



CITY OF NOVATO
CALIFORNIA

Multicultural Advisory Commission

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 agendaize 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 agendaize 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 13th.

He also shared details about the 3rd Annual Novato Spectrum Safety Event at Pocket Park on April 20th. 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.

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 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 31st. 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 5-22-24.

/Drew Bendickson/

Drew Bendickson, Community Services Division Manager