



CITY OF NOVATO
CALIFORNIA

Multicultural Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Novato City Hall, 901 Sherman Avenue

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

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

Commissioners present: Pamela Luk, Sophia Osotio, Carlos Solis, Vice Chair Alexandre, Chair Jacobs

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 **5-0-0** to approve the final agenda.

AYES: Luk, Osotio, Solis, Alexandre, Jacobs

NOES: None.

ABSENT: None.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

D. CONSENT ITEMS

D.1 Approve the meeting minutes from January 24, 2024

Commission Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Osotio and seconded by Commissioner Alexandre the Commission voted **5-0-0** to approve the meeting minutes of January 24, 2024.

AYES: Luk, Osotio, Solis, Alexandre, Jacobs

NOES: None.

ABSENT: None.

E. UNFINISHED AND OTHER BUSINESS

None.

F. GENERAL BUSINESS

F.1. Review and Discuss the 2024 Cultural Outreach Calendar and Provide Input

Community Services Division Manager Drew Bendickson brought forth the 2024 Cultural Outreach Calendar to ask for input from the commission.

Commissioner Luk informed the commissioners that April is Diversity Month and should be considered. Community Services Division Manager Drew Bendickson informed the commission that April is officially recognized as Diversity Month on the cultural outreach calendar. Chair Jacobs brought forth the idea of Multicultural Diversity Day, which is typically celebrated on October 12. Community Services Division Manager Drew Bendickson informed the commission he would look into that further.

F.2. Discuss Diversity Day Event and Provide Staff with Theme and Speaker Direction

Community Services Division Manager Drew Bendickson and Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Director Katie Gauntlett presented multiple options for potential speaker's themes at the Diversity Day Event, including:

1. Novato High School and San Marin High School student counselors
2. Representatives from the LGBTQIA+ community
3. Representatives from the Black Student Union from both Novato High School and San Marin High School

Potential topics of discussion for the potential speakers:

1. Cross-cultural challenges in the school environment
2. Intercultural dynamics within the school community

Commission Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Osotio and seconded by Commissioner Luk the Commission voted **5-0-0** to approve the 2024 Diversity Day Event theme of "Celebrating Youth Voices".

AYES: Luk, Osotio, Solis, Alexandre, Jacobs

NOES: None.

ABSENT: None.

F.2. Consider establishing an Ad Hoc Committee for the Diversity Day Event

Commission Action: Upon motion by Chair Jacobs and seconded by Commissioner Luk the Commission voted **5-0-0** to approve Commissioner Osotio and Commissioner Alexandre as the Ad Hoc Committee for the Diversity Day Event.

AYES: Luk, Osotio, Solis, Alexandre, Jacobs

NOES: None.

ABSENT: None.

G. COMMITTEE PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM(S)

None.

H. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

H.1. Commissioner Reports

None.

H.2. Staff Liaison Reports

Community Services Division Manager Drew Bendickson presented recent social media updates to the commissioners. He highlighted February's social media cultural celebrations including Black History Month, the Lunar New Year, and Japanese Day of Remembrance. He also shared that the Museum of the American Indian will have its grand reopening on Saturday, April 27th.

Community Services Division Manager Drew Bendickson also reminded the commission of the upcoming Parks Master Plan meeting with the City Council reviewing the draft plan as well as Spring recruitment for committees, commissions, and boards for 2024, with 4 vacancies currently on MAC.

D. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m. by Chair Jacobs.

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