

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

Minutes

September 11, 2012

Manhattan Beach City Hall

1400 Highland Avenue

Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioner Peter De Maria, Commissioner Russ Samuels, Commissioner Nancy Humbarger, Commissioner Susan Sweeney, and Commissioner Susannah Rosenthal.

Absent: None.

Others Present: Acting Cultural Arts Manager Megumi Moisen and Administrative Intern Athena Henderson

III. APPROVAL MINUTES

None.

IV. CEREMONIAL

None.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

VI. GENERAL BUSINESS

12/00911-1 The Centennial Art Project Update

Acting Cultural Arts Manager Megumi Moisen updated the Commission on the status of the artist's references for the Public Art Project. Each artist had favorable references from their previous clients. Ms. Moisen made the bus arrangements for the Manhattan Beach site tour for the remaining finalists to view possible art locations on Friday September 14, 2012. Ms. Moisen reported that Parks and Recreation Director Gill expressed concern for the Commission and Art in Public Places Committee (APPC) to attend the bus tour with the artists. Therefore it was decided that, a short special meeting will be held on Friday, September 14, 2012 with the Commission and the APPC for the finalists to answer any questions the artists may have about the City.

The site tour for the artists will be approximately five hours. The sites include the Manhattan Beach Historical Society, Polliwog Park, Metlox area, Civic Plaza, Manhattan Beach Boulevard, and Ardmore/Valley Drive, Veterans Parkway, and possibly the Manhattan Beach Pier. The tour will consist of walking and transportation from Dial-A-Ride.

One finalist, Owen Morrel, attended the site tour with Director Gill and Ms. Moisen on September 4, 2012 Mr. Morrel will attend the meeting via Skype during the special meeting.

Commissioner De Maria suggested the Commission create a presentation for the finalists regarding the history of the arts in Manhattan Beach. Chris Miller, photographer for the *Beach Reporter*, will give a brief presentation of Manhattan Beach history and present a collage of pictures of past Manhattan Beach events during the meeting.

Commissioner De Maria questioned any possible location limitations for the artists to create their pieces. Ms. Moisen stated that the Maintenance Superintendent Juan Price would be able to answer any possible questions the artists may have regarding City borders and safety.

Commissioner De Maria requested that the Commission and the APPC withhold personal opinions of the City. He asked the Commission not to steer the artists in any particular direction and pushed for objectivity in their answers. He stated that the Commission should answer questions with factual statements rather than personal statements and instill in the artists that pieces should strive for longevity.

Ms. Moisen confirmed that the City will hire a consultant. The Request for Proposal (RFP) is on the City's website. The submission deadline is on September 21, 2012. Director Gill and Ms. Moisen will hold interviews and make a decision by the end of the month. The staff report approval must go to city council before the consultant is hired officially at the close of October. The art consultant will be the liaison between the Commission, City staff and the artists. The consultant will conduct a presentation to City Council after the Commission and APPC members makes their final decision after the artists give their final presentations on November 13, 2012. The consultant will present the art in a professional, knowledgeable and unbiased manner to City Council.

Commissioner Dunn asked for clarification on personal email contact by the artists. Commissioner Samuels stated that the Commissioners should refrain from reaching out to the artists and there should be no communication between the artists and commissioners. The consultant will handle all communication between the artists to the commissioners once hired. In the meantime, Ms. Moisen will handle all communication, questions and concerns regarding the Public Art Project.

Commissioner Samuels then discussed the voting process. There will a be structured system of voting that will be laid out in advance. Commissioner Samuels will work with Director Gill, Ms. Moisen, and the consultant to verify accuracy of the judging criteria for the Commission and APPC members. The October Cultural Arts Commission meeting will review the structure of how the November meeting.

12/00911-2 The Architectural Bench Designs for the Strand Bench Donation

Commissioner Samuels stated that the Commission has been approved to pay Christoph, from CK Architecture, \$250 to make the Shell Beach maquette.

The cost is about approximately \$5,000 more from the initial estimate. The Commission contemplated if they want to present the maquette to City Council or if the Commission should wait to find more bench proposals

The Commission needed to find out how long the maquette process will take.

VII. REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

Sculptural Art Garden:

A chosen pot from the previous year was recently installed in this year's garden due to delays. The Commission contemplated delaying the planning of this year's garden until October 2013. The scheduling for the pot installation would begin in February or March 2013 and start the planning process and have the pots installed in October or November 2013. Commissioner Humbarger suggested the planning process for finding artists should start earlier in 2013. Commissioner De Maria suggested having a lecture about the sculptural art garden and having a public art night. He requested to put this suggestion on the agenda.

Commissioner De Maria also suggested that the Public Art submissions from the finalists display their maquettes exhibited at the Creative Arts Center and inviting the finalists and the public. No formal presentation would be given.

Ms. Moisen will check the scheduling for the Creative Arts Center. Commissioner Humbarger wanted clarification on the Commissioners attending the art viewing. Commissioner Samuels stated that is a public event and all members can be in attendance as long as three members are not collectively talking about the piece which is a Brown Act violation. Ms. Moisen will seek clarification from the City Attorney about the Commissioners gathering for public events.

Believe Sign:

Commissioner Gill asked if the Believe sign is working. The Commission collectively states that they have not seen the sign on. Ms. Moisen stated the sign comes on through a motion sensor.

Public Art:

Commissioner Samuels briefly discussed the public art piece in front of the post office. City Staff is checking the decommissioning process. The Commission needs to decide to decommission or fix the piece and discuss the guidelines that go along with the process.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. to the special meeting on September 14, 2012 at 11:00 a.m.