



CITY OF NOVATO
C A L I F O R N I A

Economic Development Advisory Commission

Meeting Agenda

Thursday, April 2nd, 2026 3:00PM

**City Hall
Novato Council Chambers
922 MACHIN AVENUE
NOVATO, CA 94945**

Chair

Alex Tishman

Vice Chair

Christina Mendes

Members

Daniel Christian

Harry Thomas

Susan Wernick

Bradley Wright

Thomas Young

Sylvia Barry, Ex-Officio

Miriam Hope Karell, Ex-Officio

Staff Liaison

Katie Skjerping, Economic Development Manager

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Staff Liaison at (415) 899-8903. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable accommodations to help ensure accessibility to this meeting.

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

B. APPROVAL OF THE FINAL AGENDA

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

All members of the public wishing to address the Economic Development Advisory Commission are welcome. 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.

D. CONSENT ITEMS

All matters listed on the Consent Calendar 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 Calendar for separate discussion and action. Any Commissioner may remove an item from the Consent Calendar and place it under General Business for discussion.

D.1 Approve the meeting minutes of March 5th, 2026

E. UNFINISHED AND OTHER BUSINESS

F. GENERAL BUSINESS

These items include significant and administrative actions of special interest and will usually include a staff presentation and discussion by the Commission. They will be enacted upon by a separate vote.

F.1 Receive a presentation from Community Development Director Clare Hartman on next steps for potential storefront retail cannabis policy.

F.2 Receive an update on the April 30th, Small Business Event.

F.3 Appoint members of the Economic Development Advisory Commission to an Ad-Hoc Committee to develop the 2026/2027 EDAC Work Plan.

G. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

H. STAFF UPDATES

I. ADJOURNMENT

If urgent matters arise after the publication of the regular agenda, there will be an addendum. It will be posted at the referenced locations mentioned in the Affidavit of Posting by Friday at 5:00 p.m., the week before the meeting. Materials, that are submitted to members of the Commission after the distribution of the agenda packet will be made available on the City of Novato website at novato.org when practical and provided that City staff is able to post those documents prior to the meeting. When non-confidential written materials are distributed to members of the Commission during a public meeting by staff or a member of the Commission, it shall be made available online following that meeting.

AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

I, Addison Luong, certify that on the Thursday before the Economic Development Advisory Commission meeting of April 2nd, 2026 the agenda was posted on the City Community Service Board at 922 Machin Avenue and on the City's website at www.novato.org.

/Addison Luong/
Senior Office Assistant



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Economic Development Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes Draft

Thursday, March 5th – 3:00 PM

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A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chair Tishman at 3:02 PM

Commissioners Present: Christina Mendes, Harry Thomas, Alex Tishman, Susan Wernick, Bradley Wright, Thomas Young, Ex-Officio Sylvia Barry

Absent: Daniel Christian, Ex-Officio Karell

Staff Present: Economic Development Manager Katie Skjerpung, Management Analyst I Stacey Hoggan, Senior Office Assistant Addison Luong

B. APPROVAL OF THE FINAL AGENDA

Upon motion by Commissioner Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Wernick the Commission voted 6-0-0-1 to approve the final agenda

Ayes: Mendes, Thomas, Tishman, Wernick, Wright, Young

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Christian

C. CONSENT ITEMS

C.1 Approve the meeting minutes of February 12th, 2026

Commissioner Action: Upon Motion by Vice Chair Mendes and seconded by Commissioner Wernick the Commission voted 6-0-0-1 to approve the final agenda

Ayes: Mendes, Thomas, Tishman, Wernick, Wright, Young

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Christian

D. UNFINISHED AND OTHER BUSINESS

None

E. GENERAL BUSINESS

These items include significant and administrative actions of special interest and will usually include a staff presentation and discussion by the Commission. They will be enacted upon by a separate vote.

E.1 Receive a presentation from the President of the Marin Convention & Visitors Bureau Gina Marr-Hiemstra on Marin Tourism Report, Economic Effects, & MCVB's Role.

President of the Marin Convention & Visitors Bureau Gina Marr-Hiemstra presented an overview on the state of Marin tourism and ongoing economic trends in the county. The presentation included a breakdown of Marin's top tourism attractions, primary reasons tourists visit Marin County, and a projection on the state of tourism for future years. The Commission asked various questions, including if the trends found in the Marin Tourism report are consistent nationwide, and how Novato can work with the Tourism Board to increase Novato's attractiveness to tourists.

F. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Vice Chair Mendes provided an update on upcoming events such as the Annual Business Expo March 26th and the Novato Art and Wine Festival.

G. STAFF UPDATES

Economic Development Manager Katie Skjerpig provided an update on several new businesses planning on opening in Novato.

Retail Cannabis Survey is now open to the public.

Community Budget Process will open next month with pop-ups locations to be determined.

H. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:12 PM