

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

May 13, 2014

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

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Chairperson Gill, Commissioners DeMaria, Dunn and Samuels

Absent: Commissioner Ramezani

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

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Gill motioned to approve the minutes listed below. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Samuels. The motion passed.

January 14, 2014 approved as written

February 11, 2014 approved as written

March 11, 2014 approved with change - first word in the 2nd paragraph under Strand Staircase Project changed from “The” to “Some”.

April 8, 2014 approved as written

Ayes: Commissioners Gill, Dunn, DeMaria, Samuels

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Commissioner Ramezani

D. CEREMONIAL

Certificate of Recognition - Gina Allen

Commissioner Gill motioned to move the Chair to Commissioner Dunn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner DeMaria. The motion passed.

Before the vote, Commissioner Samuels asked if Commissioner Dunn thought there would be any issues with attendance. Commissioner Dunn assured the Commission that she made a commitment and will do her best.

Ayes: Commissioners Gill, Dunn, DeMaria, Samuels

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Commissioner Ramezani

Certificate of Recognition – James Gill

E. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Chairperson Dunn opened the floor to audience participation.

Allison Wright thanked Commissioner DeMaria for his service on the commission.

The floor was closed to audience participation.

F. STAFF ITEMS

Cultural Arts Manager, Martin Betz stated that approval had been received to move forward with the base of the Light Gate. The base was changed to eliminate a trip hazard. There was also a light study done by the artist to make sure that there was no reflection up 14th St.

Mr. Betz stated that the Sculpture garden opening reception went very well. Commissioner Gill added that Wayne Powell as well as one of the artists were in attendance. Commissioner Gill took some pictures that are posted on Facebook at [facebook.com/artinmanhattanbeach](https://www.facebook.com/artinmanhattanbeach).

- Mr. Betz suggested the following items to present to City Council for approval of discussion
- Rebranding of Creative Arts Center - The Creative Arts Center would benefit from a renaming/rebranding that is more in line with a more sophisticated approach to exhibitions.
 - Craig Kree-Stone art work piece – The artist needs to be informed that his piece is being changed and the City needs to figure out what to do to reinstall. The art piece needs to be removed for the library construction. The pieces that were in the wall have been removed and are being stored at the City Yard. There is no way to save the stained cement so the artist would need to come out and recreate it.

Commissioner Gill moved to request approval from the City Council to place both items on the Cultural Arts Commission Agenda for discussion. Commissioner Dunn seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ayes: Commissioners Gill, Dunn, DeMaria, Samuels

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Commissioner Ramezani

Harold Roach discussion – Mr. Betz recommends starting the process for refurbishing. Commissioner Samuels stated that the Commission was waiting for a master plan to address the process. Commissioner Gill stated that the reason it was held up was that the Commission couldn't compare the costs of refurbishing vs. decommissioning. Mr. Betz does not recommend decommissioning.

Commissioner Samuels stated that the Commission has been talking about this issue for a while and that he would like to know what it would take to decommission a piece. Commissioner Samuels does not think it's right to make decisions about artwork if there are no options. He stated that LA County has a decommissioning process and that he believes that the Commission can ask the City Council to adopt the process.

Chairperson Dunn would like the Commission to review the LA County decommissioning process before making any decisions. Mr. Betz will have a decommissioning process available for review at the next meeting.

Commissioner DeMaria stated that the Cultural Arts Commission should be keeping art, not thinking about taking away a piece of the city's history. He thinks the commission could move forward and talk about reconditioning and preserving as opposed to waiting on a decommissioning process. Commissioner DeMaria would like to discuss the issue tonight instead of waiting. Mr. Betz stated that this will be on the agenda for the next meeting and he will follow up on restoration options.

Chairperson Dunn agreed with Commissioner DeMaria, that there is less art in the City than there should be. There should be in place a decommissioning process for cases of pieces that are in bad shape, pose a safety hazard, and for when there is a good reason for a piece to go.

Mr. Betz distributed *Exploration of Existing Conditions and Issues* prepared by the City of Carlsbad. Mr. Betz would like to use this document as a base for a Cultural Arts Master Plan. It is an analysis of what public art pieces you have, what needs to be done and what the Master Plan intentions might be.

Commissioner Gill asked if Mr. Betz still wanted to hire an expert for the development of the master plan. Mr. Betz replied that it would be best to hire an expert as it is a full-time commitment. Ms. Allen informed the Commission that they need to request the Exploration as a topic of discussion:

Commissioner Gill motioned to place the Exploration of Existing Conditions and Issued on the City Council Agenda for approval of discussion. Commissioner Samuels seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ayes: Commissioners Gill, Dunn, DeMaria, Samuels

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Commissioner Ramezani

Commissioner Gill asked where we stand on the City Hall mural. Mr. Betz is trying to find out what the artist is currently doing and trying to track him down. Ms. Allen stated that it is still in the administrative process. Staff is working with the City Manager's office to see if we can present the mural without it going to the City Council. The mural was covered in 2003. Mr. Betz stated that the mural was covered due to public feedback in 2003. Mr. Betz stated that he would follow up with Parks and Recreation Director Mark Leyman and place it on the agenda for next meeting. Commissioner Samuels clarified that this is a temporary unveiling to allow the public to weigh in and give feedback.

G. COMMISSION ITEMS:

Commissioner DeMaria stated that he sent out a template for the Strand Bench Program guidelines. It is a working document based on experience. Important point for the Sculpture Garden, the project should be spearheaded by a second year Commissioner. Mr. Betz stated that this does not have to be officially approved. Staff would like to use it administratively to make sure everything is done correctly.

Chairperson Dunn requested that Mr. Betz present the Commission with a second draft of the Strand Bench Guidelines by next meeting.

Commissioner Gill asked if the word loan is appropriate on Page 2 on the Sculpture Garden document. Commissioner Gill asked if the mockette requirement was there previously. He was also concerned with the wording “the city may elect to purchase the piece and has right of first refusal”. Commissioner Samuels clarified that the artist must offer the piece to the City before selling it to another prospect.

H. GENERAL BUSINESS:

13-0813.1 Ansel Adams:

Chairperson Dunn stated that she had met with Mr. Betz regarding the Ansel Adams exhibition.

Mr. Betz stated that instead of funding the exhibition out of the Public Art Trust, to roll it into the exhibition program budget and use the exhibition to launch the rebranding and revitalizing of the Creative Arts Center. Recreation Services Manager, Gina Allen stated that the rebranding will be guided by the Department Marketing Plan that is currently being developed with a consultant.

Chairperson Dunn stated that she liked the idea of assessing what the City currently has in order to figure out how to best utilize our resources to elevate the arts in the community.

Mr. Betz explained that in order to get artists to be interested in exhibiting in Manhattan Beach, we have to have a higher profile center. Commissioner DeMaria asked if the Strategic Master Plan looked at the Creative Arts Center. Mr. Betz will bring the Strategic Master Plan for review once the City Council approves the rebranding topic.

The Commission agreed to pull the Ansel Adams exhibition off the agenda until the rebranding of the Creative Arts Center is agendized.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Dunn made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Gill seconded the motion.

Ayes: Commissioners Dunn, Gill, DeMaria and Samuels

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Commissioner Ramezani

The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 PM.