

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

April 8, 2014

Manhattan Beach City Council Chambers  
1400 Highland Avenue  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order in the City Manager’s Conference Room at 6:06, adjourned to the City Council Chambers at 6:07, reconvened in the City Council Chambers at 6:09 PM

**B. ROLL CALL**

Present: Chairperson James Gill, Commissioners Russ Samuels, Loli Ramezani and DeMaria

Absent: Commissioner Dunn

Others Present: Cultural Arts Manager, Martin Betz; Recreation Services Manager, Gina Allen; Recording Secretary, Linda Robb

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Samuels motion to approve the December 10, 2013 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Chairperson Gill. The vote was unanimous.

**D. CEREMONIAL**

Recreation Services Manager, Gina Allen introduced the new Cultural Arts Manager, Martin Betz. Cultural Arts Manager, Martin Betz briefly reviewed his background.

Commissioner Gill requested a certificate of appreciation for Ms. Allen’s help with the Commission.

**E. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Gary McAulay of the Manhattan Beach Historical Society greeted Mr. Betz.

**F. STAFF ITEMS**

“**Light Gate**” - Public Art Consultant Rebecca Ansert gave an update on the Centennial Art Piece, “Light Gate”. Overall the artwork has not changed drastically from the initial design. There will be a plaque indicating the dates (November 14<sup>th</sup>, January 27<sup>th</sup>) that the sun will set through the “Light Gate”. Ms. Ansert will clarify how the dates were determined. In-ground LED spotlights have been introduced into the design for night time viewing. Ms. Ansert is working closely with County of LA’s design team/construction crew to coordinate the foundation of “Light Gate” with the pouring of the library plaza. Ms. Ansert distributed drawings of the “Light Gate” specifications. She explained how the glass panels will be secured to the artwork frame. She reviewed options to soften the edge of the base of the “Light Gate”.

Commissioner Ramezani asked the height of the keyhole and if there were concerns of people trying to hang off of “Light Gate”. Ms. Ansert verified that the keyhole pass through is 7 feet 1.5 inches but that the height of the “Light Gate” is around 15 feet so it is not likely that people would be able to hang off of it. Ms. Ansert stated that the arc of

the “Light Gate” is designed to be interactive with people able to pass through it and is verifying that all ADA requirements are met. There are no mobile pieces in this artwork. Two pieces of safety glass will sandwich a piece of prismatic film. This glass is the same glass that is being used for the library. There will be a plaque but the location has not been determined. Once the artist receives the green light, there is a five month lead time. September would be the earliest possibility for installation. The rush right now is to get the foundation in. The new library is scheduled to open in January so production may be delayed in order to fit the library construction schedule.

Chairperson Gill asked if it could possibly be ready in time for the November 27<sup>th</sup> sunset and verified that the revised budget figures are still within the budget.

Chairperson Gill opened up the floor to public comment

Gary McAulay, resident, asked if the LED lighting solar paneled or wired. Ms. Ansert answered that the current plan is to hard wire, but that the LED lights will draw very little power.

Chairperson Gill closed the floor to public comment.

Commissioner DeMaria asked about the plan for unveiling as he is concerned that the opening of the library might overshadow the significance of the “Light Gate” unveiling. Ms. Ansert stated that the County Library will plan it’s own celebration for the library opening and their interior art piece. If desired, the “Light Gate” unveiling could piggyback on to the County event. If the City wants a separate event, it would need to be planned.

**Strand Bench Program** – Ms. Allen informed the Commission that staff will be reviewing the Public Works and Community Development approvals for the three proposed Strand Bench designs. Public Works is requiring that brackets to mount the benches be mandatory and the artists have agreed to incorporate the brackets into their designs. The only other concern that Public Works had was the heat for the bench with the stainless steel base. The artist continues to make assurances that the coating on the design will not gather excessive heat.

Commissioner Ramezani asked if the City Council had any concerns about the bench pricing. Ms. Allen answered that since there is no financial burden on the City, the City Council did not focus on the pricing. The contract is between the donor and the artist. Ms. Allen informed the Commission that there is a current request for the “Shell” bench.

Commissioner Ramezani inquired if there was defined wording for the bench plaques.

Ms. Allen replied that the City Council will discuss the plaque wording to determine whether the three choices that are currently offered will remain or go back to the one option.

**Sculpture Garden** – Ms. Allen reported that all agreements have been received from the artists and invitations to the opening reception on Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM, have been sent out. The opening reception will be held in the Civic Center Plaza and the City Council has been invited. There will be one sculpture on Veterans parkway, five at the Civic Center and one at 13<sup>th</sup> Street Square. Two of the five pieces at the Civic Center will be new. Four of the five pieces are being installed this Friday, April 11th. The last will be installed in June.

**Miguel Angel Velasquez Mural** item is still being discussed administratively. A date has not yet been set to present to the City Council.

**Public Art Master Plan** – Cultural Arts Manager Martin Betz is familiarizing himself with the project and will work with the Commission on this.

**Mariposa Sculpture** has been removed from Veterans Parkway and is now at the Public Works yard awaiting a decision on next steps for it.

**G. COMMISSION ITEMS:**

Commissioner DeMaria presented a template for the Sculpture Garden Open Competition Protocol Guidelines to be used for future sculpture garden selections opportunities. The first part is written in a format that can be sent to the artist. The second section is a timeline. It is nearly a two year endeavor from the start of the process to takedown. He stressed that it is important to mark and capture every installation because they are temporary.

Ms. Allen expressed appreciation for all of the effort put into creating this document. Staff will be reviewing and revising the document for inclusion in procedures. Staff will review the document with relation to current procedures and realistic timelines, and use this as a guideline. As this is not a policy or procedure, it is suggested protocol from the Commission. This document itself would not be sent to the artist but the information in the document could be included in the RFP.

Commissioner DeMaria stated that the Commission had discussed assigning the Sculpture Garden to a Commissioner to spearhead in the second year of their term. This document is designed to help that person. It would be helpful if this could be tied to a larger calendar to coincide with important City Council dates.

Ms. Allen stated that the Cultural Arts Manager will be a key player in making sure that these dates be set and made on the City Council Agenda.

Chairperson Gill stated that the Commission should make sure that it has the City Council's blessing and asked that the Commissioners and staff review the document and come back with thoughts and ideas at the next meeting.

Commissioner Samuels commented that on page two, it states that the artist may choose the pot and pole method of display but it does not mention their options if they do not choose to use the pot and poles. The alternative options should be addressed and defined.

Chairperson Gill opened the floor to public comment:

Gary McAulay, resident, stated that in Veterans Parkway, Veterans should not have an apostrophe.

Rebecca Ansert, non-resident, mentioned some Artist registry options. There are several registries to engage artists on a National Level. CAFÉ – callforentry.org and Publicartists.org are two that she has utilized.

Chairperson Gill closed the floor to public comment.

Chairperson Gill asked the Commission to come back next month with comments on the Sculpture Garden guidelines and thanked Commissioner DeMaria.

Commissioner DeMaria stated that this template could also easily be applied to the Strand Bench Program.

**H. GENERAL BUSINESS:**

13-0813.1 Ansel Adams:

No additional meetings have been held since the last Commission meeting.

Chairperson Gill confirmed that there is no money available the Public Art Trust Fund. Ms. Allen stated some additional funds have come in to the Public Art Trust Fund. The report that was handed out was not available when the staff report was prepared. A projection has been requested from Community Development but has not yet been received. Currently there is about \$10,000 available. Ms Allen advised the Commission to look at all the different projects and prioritize funds before allocating.

Chairperson Gill opened the floor to public comment. Seeing none, the floor was closed.

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Samuels made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Ramezani seconded the motion.

Ayes: Commissioners Gill, Ramezani, Samuels and DeMaria

Noes: None

Absent: Commissioner Dunn

Abstain: None

The motion passes.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

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Linda Robb  
Recording Secretary

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James Gill  
Commission Chairperson