



**CITY OF NOVATO**  
**CALIFORNIA**

**Multicultural Advisory Commission**

**Agenda**

**Wednesday, May 22, 2024 - 6:00 PM**

**Novato City Hall  
Council Chambers, 901 Sherman Ave**

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**Chair  
Cliff Jacobs**

**Vice Chair  
Chandra Alexandre**

**Members  
Pamela Luk, Sophia Osotio, Carlos Solis**

**Staff Liaisons  
Drew Bendickson**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk at (415) 899-8986. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable accommodation to help ensure accessibility to this meeting. The Multicultural Advisory Commission may discuss and/or take action on any or all of the items listed on the agenda irrespective of how the agenda items are described.

**Public Participation/Comment Instructions**

Members of the Public may participate and provide public comments to meetings as follows:

- **Written public comments** may be submitted by email to [mac@novato.org](mailto:mac@novato.org). Written public comments received more than 3 hours before the start of the meeting will be distributed to the Commission. Written public comment received after the three-hour cut-off, including during and after the meeting, will be collected and placed in the public record. Written public comments will not be read during the meeting.
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**A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

**B. APPROVAL OF FINAL AGENDA**

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT**

*There is a three-minute time limit to speak although the Chair may shorten the time based on the number of speakers or other factors. A speaker may not yield his or her time to another speaker.*

*For issues raised during Public Comment that are not on the published agenda, except as otherwise provided under the Ralph M. Brown Act, no action can legally be taken. The Commission may direct that the item be referred to the Staff Liaison for action or may schedule the item on a subsequent agenda.*

**D. CONSENT ITEMS**

*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 March 27, 2024**

**D.2 Approve the meeting minutes from April 24, 2024**

**E. UNFINISHED AND OTHER BUSINESS**

**E.1. Receive an update from the Ad Hoc Committee for the City’s Pride Flag Raising Event**

**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. Discuss United Against Hate Week Event Opportunities in Alignment with the 2024 Work Plan and Consider Establishing an Ad Hoc Committee**

**F.2. Discuss Indigenous People’s Day Event Opportunities in Alignment with the 2024 Work Plan and Consider Establishing an Ad Hoc Committee**

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

*This section is used for Commissioners to orally report on topics that can be considered for discussion at a future meeting. Items must have been sent to staff 10 calendar days prior to the meeting to be included in the agenda.*

**None.**

**H. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS**

*This section is for Commissioners and Staff Liaisons to provide oral updates as related to the Commission*

**H.1. Commissioner Reports**

**H.2. Staff Liaison Reports**

## I. ADJOURNMENT

### AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

I, Drew Bendickson, certify that on the Wednesday before the Multicultural Advisory Commission meeting of May 22, 2024, the agenda was posted on the City Community Service Board at 922 Machin Avenue and on the City's website at [novato.org](http://novato.org) in Novato, California.

/Drew Bendickson/

Drew Bendickson, Community Services Division Manager



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**CITY OF NOVATO**  
CALIFORNIA

**Multicultural Advisory Commission**

**Draft Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, March 27, 2024**

**Novato City Hall, 901 Sherman Avenue**

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

Meeting called to order by Chair Cliff Jacobs at 6:07pm.

Commissioners present: Pamela Luk, Sophia Osotio, Carlos Solis

Commissioners absent: Chandra Alexandre

Staff Present: 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 **4-0-1** to approve the final agenda.

AYES: Luk, Osotio, Solis, Jacobs

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Alexandre

**C. PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Brian Gonzalez
2. Diana Gonzalez

**D. CONSENT ITEMS**

**D.1 Approve the meeting minutes from February 28, 2024**

Commission Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Osotio and seconded by Commissioner Luk the Commission voted **4-0-1** to approve the meeting minutes of February 28, 2023.

AYES: Luk, Osotio, Solis, Jacobs

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Alexandre

**E. UNFINISHED AND OTHER BUSINESS**

### **E.1. Receive an update from the Ad Hoc Committee on the Diversity Day Event**

Commissioner Osotio provided an update on the Diversity Day event "Celebrating Youth Voices". She announced that three speakers have been confirmed for the event, with two being referrals from the Multicultural Center of Marin and one being a senior from San Marin High School. The event will feature a speaker panel format, giving the speakers a broad framework of topics for discussion. Commissioner Luk was selected to moderate the Celebrating Youth Voices panel.

## **F. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **F.1. Receive a presentation about the Museum of the American Indian, from JuanCarlos Arauz, Ph.D., MAI Board Member**

Barbara Clifton Zarate, from the Board of Directors of the Museum of the American Indian, presented the history and mission of the museum. She shared that the museum was established in 1960 after high school students and an archaeologist discovered ceremonial artifacts and human remains, leading to Miwok Park becoming the museum's home. The museum is now transitioning into a multicultural center.

She stated that the museum's mission is to create visibility for Native Americans and Indigenous Peoples, with a commitment to cultural sensitivity, respect, and inclusion. The museum honors the diversity and lived experiences of the Coast Miwok, Native Americans, and Indigenous Peoples of North America, both past and present.

Two upcoming special events were highlighted:

1. Annual Trade Feast on Saturday, September 15, 2024, featuring Native song, dance, food, and culture.
2. Potential film series focused on indigenous topics, in partnership with the City of Novato, to be shown at Miwok Park.

She noted the historic significance of the museum's opening on April 27, as it marks the first land acquisition by a Coast Miwok tribal council since their forced relocation from Marin County.

### **F.2. Consider establishing an Ad Hoc Committee for the City's Pride Flag Raising Event**

Commission Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Osotio and seconded by Commissioner Solis the Commission voted **4-0-1** to approve Commissioner Osotio and Commissioner Luk as the Ad Hoc Committee for the City's Pride Flag Raising Event.

AYES: Luk, Osotio, Solis, Jacobs

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Alexandre

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

### **G.1. A presentation by Diana Gonzalez, the new Guatemalan owner of the re-designed Star Diner. Highlighting the diner's new American and Latin American-themed motif and menu**

Commission Action: Upon motion by Commissioner Luk and seconded by Commissioner Osotio the commission voted **4-0-1** to agendize a presentation by Diana Gonzalez, owner of Star Diner.

AYES: Luk, Osotio, Solis, Jacobs

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Alexandre

### **G.2. A discussion about the new, earlier date set in September for our support and possible participation in United Against Hate week**

Commission Action: Upon motion by Chair Jacobs and seconded by Commissioner Osotio the commission voted **4-0-1** to agendize participation with United Against Hate Week via a review of the resolution to the City of Novato as well as discuss a potential speaker or events for future meetings.

AYES: Luk, Osotio, Solis, Jacobs

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Alexandre

## **H. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS**

### **H.1. Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner Osotio reported on attending community events. She shared that the Novato Mothers Club held an Easter egg hunt at Amphitheater Park with an estimated attendance of 200 individuals. Commissioner Osotio also noted the success of the Trash to Treasures event at the Margaret Todd Senior Center on March, 23, 2024.

Chair Jacobs proposed adding the following dates to the commission calendar:

1. World Day for Cultural Diversity on May 21, 2024
2. Multicultural Diversity Day on October 21, 2024

### **H.2. Staff Liaison Reports**

Community Services Division Manager Drew Bendickson informed the commission of recent cultural events celebrated by the City of Novato on social media, including Ramadan and Holi.

Community Services Division Manager Bendickson announced the grand opening of Pioneer Park, Marin County's first inclusive playground, scheduled for April 13<sup>th</sup>.

He also shared details about the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Novato Spectrum Safety Event at Pocket Park on April 20<sup>th</sup>. This event is specifically designed for the adaptive needs community to meet and interact with Novato's first responders and is not intended for families without adaptive needs requirements. Families who would directly benefit from the event are requested to RSVP by direct messaging NovatoFun on social media or emailing [novatofun@novato.org](mailto:novatofun@novato.org).

Community Services Division Manager Bendickson reminded the commission about the Community Budget Workshop on Thursday, March 28th at 6pm, available both in-person at Novato City Hall and virtually via Zoom. The workshop provides an opportunity to learn about the City's budget, ask questions, and share feedback to help develop the budget and fiscal plan for the next year. Those unable to attend in person can visit [novato.org/budget](http://novato.org/budget) for details on virtual participation or to watch the meeting recording.

Lastly, Community Services Division Manager Bendickson noted that the spring recruitment for Committees, Commissions, and Boards (CCBs) was closing on Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. He encouraged those interested in serving their community to apply for a CCB position, with applications accepted year-round and recruitments held twice per year.

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 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**

