

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

Minutes

September 14, 2010

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 6:10 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

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

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 10 and July 19 Minutes were approved as written.

IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

V. GENERAL BUSINESS

02/0612.25 Sculpture Garden

Staff recapped the September 7th City Council meeting where five of the eight sculptures recommended by the Cultural Arts Commission were approved. The sculptures Council selected are: *Sweet Music*, *Imagine if there really were Dragons*, *Osprey*, *Pele-Fire Goddess* and *On Board*. In addition, Council requested that staff return with images from the 2009 Sculpture Garden and an option for purchase as well as a financial report for the Public Art Trust Fund.

The Commission's discussion began with the group agreeing it was important to initiate conversations with individual Councilmembers to better understand the process behind the selections. The Commission understands that their recommendations to Council are advisory and can be overruled as Council deems appropriate. To move forward with the program, it is important that the Commission understand:

- What criteria does Council apply to the sculpture for this program?
Are there any style guidelines for art that Council has in mind? Would Council reconsider their decision to eliminate the three sculptures recommended by the Commission?
- Would Council like to preview selections earlier in the Commission's search?
- Does Council see a place for abstract art within the Sculpture Garden Program?

- Is Council interested in purchasing art as an investment?
- The Commission does not have a recommendation for purchase of a sculpture at this time.

The Commission turned the discussion to new options to be considered for the Sculpture Garden Program:

- Include Sculpture Garden information on the City's website
- Create a virtual Sculpture Garden on- line
- Is it appropriate to fund website link and virtual garden from the Public Art Trust?
- Create an RFP to reach a larger number of artists
- Make a recommendation to Council to increase the \$2,500 stipend for the program. Artists contacted for the 2010 installation commented that they could not fabricate a maquette for the stipend offered
- The formation of an Ad Hoc Committee is vital to the program; each Commissioner is asked to submit two names for the Committee at the Commission's October meeting
- Reemphasize that the sculptures must be relevant to the City of Manhattan Beach; its natural surroundings and it reflects the program's theme
- Another option is contacting art schools asking students and professors to submit proposals for the Sculpture Garden. Perhaps an artist residency program is an avenue to explore
- Would Council consider other forms of public art, such as murals or banners?

REPORTS & OTHER BUSINESS

Strand Alcove Bench Program

Commissioner de Maria reported that two of the five architects participating in the Strand Alcove Bench Program's request for new bench designs will forward their contracts this week. Commissioner De Maria has met with the group and toured the Strand to view the site for the benches.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. The next Cultural Arts Commission meeting is scheduled for October 12, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.