

Meeting Date: Wednesday, April 5, 2023
Time: DNBA Membership Meeting (DNBA/BID Members Only)
Board of Directors Meeting (immediately following – Closed Meeting)
Location: Creekside Bakery, 1719 Grant Ave, Novato

DNBA/BID Membership Meeting
(Open to DNBA/BID Members Only)

7:03pm Call to Order & Introduce Guests:

Emily Rich, Village Child & Village Collective; Tief Jensen, Vintage Vehicles; Jeannie Jarnot, Beauty Heroes; John Christman, TOPO Chiropractic; Rob Sundberg, Avenue Salon; Steve Jordan, Creekside Bakery, Crystal Redding, State Farm; Barbara Slack, CVS Construction Group; Mary Price; Village Child & Village Collective; Katherine Anderson, Copperfield's Books; Brandon Henslee, Five Little Monkeys; Mondy Saffa, Novato Square Cleaners; Andy Podshadley, Trek Winery; Sullina Sanchez, City of Novato; Vincent Cheung, Angie's Steam Foot Spa; Erick Hendricks & Kari, Blazers; Stephanie Koehler, DNBA

Visitor + Member Comments

- Erick and Kari from the new Blazers BBQ on Redwood Blvd shared the information about their menu and plans for music. They hope to open in May. They were met with a lot of excitement.
- Vincent expressed some concerns about the ordinance Novato is planning to pass requiring restaurants and events to use only recyclable materials.
- Several people expressed excitement about the parklet being built in front of My Thai and Masa.

City of Novato Update –Sullina Sanchez

- The City is extending the deadline to the Tenant Improvement Grant to noon on May 1st.
- There were questions about the status of the theater and concern about what the changes passed by Council would mean for Downtown. The City indicated it is a private property for sale so it is impossible to know.
- There was a lot of concern expressed for the significant increase in homeless activity in Downtown and the impacts on business. Sullina indicated the City's hands are tied by State laws and they are doing everything they can. They have hired a new homeless coordinator named Frank. When asked if the NPD could ask people sleeping in the doorways of businesses overnight to move along – she indicated businesses need to sign a "No Trespass" letter so the police could take action – siting the doorways are private property. One business owner expressed concern that the City's Homeless van parks for more than 2 hours at a time in the in the 2-hour parking spaces on Machin.
- There were questions about where businesses should direct employees to park. They expressed concern that the spaces at the Train Depot are typically filled with City vehicles.

General Update: Stephanie Koehler

- Upcoming Events in Downtown
 - o First Fridays: May 5
 - Emily updated on all the exciting things Village Child & Collective have planned: Artisan Marketplace & Princess Story Time.
 - o Cinco De Micro: May 6
 - o Art & Wine: June 10 & 11
 - o Rock the Block: June 22
 - Kiosk and The Game Fortress will be the presenting sponsors this year. Hennessy Funds have doubled their sponsorship. The City has no sustainability funds to help with aluminum cups so that will not happen this year.
 - o 2023 Sponsorship Opportunities are posted on website and will be in monthly newsletter.
- National Small Business Week: April 30 - May 6
- Planters have irrigation finalized and will be planted mid-May. Pini's garden department is working with us to get the plants and are offering us a discount.
- Village Collective is working with the City and will paint a "Love Novato" mural on the side of their building.
- New Businesses & Business Updates will now appear in newsletters.
- July 4th Parade is looking for entries

Treasurer's Report – Andy Podshadley, Treasurer

2023 DNBA Membership Remaining Meeting Schedule:

Membership Meetings are open to DNBA members only and are held the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm. A postcard with the location will be mailed to your business address the week prior to the meeting.
In 2023: **May 3**, June 7, July 12 (note date change due to holiday), Aug. 2, Sept. 6, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6

BID Advisory Board Meetings are open to the public and are held the 3rd Tuesday of February, May, August and October at 7pm. In 2023: **May 16**, Aug. 15, Oct. 17.

8:02pm Close DNBA General Membership Meeting

DNBA Board Meeting
(Closed Meeting)

8:10pm Call to Order: Emily Rich, President

Roll Call: Katherine Anderson, Vincent Cheung, Tief Gibbs, Jeannie Jarnot, Steve Jordan, Crystal Redding, Emily Rich, Andy Podshadley, Barbara Slack, Rob Sundberg, (Stephanie Koehler, Executive Director)

Follow Up Discussion on New Ideas

#WhatsNewWednesdays have been implemented and are receiving great response from businesses and the community.

Approve Meeting Minutes from February 1, 2023 & March 1, 2023

Rob moved to accept the meeting minutes for both dates as written. Steve seconded. Discussion. *Vote: All In favor. None Opposed. No Abstentions.*

Other Business + Open Discussion

- Steve let everyone know he will be stepping back as VP in June to spend more time in Albion. He will not resign from the board as he wants to participate in election of the 2024 officers in December but he will not be attending meetings. He term ends this year and he will not seek another term.
- Steve passed out copied of the By Laws for Board members to review on their own.
- There was a discussion about the BID Advisory Board meeting where they decided to write letters to Representative Mike McGuire expressing our lack of support for the proposed Housing Element in Downtown – siting the lack of accommodations for parking will damage businesses.

8:49pm Close DNBA Board Meeting