

Meeting Date: Wednesday, November 1, 2023
Time: 7pm DNBA Membership Meeting & BOD Meeting immediately following.
Location: Trek Winery, 1026 Machin Ave, Downtown Novato

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

7:03pm Call to Order & Introduce Guests: Andy Podshadley, Treasurer

Andy Podshadley, Trek Winery; Jeannie Jarnot, Beauty Heroes; Voytek Jarnot, Beauty Heroes; Rob Sundberg, Avenue Salon; Jason Clymer, Napa Auto Parts; Bobby Joe Neslon, Best Choice Auto Sales; Crystal Redding, State Farm; Tief Gibbs, Vintage Vehicles; Cindy Sundberg, Avenue Salon; Maureen Gallagher, Avenue Salon; Barbara Slack, CWS Construction; Tom Young, Pini Hardware; Sullina Smith, City of Novato; Helen Saenz, Alice Becker; Nick Frey, Novato Police Department, Sophia Winter, Novato Police Department; Stephanie Koehler, DNBA

Visitor + Member Comments None

Homeless Concerns: Representatives from the Novato Police Department

Nick Frey and Sophia Winter came to hear concerns from the businesses about the increase of homeless in Downtown Novato and the more aggressive nature of their interactions with patrons and business staff/owners. The discussion brought forward things the police were unaware of and possible solutions to the issues – including increased patrols in downtown during the holidays. Businesses showed concern for the couple who are living on the Druids Hall stairs and the officers indicated they would reach out to the owner of the building to see if they have a no trespassing order on file and gather their feedback about the issue. It was suggested the DNBA write a letter to Druids Hall expressing concern. It was suggested that the DNBA write a letter to City Council asking for parking enforcement to pay for a beat cop dedicated to downtown. It was suggested that members of the DNBA pressure public officials to implement a SAFE program like in San Rafael and Petaluma. The officers said they are committed to working with the DNBA on the issue and suggested regular meetings with the Executive Director.

Candidates for 2024 Board of Directors. Elections December 6, 2023

John Christman, TOPO Chiropractic
Andy Podshadley, Trek Winery
Rob Sundberg, Avenue Salon

December 6 Annual Meeting Includes Board Elections & Holiday Party

Update on BID Advisory Board Meeting

There was an update and discussion about the October BID Advisory Meeting where Supervisor Eric Lucan came to discuss the large-scale housing projects proposed by Alexis Gevorgian of AMG for Grant Ave. One member expressed frustration that Eric Lucan did not leave action items to help. (A follow up email from Supervisor Lucan suggested we have a prep meeting so we all are on the same page when we meet with AMC and Senator Maguire.) There was a suggestion to invite Caleb Roope, he contractor for AMC's Marin City housing project to our February BID Meeting. (It was later determined that he is not the contractor on the Novato project.)

Follow Up: Common Business Interests

No comments.

General Update: Stephanie Koehler

- Annual Report & Budget Presented to City Council October 10
- BID Fee Change Code Amendment Passed by City Council October 24
- Food Cart Ordinance Public Hearing at City Council October 24
- Upcoming Events in Downtown.
 - Small Business Saturday: November 25
 - Tree Lighting Festival: December 2
 - Bouncy Ball New Year: December 31
- New Business Updates: La Maison De La Reine is open on Grant Ave.

City of Novato Update – Sullina Sanchez

The Farmer's Market will be moved away from its current location at Grant and 7th in 2024 so they are looking for an alternative location in downtown. Possible sites are Sherman Ave and Sweetser Ave. They have asked for feedback from the businesses in Old Town to understand the impact it will have on their business. She indicated the decision will be made by the end of 2023.

Treasurer's Report

8:20pm Meeting Adjourned

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.
Remaining In 2023: **Dec. 6** (Board Elections & Holiday Party)

DNBA Board Meeting
(Closed Meeting)

Call to Order & Roll Call: Tief Gibbs, Jeannie Jarnot, Steve Jordan, Crystal Redding, Andy Podshadley, Barbara Slack, Rob Sundberg, (Stephanie Koehler, Executive Director)

General Update – Stephanie Koehler

- Feedback from businesses about moving the Farmer's Market to Old Town was very positive. Only one business was opposed and another expressed concern for parking but indicated his business was closed an hour after the market opens so the impact on him would be minimal.
- Reminder about December Meeting
- City has passed an ordinance that the moving vendor carts must have a business license and all health department permits. They also must stay 500 feet away from any permitted special events.
- Stephanie proposed an event titled "Not So Silent Night" on December 9th where all the businesses are open late and offering something special to encourage holiday shopping.

Approve Meeting Minutes from October 4, 2023

Rob made a motion to accept meeting minutes as submitted. Tief seconded. Vote: All in favor. Non opposed.

Other Business + Open Discussion

- Concern was expressed about the state of the white lights on the trees along Grant Ave.
- Crystal Redding let the board know she is moving to Southern California and is resigning from the Board.

9:10pm Meeting Adjourned