

**Date:** Tuesday, February 18, 2025  
**Time:** 7pm  
**Location:** Topo Chiropractic, 1300 Grant Ave Ste 104, Downtown Novato  
**Meeting is open to the public.**

### **7:09pm Call to Order**

John Christman, TOPO Chiropractic; Maureen Gallagher, Avenue Salon; Tief Gibbs, Vintage Vehicles; Barbara Slack, CWS Construction; Rob Sundberg, Avenue Salon; Shannon Wood-Gallegos, B12Love (Stephanie Koehler, Executive Director)

### **Introduce Guests**

Dale Klein, Novato Chamber; Cindy Rome, Avenue Salon; Kevin Jacobs, City Council

### **Public Comment**

- HenHouse has their Big Chicken release party this week with a band and food trucks.  
- The issue of cannabis store fronts in downtown came up. There was impassioned arguments for and against having them in the BID. BID members let Councilmember Jacobs know we want to be made aware when the discussion comes up on a Council agenda. The item will be agendized at an upcoming BID meeting.

### **Elect 2025 BID Advisory Board Chair**

John Christman moved to approve as submitted. Rob Sundberg seconded. Discussion.

*Vote: All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.*

### **Tell Us What Is Important To You In 2025**

This was a lengthy and productive conversation. The following are expressed priorities:

- Economic Development. Businesses want the City to be more proactive in recruiting and retaining small business – not just focusing on Vintage Oaks.
- The City needs to make it easier to open a business in Novato. Several examples were cited where a business planned to come to Novato but the process was so arduous – they opened in San Rafael or Petaluma instead.
- Partnership opportunities with Chamber and DNBA were discussed.
- The City needs to invest marketing efforts and dollars into attracting businesses to Novato.
- City needs to outreach to existing businesses and start repairing relationships. Many existing business owners speak negatively about Novato because there has been no relationship developed with the economic development department in more than 7 years.
- Recruit associate members to the BID.
- Can Council/City Staff address the long-term vacancies like the former Albor Medical, Ken's Kitchens and Copperfield's Books corner spaces through a derelict building ordinance? Perhaps offer incentives to building owners. *This is a huge concern with members.* Membership feels this is leading to the opinion that Downtown is dying. They are seeing it in their sales.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes for August 20, 2024 BID Advisory Board Meeting**

Rob Sundberg nominated Barbara Slack as Chair. Maureen Gallagher seconded. Discussion.

*Vote: All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.*

### **8:19pm Adjourn**

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Downtown Novato Business Improvement District (BID) Advisory Board created by a formal action of the Novato City Council.

**BID Advisory Board Meetings** are open to the public and are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of February, May, August and October at 7pm. The meeting will be posted at the Novato Police Department and an email will be sent to you with the location will sent to you the week prior to the meeting. The agenda is posted on DowntownNovato.com at least 7 days prior to the meeting. **In 2025: May 20, Aug. 19, Oct. 21**