioner Reports**

Commissioners shared upcoming cultural events with the Commissioners.

**H.2. Staff Liaison Reports**

Senior Management Analyst Drew Bendickson presented the City’s February cultural celebrations including Black History Month and Japanese Day of Remembrance and reminded Commissioners that the Spring CCB recruitment is happening now until March 24.

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing minutes were duly adopted at the Multicultural Advisory Commission meeting of March 22, 2023.**

**/Monica Castillo/**

**Monica Castillo, Senior Office Assistant**