

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

Minutes

February 8, 2011

Manhattan Beach City Hall

6:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Cultural Arts Commission (CAC) was called to order at 6:08 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Susan Sweeney, Chair
Nancy Humbarger, Vice Chair
Russ Samuels, Commissioner
Susannah Rosenthal, Commissioner
Peter De Maria, Commissioner
Juanita Purner, Cultural Arts Manager

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

NA

IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Gary McAulay, reported to the Commission that at the last City Council meeting a Parks & Recreation Division staff report indicated that funding for the Little League Wall project listed three sources; private donors, the Art Trust Fund or the City's General Fund.

He added that he was pleased to hear that the Commission wanted to raise the level of art for the Sculpture Garden. Mr. McAulay added that the Commission's exchange with City Council at the joint meeting was fascinating and he supports Commission's request for better communication.

V. GENERAL BUSINESS

01/0612.1 Architectural Designs and Bench Prototypes

Discussion points involved the new bench prototypes and what steps are needed before the Commission could make recommendations to City Council.

- Timing is a big factor
- Installation location options include the Veteran's Parkway and the Civic Plaza area.
- Reach a consensus as to which designs need changes
- Confirm designs and number chosen from each architect
- Could the prototypes be part of the Sculpture Garden
- Does the Commission want to subsidize the prototypes through sponsorship or auctions?

Sculpture Garden III - October 2011-2012

- Commission implements either an invitational or an RFP process to draw sculpture garden prospects
- Need to move quickly
- Can the stipend be raised from \$2500
- Commission needs to survey artists; contact designers
- Request referrals and set up time line
- Set date for final selections by July 2011
- Ad Hoc Committee option

Reports & Other Business

Joint Meeting with City Council on January 25, 2011

Commissioner Rosenthal commented that she was pleased and amazed with the exchange that took place at the January 25, 2011 Joint City Council meeting and she thanked the Commissioners for their collaboration.

Marine Memorial Wall

Commissioner Humbarger explained the purpose for the Marine Wall is to commemorate Henry Pierson, Courtney Stewart and Nick Adenhardt who were killed by a drunk driver on April 9, 2009. Another passenger, Jon Wilhite miraculously survived and recovered.

A letter from the President of Manhattan Beach Little League in September 2009 requested that a commemorative/memorial wall that honors the City's youth and adults who have contributed to the youth sports program in Manhattan Beach. This request was presented at the October 6, 2009 City Council meeting where Council referred the project to the Parks and Recreation Commission. If approved, the project's installation cost is \$30,000. If Public Works assists with the project, there would be a cost savings of \$10,000.

The Cultural Arts Commission agreed they would like to be informed of any programs that propose public art for the City and when Art Trust funds are earmarked for the project. Perhaps a form could be initiated that would provide a project description, the names of the artist or the designer, the amount of funds requested along with a rendering or an image of the art work. The Cultural Art Commission could then review the project and offer feedback.

Commissioner Russell and De Maria mentioned the upcoming City election and the Meet and Greets scheduled for the candidates who are running for office.

The Commission raised the issue of establishing a separate website for the Culture Arts Commission. This would give the Commission a tool to interact with the community and to respond to their questions. Staff would look into that possibility. Commissioner Rosenthal suggested the other Commissioners visit the Torrance Cultural Arts web page.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m. The next Cultural Arts Commission meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.