

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

Minutes

November 10, 2009

Manhattan Beach City Hall

City Managers Conference Room

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: Susannah Rosenthal, Chair
Susan Sweeney, Vice Chair
Peter De Maria, Commissioner
Candy Duncan, Commissioner
Nancy Humbarger, Commissioner
Megumi Sando, Rec. Supervisor – Cultural Arts
Juanita Purner, Cultural Arts Manager

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the October 13, 2009 meeting were approved as written.

IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

V. GENERAL BUSINESS

02/0612.16 Sculpture Garden

The discussion included the following:

- It's important to draw larger numbers of people to Sculpture Garden area; perhaps placing sculptures in the Metlox town plaza, along the green belt or along the Strand could expand the exposure. These locations are all high traffic areas.
- PR for the second Sculpture Garden exhibition in 2010 is needed. Low cost options include the City Website; announcement in the local papers and flyers to the schools. The Commission is interested in scheduling an exhibition opening conducive to drawing a large audience.
- A "Peoples Award" contest was suggested, inviting the community to cast a vote for a favorite sculpture. A second option is having staff and the Commission circulate through the civic plazas and downtown inviting people to cast their vote. A ballot box positioned in strategic spots throughout the city is another tool.
- Commission is researching new sculpture for the second Sculpture Garden exhibition and considering art works from San Diego Port Authority's program, Urban Trees.

REPORTS & OTHER BUSINESS

Work Plan Beautification Project

The Commission would like clarification for this new project:

- Budget intended for the beautification work item
- Specifics needed for artist-designed benches, bike racks, tables and chairs; original design in multiples or a variety of designs for the individual items.

Public Art Proposal

Former Cultural Arts Commissioner Sharon Greco presented an art piece for consideration as a temporary Public Art piece entitled *if Slater Bowled...* the work was recently featured in a Culver City exhibition called “Zeroheroes.”

- There are two components to the piece; one is a 10’ red bowling pin that is actually a surfboard and a black 4’ bowling ball.
- The installation site suggested for this art work is the area beneath the Manhattan Beach pier that forms an “alley;” the 10’ pin would be suspended over the water with the 4’ ball anchored in the sand at the opposite end.
- The art work refers to Kelly Slater, a local champion surfer.
- The Commission questioned the reason for the proposal: “This piece is conceptual, it projects a sense of fun and it can engage the public and encourage a dialogue.” The installation would be a short term exhibit.
- Staff will investigate the County’s permit requirements and City policies pertaining to the pier.

Artists in Residence (AIR)

The Commission discussed the AIR program with the following points:

- Commissioner DeMaria organized an architectural brainstorming session with other architects; they cautioned the Commission to take on small projects at first and to simplify.
- Create a timeline for the project and, if needed, a facilitator.
- Collaborations invite people to work off of each others ideas.
- Identifying a theme is important.
- The local Armory is an optional exhibition space.

Commissioners’ Comments:

- Interested in scheduling a meeting with City Council. There is a joint meeting with Council scheduled annually in June.
- Guerilla art option encourages public discourse
- May need a facilitator
- Ground rules needed
- The Commission’s intention for this program to share art with the Manhattan Beach community
- It is important to discover the kinds of art that appeal to this community.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. The next Cultural Arts Commission meeting is scheduled for December 8, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.