

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION
Minutes of Regular Meeting
January 8, 2013**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Chairperson Samuels, Vice Chairperson Humbarger,
Commissioner Dunn, Commissioner Gill, Commissioner De Maria

Absent: None

Staff Present: Gina Allen, Recreation Services Manager
Megumi Sando, Recreation Supervisor
Esmeralda Montes, Recreation Specialist
Diana Payne, Recreation Specialist
Heather Anacker, Cultural Arts Intern

III. APPROVAL MINUTES

None

IV. CEREMONIAL

None

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Peter De Maria, Manhattan Beach Resident

Mr. De Maria suggested that the Creative Arts Commission should be involved in the design and implementation of the staircase that the City is looking to build down to the beach for wheelchair access. Mr. De Maria presented several options for incorporating more creative, artistic designs and elements into the staircases.

VI. REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS (the following item was taken out of order)

Division Updates:

Recreation Supervisor Megumi Sando gave a brief background on the Creative Art Center. She introduces additional staff to speak of details on each program. Recreation Specialist Diana Payne talked about the Performing Arts classes she oversees and the new classes she was introducing this year.

Commissioner Humbarger inquired if all the program information was listed in the Manhappenings activity guide

Recreation Specialist Payne reported that all the program information was listed in the Manhappenings.

Commissioner De Maria asked about Recreation Specialist Payne's experience.

Recreation Specialist Payne explained that she had been with the City for about a year and a half, has a theater degree, and belongs to several performing art organizations.

Commissioner Humbarger suggested Recreation Specialist Payne look into the Hollywood Bowl as a field trip destination.

Commissioner Gill inquired about the budget for her programs.

Recreation Specialist Payne explained that most of the classes are revenue based so they can only spend what they earn.

Recreation Specialist Esmeralda Montes talked about her Visual Arts activities which she supervises at the Cultural Arts Center and the current state of her programs.

Cultural Arts Intern Heather Anacker described her duties assisting with the art exhibition program and the upcoming show in February, "Invisible Systems."

Recreation Services Manager Allen spoke about the Public Art Trust Fund, the current funds that are earmarked, and the ending balance of \$78,255 that is available to be spent.

Commissioner Dunn inquired about the money received from the one percent tax placed on commercial developments in the city and when those funds hit the books. She also inquired if there was any way to project when the total amount of money would come in from the one percent tax.

Recreation Services Manager Allen reported stated she would research the request and report back to the Commission.

The Commission asked for budget details to be presented at the next meeting. The Commission also asked for staff to confirm if the artists were given a check vs. a reimbursement for the cost for the Centennial maquettes.

Recreation Services Manager Allen gave an update on trying to secure a contract for a professional minute taker for the Commission meetings. If the contract is approved, then the Commission will have to go through training on how to conduct a formal meeting.

Recreation Services Manager Allen informed the Commission that the agreement for the centennial art piece is currently with the City Attorney. Once it has been approved, the City will move forward with an agreement with the artist and work with the architect on the design and implementation of the centennial art piece.

Commissioner Gill asked for a final breakdown of the agreement from the Public Art Consultant Ansert.

VII. GENERAL BUSINESS

12/09/11-2 The Architectural Design for the Strand Alcove Bench Program

The Commission reviewed and discussed past historical information about the Strand Alcove Bench Program. It was also mentioned that currently there is a donor who is interested in spending \$12,000 on a bench. There is an additional party interested in purchasing a bench and would like to see more designs with a back.

Commissioner Samuels asked the Commission if they wanted to move forward with the Shell design and continue to add additional designs to the catalog.

The Commission reviewed color samples, dimensions, materials, and drawings of the Shell bench design. Recreation Services Manager Gina Allen stated that the original architect for the Shell design said the bench would cost approximately \$12,500. The price, however, has now gone up to \$15,950 due to increased construction costs.

Commissioner Humbarger requested staff contact Stacy Dukes for the current cost of the approved strand bench and asked that his design with a back be brought back to the Commission for review.

Recreation Services Manager Allen said that the Commission has authority to recommend new bench design(s) to present to City Council. City Council then approves the bench design(s) and it is added to the brochure.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gill, seconded by Commissioner Dunn, to submit the Shell bench to City Council for approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 – Samuels, Humbarger, Dunn, Gill, and De Maria

Recreation Services Manager Allen will formulate a presentation for City Council and present it to the Commission for the next commission meeting. The commission could then refine the presentation.

The Commission reviewed previously submitted bench designs. After discussing each submission, the following designs were selected for future submission to City Council:

- CK Architecture *Dent*
- Ball-Nogues Studio *Puddle*
- Sparano + Mooney Architecture *Bench Design 1*

The following benches were retired:

- CK Architecture *Whale*
- Sparano + Mooney Architecture *Bench Design 2 and 3*
- Predock_Frane Architects wet suit concept

12/1211-1 Additional Cost of the Sculpture Garden and Contract Extensions

The Commission discussed the options of extending the contracts for Steve Rieman's *Tree Hugger* and *Tropic Birds* and Frank Mando's *Mariah* to September 2013 or letting them expire. The Commission further discussed the process they needed to go through in order to secure new sculptures for the garden. In addition, the Commission also talked about the various pricing for different sculptures.

The Commission decided to discuss other sculpture options in June.

A motion was made by Commissioner Humbarger, seconded by Commissioner De Maria, to remove the sculptures Tree Hugger, Tropic Birds and Mariah. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 – Samuels, Humbarger, and De Maria

Nay: 2 – Dunn and Gill

13/0801-1 Commission Handbook

All Commissioners stated that they had received the handbook and talked about possibly meeting with City Council annually.

13/0801-2 Review Master Plan

The Commission spoke about their role and collaborating with the City Council. Recreation Services Manager Allen reiterated what the City Attorney's Office has interpreted what the Commission's role is. The Commission's role is to provide guidance, support and recommendation to City Council, but the ultimate decision making authority lies with City Council.

Commissioner Samuel asked if the Master Plan was provided by the Commission and if it was approved and signed by City Council.

Recreation Services Manager Allen answered yes it was something that was worked on by staff and was approved by City Council.

Commissioner Dunn asked if there was any sort of mechanism that can be put into place where the Cultural Arts Manager can be notified of any funds that are going to be spent from the Public Art Trust fund.

Recreation Services Manager Allen answered that it is the role of the Cultural Arts Manager.

The Commission talked about revisiting the Master Plan so that it coincides with the Public Art city ordinance. It was decided that at the next Commission meeting in February, all Commission members should familiarize themselves with the Master Plan so they can further discuss this issue. In addition, the Commission agreed to develop some long term plans for the remainder of the year.

13/0801-3 Ansel Adams Exhibit

Commissioner Dunn reiterated the background of the Ansel Adams exhibit and expressed her interest in having the photos displayed in Manhattan Beach.

Recreation Services Manager Allen stated that she had spoken to Parks and Recreation Director Gill, and he said the Department was interested in hosting an exhibition and is willing to modify schedules to host the event.

Commissioner Gill inquired if they needed City Council approval to move forward with such an exhibition.

Recreation Services Manager Allen answered that she doesn't believe so; however, if they were planning on using Public Art Trust fund money they would need to seek City Council approval.

The Commission decided that at the next meeting they would talk to Mike Zislis to see if there was space available for the Ansel Adams exhibit, further discuss the time the artwork would be available, and additional details regarding the proposed art exhibition.

Recreation Services Manager Allen asked the Commission what date they were planning on having this event at the Creative Arts Center.

Commissioner Dunn answered that she would like to have this event in either May or June.

The Commission is planning on proposing this Ansel Adams exhibition to City Council in March, if needed.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:57 p.m.