

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

Minutes

September 8, 2009

Manhattan Beach City Hall

Council Chambers

6:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Cultural Arts Commission (CAC) was called to order at 6:07 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

Absent: Juanita Purner, Cultural Arts Manager

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None

IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

V. GENERAL BUSINESS

02/0612.13 Sculpture Garden

Commissioner Duncan recapped the Sculpture Garden installation and dedication and the Commissioners came up with the following suggestions for improvement:

- Background of sites may require more attention; e.g., “Flock of Bird” looks lost in the background of tree branches.
- Trail sign would be helpful to direct people to sculptures.
- The grand opening ceremony needs to be planned in different time to attract more people -- maybe weekend.
- Metlox Plaza, the Strand and pier were suggested as future locations.
- Commissioner De Maria shared his idea to award “People’s Choice” to the most popular sculpture and Commissioner Rosenthal encouraged to involve school children in the event.

For the next year’s selection, the commissioners showed their interest in sculptures previously reviewed but not included in this year’s selection such as “fire lady,” “dragon” and “kaleidoscope.” Commissioner Humbarger suggested the dates of current exhibition be extended until mid-August. This would allow the Commission to choose from the sculptures in the San Diego Harbor exhibition which changes in August. Commissioner Duncan suggested inviting the local artists who are sculptors to participate. The Commission will create a comprehensive package of recommended selections for City Council.

Commissioner Sweeny questioned the possibility of purchasing one of the sculptures currently exhibited in the Civic Plaza, Veteran's parkway or Metlox. The Commission's recommendations to the City Council will include a funding source.

OTHER BUSINESS

In the next meeting, updates of the Entry Sign and Bench programs (re: vegetation, lights, plaque, etc.) will be included in agenda.

Artists in Residence

Commissioner Rosenthal shared her idea of Artist-in-Residence for Manhattan Beach. She thinks that some Manhattan Beach residents may be interested in providing living space (with stipends) to artists from other areas. The length of the residency has not be determined. The residents would enjoy the opportunity to become art patrons. The Commission may need to identify studio space for the artist. Suggestions included: the armory, MB shopping mall, and Skechers building. Commissioner Rosenthal further suggested that several local art professionals, such as college professors, from different art disciplines (e.g. painting, sculpture and writing) would form a selection committee. Each committee member would select five artists from a respective discipline culminating with one artist from each discipline. The selected artists would create an art piece and exhibit their work in a downtown space; this forum invites the community to share the results of the residency.

Overall, the Commissioners were exciting about Commissioner Rosenthal's proposal, while the practicality, criteria of the selection and the relationship with the local artists were issues to be considered. The Commissioners will begin their preliminary research for available space and possible artists for the residence program.

New Business

Commissioner De Maria shared his list of new items for consideration for future discussions. Items included in his proposal are: an Art Lecture Series, Student Art and Design Competitions, an awareness campaign of the arts and programs that enhance a connection between the business community and the arts.

Chair Rosenthal requested that each Commissioner create a collage that reflects their vision of the "future of Manhattan Beach."

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. The next Cultural Arts Commission meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.