



Agenda Item #: _____

Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Tell and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: Geoff Dolan, City Manager

FROM: Liza Tamura, City Clerk
Terri Aliabadi, Senior Deputy City Clerk

DATE: March 20, 2007

SUBJECT: Declare Vacancies: Planning Commission, Seat No. 1 (Cohen) and Cultural Arts Commission, Seat No. 3 (Seckinger)

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the City Council pass a motion to DECLARE VACANT Planning Commission Seat No. 1 (Cohen) and Cultural Arts Commission Seat No. 3 (Seckinger)

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

BACKGROUND:

The Planning Commission consists of five (5) members and is responsible for long-range planning activities, including major permits, commercial planned development permits, zone changes, code amendments, and modification to long-range planning documents, including the City's General Plan and Local Coastal Plan.

The Cultural Arts Commission is responsible for the continued development and implementation of the Master Plan for Cultural Arts in the City, encouraging and supporting art education programs in the community and schools, visual and performing arts and art in public places. The Commission consists of five members: three members at-large, one member of the business community and one member selected as an artist representative. Seat No. 3 is a business community member position.

DISCUSSION:

As a result of her election to the City Council, on March 15, 2007, Portia Cohen tendered a letter of resignation from the Planning Commission to the City Clerk's Office.

On March 13, 2007 the City Clerk's Office received a letter from Francey Seckinger, who holds Seat No. 3 on the Cultural Arts Commission, indicating her resignation from the Commission.

Normally, a Board or Commission vacancy would be filled immediately, however, because the yearly Board & Commission appointment cycle will begin next month, (with Council appointing at the May 1, 2007 City Council meeting) it is staff's recommendation to add these vacant seats to the Board & Commission appointment cycle. If the City Council chooses to interview applicants for appointments, staff recommends that interviews take place on Tuesday, April 24, 2007.

Per Ordinance 1975, if a vacant seat has more than 18 months remaining in its term, as is the case with Planning Commission Seat No. 1, the new member would complete the original term and then seek reappointment via the regular procedures for the next three (3) year term. As such, the new member appointed to this seat will complete the original term of office (expiring May 31, 2009) and then be eligible for reappointment to one succeeding three-year term.

Also, per Ordinance 1975, if a vacant seat has 18 months or less remaining in its term, as is the case with Cultural Arts Commission Seat No. 3, the new member would be appointed to complete the original term of office (expiring May 31, 2008) and then automatically be re-appointed to a three-year term without further ceremony. Following the three-year term, the member would be eligible for re-appointment by the City Council to one more three-year term.

Advertising for Board & Commission vacancies will begin in early April. Staff will accept new applications and contact those persons who have filed an application and expressed interest in a particular Board or Commission within the last three years.

Attachment: Resignation Letters

Francey Seckinger
1467 Manhattan Beach Blvd. # 2
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
2007 MAR 13 PM 2:40

March 13, 2007

Geoff Dolan
City Manager
City of Manhattan Beach
1400 Highland Avenue
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Dear Mr. Geoff Dolan, honorable Mayor, Mr. Nick Tell, City Council Members and Cultural Arts Commissioners, City of Manhattan Beach:

Due to circumstances beyond my control, it is with sincere regret I resign my post as Cultural Arts Commissioner, Business Community, for the City of Manhattan Beach, CA on March 13, 2007.

It has been nearly two years of fascinating work sitting on the Cultural Arts Commission. The Bench/Strand Alcove and City Gateway Signage/ Logo Development projects were among my favorites. I found the process eye opening, educational and interesting and look forward to keeping up with council's decision to execute on the recommendations brought forth by the Cultural Arts Commission.


I have always felt it a privilege to have been appointed by council to such a post and represent our city in this manner. Little did I realize the real privilege would be working along side such talented, caring and well meaning appointee's. Their understanding of the art community and what they bring to their commission seats represent our city well. I will miss their dedication and combined talents.

Thank you for allowing me the honor of serving along side of them and the vote of confidence expressed in my appointment.

I look forward to sitting on the "Cultural Arts Commission" bench on the Strand one day and entering our city, knowing I was part of the process in what was rolled up to our thoughtful council regarding gateway city signage.

When I first entered Manhattan Beach, I looked upon the signs at the entrance to our city and thought, "One thing Manhattan Beach could really stand to improve are their entry signs". You can imagine my thrill to be part of the process in making this happen. I only wish I could have been present as a "commissioner" when the signs are installed for all to see and take pride in.

I wish you, your staff, council and commissioners all the best,


Francey Seckinger
Cultural Arts Commissioner, City of Manhattan Beach

Cc: Nick Tell, Mayor, Manhattan Beach
Jim Aldinger, Council Member and Mayor Pro Tem, City of Manhattan Beach
Richard Montgomery, Council Member, City of Manhattan Beach
Mitch Ward, Council Member, City of Manhattan Beach
Joyce Fahey, Council Member, City of Manhattan Beach

Sharon Greco, Cultural Arts Commissioner, Member at Large/Chair, City of
Manhattan Beach
Shelby Phillips, Cultural Arts Commissioner, Artist, City of Manhattan Beach
Candy Duncan, Cultural Arts Commissioner, Member At-Large, City of
Manhattan Beach
Susannah Rosenthal, Cultural Arts Commissioner, Member At-Large, City of
Manhattan Beach

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

2007 MAR 15 AM 11:28

Portia Policastro Cohen
401 10th Street
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
Mobile 310.991.7366

March 14, 2007

Chairman Bob Bohner, Manhattan Beach Planning Commission
Vice Chairman David Lesser, Manhattan Beach Planning Commission
Wayne Powell, Manhattan Beach Planning Commission
Jim Schlager, Manhattan Beach Planning Commission
Richard Thompson, Manhattan Beach Director of Community Development

Dear Commissioners and Director Thompson:

Since June of 2006, I have had the honor and pleasure of working with each of you on important development matters within Manhattan Beach. Our discussions have served to broaden my knowledge and understanding of our City, and I have each of you to thank for your contribution in that regard.

As is tradition upon election to Manhattan Beach City Council, and in order to fulfill my new responsibilities thereon, I hereby resign from my position as a member of the Manhattan Beach Planning Commission.

It pleases me to know that I will continue to work with each of you in my new position, and that each of us will continue to invest ourselves in the City that we so love.

Sincerely,



Portia P. Cohen