



CITY OF NOVATO
CALIFORNIA

Multicultural Advisory Commission

Draft Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

Novato City Hall, 901 Sherman Avenue

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order by Community Services Division Manager, Drew Bendickson at 6:01pm.

Commissioners present: Pamela Luk, Sophia Osotio, Carlos Solis

Staff Present: Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services Katie Gauntlett, Community Services Division Manager Drew Bendickson, Recreation Division Manager Alexandra Kambur

B. APPROVAL OF FINAL AGENDA

Commission Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Osotio and seconded by Commissioner Luk the Commission voted **3-0-2** to approve the final agenda.

AYES: Luk, Osotio, Solis

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Alexandre, Jacobs

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

D. CONSENT ITEMS

D.1 Approve the meeting minutes from August 23, 2023

Commission Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Osotio and seconded by Commissioner Luk the Commission voted **3-0-2** to approve the meeting minutes of August 23, 2023.

AYES: Luk, Osotio, Solis

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Alexandre, Jacobs

E. UNFINISHED AND OTHER BUSINESS

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

None.

F. GENERAL BUSINESS

F.1. Hold Elections for Chair and Vice Chair

Community Services Division Manager Drew Bendickson informed the Commission that Charles Schwarze had stepped down as Chair and resigned from the Commission in early January. This created vacant Chair and Vice Chair positions needing to be filled through an election. Division Manager Bendickson also reminded Commissioner Osotio that she would be ineligible for either the Chair or Vice Chair roles, as she had already served as Chair within the last 3 years.

With the two positions now open, Commissioner Osotio initiated the nomination process by stepping forward first to nominate current Vice Chair Cliff Jacobs for the position of Chair. Chair Osotio then nominated Commissioner Chandra Alexandre for the open Vice Chair position.

Commission Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Osotio and seconded by Commissioner Luk the Commission voted **3-0-2** to appoint Commissioner Jacobs as Chair and Commissioner Alexandre as Vice Chair.

AYES: Luk, Osotio, Solis

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Alexandre, Jacobs

F.2. Review and Propose Bringing the Multicultural Advisory Commission Work Plan to Council

Community Services Division Manager Drew Bendickson presented the Multicultural Advisory Commission's 2023 Accomplishments and 2024 Work Plan. He highlighted the Commission's work in 2023 to promote meetings, participate in United Against Hate Week, create a social media outreach calendar, and host diversity events.

For 2024, the proposed work plan goals are to:

1. Continue promoting meetings
2. Create 2024 social media content and identify partners
3. Continue 2023 events like Pride, Diversity Day, etc.
4. Consider new 2024 events like Dia de los Muertos, Indigenous Peoples' Day, equity forums
5. Agendize a land acknowledgement presentation
6. Consider a sponsored multicultural movie night event

Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services Katie Gauntlett reminded the Commission that they currently have no funding allocated for events. However, she noted that they have access to utilize the Council Chambers during their meetings and potential events.

Director Gauntlett encouraged the Commission to consider using the space to host small educational events, giving the example of an event for Dia de Los Muertos as a way to share that culture. She stated that small steps can lead to big impacts in terms of community education.

Commission Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Osotio and seconded by Commissioner Luk the Commission voted **3-0-2** to approve the 2024 MAC Work Plan.

AYES: Luk, Osotio, Solis

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Alexandre, Jacobs

G. COMMITTEE PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM(S)

None.

H. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

H.1. Commissioner Reports

Commission Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Osotio and seconded by Commissioner Luk the Commission voted **3-0-2** to agendize planning for a Dia de Los Muertos event.

AYES: Luk, Osotio, Solis

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Alexandre, Jacobs

H.2. Staff Liaison Reports

Community Services Division Manager Drew Bendickson presented recent City updates to the Commission. He highlighted that the newly renovated Pioneer Park has reopened featuring Marin County's first inclusive playground with adaptive elements to foster inclusive play.

The City celebrated various cultural holidays on social media including Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Lunar New Year, Black History Month and more. The City is also hosting related cultural celebrations for Black History Month and adaptive needs. A kids concert called "Are You Ready to Learn" will explore Louisiana Kreole culture on February 3rd. Additionally, there will be a sensory-friendly "Cupid Shuffle" silent disco event on February 17th catered towards the adaptive/special needs community.

D. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing minutes were duly adopted at the Multicultural Advisory Commission meeting of _____.

/Drew Bendickson

Drew Bendickson, Community Services Division Manager