

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**

July 9, 2013
Manhattan Beach City Council Chambers
1400 Highland Avenue
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Chairperson James Gill
 Vice-Chairperson Nancy Dunn*
 Commissioner Peter De Maria
 Commissioner Russ Samuels
 Commissioner Loli Ramezani

*Arrived at 6:07 p.m.

Absent: None

Others Present: Recreation Services Manager Gina Allen,

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Ramezani made a motion to approve the minutes of June 11, 2013. Commissioner Gill seconded the motion.

Ayes: Commissioner Samuels, Gill, De Maria, Ramezani

Noes: None

Absent: Commissioner Dunn

Abstain:

C. CEREMONIAL

None

D. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

E. GENERAL BUSINESS

13/0709-1 Board and Commissions Handbook

Recreation Services Manager, Gina Allen, stated that it was brought to the attention of staff that the proper protocol of placing items on the agenda were not being followed as stated in the Board and Commissions Handbook. Staff was directed to review the Handbook, postpone Commission items, and review the procedures in the Handbook. The Handbook outlines the roles, duties, and limitations of the Commissions and

addresses how items are placed onto the agenda. To summarize, a Commission member would recommend an item and it would be recorded in the minutes. Ms. Allen reviewed the proper protocols and stated the recommendation could be in the form of a letter by a Commissioner or a note added by staff with specifics and placed in the minutes. The items would then be presented to the City Council for consideration of approval and once approved can be placed on the agenda for the Commission to discuss.

Ms. Allen stated the handbook and protocols will be discussed with each of the Commissioners and stated that the procedure was not personal.

Commissioner Ramezani requested that Ms. Allen explain how the timeline would work. Ms. Allen responded that the item would be added to the minutes and then presented to City Council at their next meeting for review. It proposes an issue of timely minutes since there would be less time to complete minutes and meet the deadline to provide them to City Council. Now more than ever the minutes need to be turned around as quickly as possible so the Council can review and approve the item for the Commission meeting the next month.

Commissioner Dunn asked where on the Council's Agenda does Commission items fall and Ms. Allen stated under the Consent portion of the agenda. The Council is provided the minutes prior to the meeting for review and can pull the minutes, if they choose, for further review. Commissioner Ramezani asked if the Commission would need to attend the City Council meeting to provide background and Ms. Allen responded, no, that staff would be attending the meeting to answer any questions the Council may have and the minutes would give the background.

Commissioner Gill asked what items the Commission is working on has been approved, and which ones are not. He stated the Ansel Adams item has not been approved by Council so that should not have been on the Commission's agenda and Ms. Allen stated that is correct. He also asked about the commissioning or de-commissioning of the piece at the Post Office and wanted to know what category that is in. Ms. Allen stated staff would have to ask for permission to speak on that item. She stated that in her research staff had looked into the arts, but never asked to speak on the item. Commissioner Gill stated that Council had already looked at the item, had a budget for it, and were asking the Commission whether they should maintain it or what should be done with it. Ms. Allen stated that is correct and staff had brought it the Commission. Commissioner Gill responded by asking since staff brought the time to the Commission does it still need to be brought to Council and Ms. Allen stated, yes. She stated in the future it will not be brought to the Commission in that form and will now follow the procedure.

Commissioner Gill asked about the hidden by the curtain artwork and Ms. Allen stated the Commission would request City Council to review and approve the Commission undertaking of the artwork.

Commissioner Gill stated that almost everything the Commission has been talking about, except the bench, would have to be provided to Council. Ms. Allen stated that is correct.

She noted the bench item was a staff report that went to Council and they approved the Commission to put together the program and the designs. He continued by asking about the Sculpture Garden and Ms. Allen stated that the Sculpture Garden is a yearly rotating show and we will have to request to put on a show every year. Commissioner Gill asked if the Sculpture Garden invitations have gone out to the artists and Ms. Allen stated that they had to hold off on that because the Commission has to request it as an item to be discussed.

Commissioner Samuels stated, as of right now, we have nothing on our agenda and we going to be asking to put items on the agenda. Ms. Allen stated that is correct. She stated that today the Commission will want to look at all of the items and prioritize them and see what items you want to address and they will be added to the minutes and brought to Council and then the Commission can move forward once they are approved.

Commissioner Ramezani requested clarification on approved projects and if an item was approved by Council, like the bench project, and in six months a residents come with a particular request and the Commission would like to discuss it. Does that have to go back to Council for permission to discuss it and Ms. Allen stated, if it a new aspect of it, yes.

Commissioner De Maria stated that there used to be item on the agenda a New Business section and Ms. Allen stated, Cultural Arts Commission agenda was incorrect and the way you see the agenda today is how it should be organized. Section G, Commission Items was not listed before. That is where the Commission can bring up items they want to discuss and can be recorded in the minutes. Section 6, Commission Items has replaced New Business/Staff Requests.

Commissioner De Maria stated that while he understands following the protocol to get projects approved, he also thinks a real valuable part of this Commission is the dialogue that takes place when we discuss different ideas that come up. His concern is that ideas may be censored, deleted, or may never make it to the agenda.

Ms. Allen stated it is similar to what was done before except the item does not become official until approved. The Commission can bring forward a proposal, for example the Green Project, present details and discuss it. Then the Commission may move forward and request it as an official item for the agenda. Commissioner De Maria asked at what point during the Commission meeting does the Commission discuss those items. Ms. Allen stated under Commission Items and it doesn't have to be listed there, in can be verbally added. However, the Commission may not take any official action because it is not an official item under General Business.

Ms. Allen stated going forward the Commission can bring items or questions to staff and staff will request clarification and provide the information to the Commission. She stated this is the only Section in the Handbook to be discussed today. Ms. Allen also stated before moving on to Commission Items if there were any other questions or comments the Commission had under General Business before moving on to Commission Items.

Commissioner De Maria requested a template to assist as a tool in the process of providing a Commission Item to City Council. Discussion ensued on timelines to recommend items to City Council and completion of minutes in a timely manner. Commissioner Gill also reiterated for clarification from staff that the Commission could not attend the City Council meetings to speak on behalf of the Commission. Ms. Allen stated that is correct.

Ms. Allen read Page 11 of the Handbook to assist the Commission with the understanding of the role of the Commission as directed in the Handbook.

Commissioner Gill opened the meeting for public comment. There was none, therefore Commissioner Gill closed the meeting for public comment.

F. COMMISSION ITEMS

Commissioner Gill moved to Commission Items. Ms. Allen stated she has a list from past agenda items and can read those to the Commission. She stated the items are as follows: Bench Design and possible purchase of a prototype, Ansel Adams Exhibition, 2013 Sculpture Garden, Stair Case at the Strand, Post Office art decommissioning piece, the Fossil Art, Mobility Plan, Green Project, and the mural behind the curtain.

Commissioner Ramezani stated she wanted to discuss the addition of the Sunscreen Festival in September or October timeframe and discussion of the Master Plan. Ms. Allen stated the Master Plan was on the agenda and this was going to be provided as an item to the incoming Manager. Commissioner Gill asked about the Manager position and Ms. Allen stated the position is still pending completion of the background check.

Commissioner Gill asked about the legal approval of the Light Gate Project and Ms. Allen stated a meeting was held last week with the City Attorney, the Director, and herself, and they went over the contract and several different items and the contract was approved by the City Attorney and then forwarded to the Risk Manager to be sent out to the artist.

Commissioner Gill began prioritizing the list with discussion on timelines as follows:

1. Ansel Adams Exhibition
2. Sculpture Garden (request for invitations and extend 2 pieces)
3. Stair Case at the Strand
4. Bench Design and purchase of prototype
5. Fossil Art
6. Harold Roach Art Piece

Ms. Allen stated the Commission would make a recommendation to City Council to bring forward the Ansel Adams Exhibit and discussion of the budget of \$5,000 from the Public Art Trust Fund and then the Commission would provide a letter or the request can be provided in the minutes.

Commissioner Dunn began discussion by stating she spoke to Megumi with regard to the Exhibit and September dates, photography, etc., while the Exhibit is here for three weeks and the use of the funds, which led to discussion by the Commission with regard to the top four items on the list. Ms. Allen stated the Commission needs to make a motion as to the request to City Council.

MOTION: Commissioner Dunn made a motion to seek City Council's approval, of the Commissions undertaking of the lost Ansel Adams photographs from Los Angeles 1940 and bring the exhibit to the Creative Arts Center, and seconded by Commissioner Gill.

Ayes: Commissioner Samuels, Gill, De Maria, Dunn,
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: Ramezani

MOTION: Commissioner Dunn made a motion to seek City Council's approval of the Commissions undertaking of the Sculpture Garden Annual Exhibitions, and seconded by Commissioner Gill.

Motion Discussion:

The City Council's directive to initiate the Sculpture Garden Program has brought art into the community's daily life. The City's vision for the Sculpture Garden is to enhance the community setting by displaying a variety of inspiring artworks. The sculptures attract viewers and invite dialogue while offering an opportunity to gain understanding and awareness of the visual arts through open access and educational material.

The Cultural Arts Commission serves as an advisory committee and implements programs approved by Council. The Commission is committed to offering local students the opportunity to experience and expand their understanding of the visual arts by offering tours to the local schools. Increasingly, cities are discovering the power of art in creating opportunities for cultural tourism, economic development and image building. Cultural and artistic resources enhance the quality of life for individuals living in, working in, and visiting the City.

The Sculpture Garden Program is supported through the Public Art Trust Fund through an historic dedicated 1% development fee and does not impact the general fund. This will be the Sculpture Garden Program's third temporary one-year exhibition with five sculptures installed in the Civic Center complex.

Ayes: Commissioner Samuels, Gill, De Maria, Dunn, Ramezani
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

MOTION: Commissioner Samuels made a motion to seek City Council's approval of the Commissions undertaking of the Strand Stair Case, and seconded by Commissioner Gill.

Motion Discussion:

The Commission nominated Commissioner De Maria to forward a letter request to the City Council.

Ayes: Commissioner Samuels, Gill, De Maria, Dunn, Ramezani
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

MOTION: Commissioner De Maria made a motion to seek City Council's approval of the Commissions undertaking of the Strand Bench Design, and seconded by Commissioner Gill.

Motion Discussion:

Commissioner De Maria updated the Commission with regard to the Bench Design item at the last City Council meeting. He stated the City Council requested that the benches would require end caps to seal the benches.

Ayes: Commissioner Samuels, Gill, De Maria, Dunn, Ramezani
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

Commissioner Gill opened up future items for discussion with the Commission. Ms. Allen stated she discussed this with the Director of Parks and Recreation, Mark Leyman and he suggested the Commission items should be prioritized.

Commissioner De Maria stated he attended the Mobility Plan meeting and gave a general overview and the Commission discussed several items to include art in that plan. Commissioner Samuels stated that going forward, one of the Commissioners should attend the Mobility Plan meetings and report back to the Commission with a brief summary.

MOTION: Commissioner Gill made a motion to seek City Council's approval of the Commissions undertaking of the Harold Roach Art Piece at the Post Office at the September meeting, and seconded by Commissioner Dunn .

Motion Discussion:

Harold Roach Art Piece is in need of repair, restoration or decommissioning. The Commission would like to research the cost of each option, discussion the piece's importance as part of this community and identify the most cost effective solution.

Ayes: Commissioner Samuels, Gill, De Maria, Dunn, Ramezani

Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

MOTION: Commissioner Samuels made a motion to seek City Council's approval of the Commissions undertaking of the art behind the curtain at the September meeting, and seconded by Commissioner Dunn.

Motion Discussion:

On the wall of the staircase leading to the lower level of City Hall is a mural that was presented to the City of Manhattan Beach for the new City Hall remolded in the 1970's by the sister City of Culiacan, Sinaloa, Mexico. The work symbolized "The Union of Men for the Creation of the Greek God Prometheus." The work was created by the world-renowned Mexican artist Miguel Angel Velazquez. The mural is still there; however, many years ago the artwork was covered by a curtain due to a difference in interpretation.

The Commission would like to discuss the piece's importance as part of this community and identify a permanent resolution, by unveiling of the piece and inviting community discussion.

Ayes: Commissioner Samuels, Gill, De Maria, Dunn, Ramezani
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

Commissioner Ramezani requested to discuss art pieces that need review for their condition and Ms. Allen stated that the City does not have an art professional. She will have to do some research and speak to the City Attorney and bring that information to the Commission.

Commissioner Gill reported there is an Opening from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Creative Arts Center this Friday night and several Commissioners stated they would be attending.

Commissioner Gill asked Ms. Allen if she had any other items for the Commission and Ms. Allen stated she had an announcement. She stated the City and the County are planning a public meeting to introduce the artist that was selected for the new Manhattan Beach County Library Art Piece. That meeting will be held July 24th, which is a Wednesday at the Creative Arts Center from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. The Commission will have the opportunity to meet the artist, get to know the artist, and share your thoughts. Commissioner Gill asked if the artist has been publicly announced and Ms. Allen stated tomorrow July 10th she would be publicly announced. She hoped the Commission could attend and give the artist their feedback on what they would like to see in the library.

G. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.