

**Meeting Date:** Tuesday, February 19, 2019  
**Time:** 7pm  
**Location:** Creekside Bakery, 1719 Grant Ave, Novato, CA 94945

**7:05pm Call to Order:** Steve Jordan, Chair

**Board Roll Call:** Steve Jordan, Peter Serchia, Andy Podshadley, Kevin Mahoney, Paul Price, (Stephanie Koehler, Executive Director)

**Guests:** Ron Collins, Novato Theater; Emily Rich, Village Child; Lisa Garcia & John, Las Guitarras; Bob Lewis, Environmental Management.

**Public Comment**

Bob Lewis spoke to the group in support of the moving the Novato Theater Project forward and encouraged the members of the BID to support it. As a long time resident of Novato, he spoke about the positive impact it had on Downtown when it was open in the past. He feels strongly that the empty space sends the wrong message about the great progress the City is making in many areas of Downtown and wants to see the Theater become a priority.

**Approval of August 14, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

Steve Jordan made a motion to accept the meeting minutes as submitted. Andy Podshadley seconded the motion. *Vote: 4 in favor, No objections. One abstention.*

**Letter of Support for the Novato Theater**

As discussed previously, the BID Advisory Board wanted to submit a letter of support to the Novato Theater Board for them to add to their presentations to potential lenders. Both the DNBA and the BID Advisory Board have previously voted in overwhelming support for the project. Steve Jordan read the proposed letter. Discussion was positive and no edits were suggested. One member of the board expressed support for the Theater but didn't feel we had enough information about the financial plans to support the letter. The public in the room was all very vocal in support of the letter and moving the project forward. They were grateful to the BID Advisory for trying to help. Emily Gates, Novato Resident also submitted an email letter to the BID Advisory Board in support of the Theater.

Peter Serchia made a motion to accept the letter as submitted. Paul Price seconded the motion. *Vote: 4 in favor, One objection. No abstentions.*

**Forum: Novato Minimum Wage Proposal**

Steve Jordan described the issue precipitated by the Marin IJ article where 2 Novato City Council members suggested the minimum wage increase (from current \$12 per/hour to proposed \$15 per/hour) to be accelerated from the state mandate several years from now to

**Forum: Novato Minimum Wage Proposal (continued)**

June 2019. Each member of the Board – all small business owners – discussed the detrimental impact it would have on their business. Several expressed that it would likely put them out of business. Members of the public in attendance expressed similar situations. Stephanie shared a letter submitted to the BID Advisory Board from a Downtown restaurant owner who carefully detailed the unique and devastating affects it would have on the restaurant industry as a whole. There was no support of the proposed accelerated hike.

**Forum: Improvements and Activities in Downtown Novato: What's Important to You?**

An open question was put out to the group asking what they felt were priorities for the coming year in Downtown Novato. The following was discussed:

*Finish Theater* – As reflected in the previous discussion, the BID Advisory Board and DNBA are in support of the community and City figuring out a solution to get the theater completed.

*No Minimum Wage Hike* – As reflected in previous discussions – the BID Advisory Board and DNBA are opposed to the accelerated minimum wage hike.

*Train Depot Finished* – This is in the works and the DNBA is eager to see the plans.

*Regular Kid Friendly Events* – The Board and Executive Director explained that they always try to have a family element to their events (games at Rock the Block, Bouncy Ball New Year, Family Friendly Car Show & Cruise, etc) but are currently maxed out on the events they can host. However, they have been actively supporting privately sponsored events (Harvest Festival, etc.) and are working with Parks & Rec to support their events.

**New Business**

L& L Hawaiian BBQ is opening next week next to Peet's Coffee.

**8:24pm Adjourn**

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**Downtown Novato Business Improvement District (BID) Advisory Board**

*created by a formal action of the Novato City Council*

**2019 BID Advisory Board Meeting Dates:**

February 19

May 28

August 20

October 15