

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

Minutes

June 12, 2012

Manhattan Beach City Hall

1400 Highland Avenue

Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting called to order at 6:12 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioner Peter De Maria, Chair, Commissioner Russ Samuels, Vice Chair, Commissioner Nancy Humbarger, Commissioner James Gill, and Commissioner Nancy Dunn

Absent: None.

Others Present: Parks & Recreation Director Richard Gill, Recreation Manager Gina Allen, and Acting Cultural Arts Manager Megumi S. Moisen

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None.

IV. CEREMONIAL

None.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

VI. GENERAL BUSINESS

12/0612-1 Approval of the Centennial Art Project RFQ

Director Gill presented the final version of RFQ that reflected input from the City Attorney, and the Commission approved it as written. The RFQ will be published after City Council's approval on June 19.

12/0612-2 Possible Removal of the Sculpture by Harold Reach at the Manhattan Beach Post Office

After the recent landscape upgrade by the Leadership Manhattan Class of 2012, the City was requested to repaint the sculpture at the Post Office, which was originally donated by artist Harold Reach in the late 1980s. During previous meetings, the Cultural Arts Commission discussed potential options for the treatment of the sculpture from reconditioning to removal. Acting Cultural Arts Manager Megumi S. Moisen requested additional time to collect more information about the artist, artwork, and artwork decommission policy. The Commission agreed to table the item until staff receives the proper information.

12/0612-3 Architectural Bench Designs for the Strand Bench Donation Program

Commissioner De Maria introduced newly appointed Commissioners James Gill and Nancy Dunn to the background of the Alcove Bench Donation Program originated from the City Council's 2005 – 2007 Strategic Plan. Currently only one preapproved bench design (by Stacy Dukes) is available, and the Commission has worked in recent years for the establishment of the Alcove Bench Donation Design Catalogue with more preapproved designs for alcoves.

In 2010, the Cultural Arts Commission solicited eight (8) creative bench designs for the alcoves from four (4) local architects; and the architects agreed to produce a prototype bench with \$12,500 each. Commissioner De Maria stated that the Commission was searching for corporate funding to produce several prototypes, and the benches were going to be installed on the Green Belt for two to three months. During the display period, the Council can evaluate the public's responses to the designs before the final approval. Commissioner Dunn commented that this project could be a revenue source for the City if the corporate pays for the creation of prototypes in the Alcove Bench Donation Design Catalogue.

Manhattan Beach resident Jacky May reminded the Commission that memorial benches were controversial several years back. She asked if the Strand residents had expressed their opinions about the bench donation program. Director Gill responded saying that the Strand Alcove Bench Program Donor Guidelines were approved by City Council, in which the use of language referring to memorial was explicitly avoided. The approved wording should be as follows: "Donated by xxx – Artist xxx."

Estimating \$50,000 to \$60,000 for the cost of multiple prototypes, Commissioner De Maria stressed the urgency to identify the funding sources. He mentioned that the benches could be part of the Sculpture Garden Program. In the next meeting, the Commission will review all designs previously submitted by the local architects and narrow down the selections for the Alcove Bench Donation Design Catalogue.

12/0612-4 Comprehensive Study/Assessment of Art Programming and Expenses in Manhattan Beach

During May 8th meeting, Manhattan Beach resident, Jim Murray, distributed a working document titled "MB Arts: Past-Present-Future," in which he proposed a comprehensive review of the City's relationship with the arts and the history of budgetary support for the arts in visual arts, performing arts, and arts education. He suggested that the City establish a professionally developed art standard to change the decision making process related to the arts because not all city staff, Commissioners, and City Council members have an art background. Professional services specialized in the arts (e.g., arts consultant) was recommended, especially in the selection and procurement of both permanent and temporary art works displayed by the city.

Commissioner Hamburger asked status of the Cultural Arts Manager's position. Director Gill explained the possible elimination of the Manager's position associated with the City's recent class comp study. In that case, a consultant specialized in public art needs to be hired to oversee the public art projects and the Cultural Arts Commission. Director Gill stated that the duties discussed in Mr. Murray's document could be incorporated in the new public art consultant's scope of services. Staff will be looking for City Council's direction when the study completed. Commissioner Hamburger expressed that the Commission needs a public art consultant during the interim to assist the Centennial Art Project.

VII. REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioners Dunn and Samuels addressed the need to market the City's Public Art Program utilizing the internet technology such as virtual walking tour or Google map. Recreation Manager Gina Allen replied that staff could consult with the Information System if the Commission decided.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.