

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

August 12, 2014

Manhattan Beach City Manager's Conference Room
1400 Highland Avenue
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM.

B. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

C. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Dunn, Gill, Samuels, May and Ramezani*

Absent: None

*Commissioner Ramezani arrived at 6:03 PM

Others Present: Cultural Arts Manager, Martin Betz; Recording Secretary, Linda Robb

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Gill moved to approve the July 8, 2014 minutes with the changes below. Commissioner Ramezani seconded the motion. The motion passed.

P. 2 Staff Items, paragraph 3 – wording added to clarify Chairperson Dunn's desire to streamline processes for ongoing projects.

P. 2 Staff Items, paragraph 7 - corrected typo, changed "recovering" to "regarding"

P. 3 General Business-Decommissioning Policy – paragraph 9, "contractor agreement" corrected to "contract or agreement" and "with the artist" was added for clarification.

P. 4 General Business-Harold Roach Sculpture – after paragraph 9, additional comments made at the meeting by Commissioners Ramezani and May were added.

P. 5 General Business-Harold Roach Sculpture – paragraph 5, added inquiry from Commissioner May and reply from Cultural Arts Manager Betz.

Ayes: Commissioners Dunn, May, Samuels, Gill and Ramezani

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

E. CEREMONIAL

None

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Chairperson Dunn opened the floor to audience participation; seeing none, the floor was closed.

G. STAFF ITEMS

Cultural Arts Manager, Martin Betz made several announcements:

- Concerts in the Park series is going great.
- Shakespeare by the Sea was very successful with approximately 700 attendees on Saturday and 600 on Sunday. Manhattan Beach is the third largest venue in California for this event.
- Successful summer with kids in Art Camp.

Mr. Betz stated that a new Shell bench had arrived for the Strand Alcove Bench program. The surface quality was not great so it was sent back at the manufacturer's expense. Once repaired, it will be installed at 36th St. The cement color coat that is sprayed on was not perfect. Commissioner Samuels stated that it was not clear when the bench was chosen that the cement coating would be sprayed on. He stated that the Commission was told that the color would be mixed in to the bench itself. Commissioner Samuels is concerned that what was delivered is not what was promised. Commissioner Dunn agreed with Commissioner Samuels. Chairperson Dunn stated that if the bench that was delivered was produced using a colored concrete seal over an uncolored concrete base, that is not what was approved by City Council. She recommended that in the future, if there is uncertainty on the part of staff, perhaps staff should reach out to the current Commission chair for advice. Commissioner May stated that she has some knowledge of cement and that cement experts might need to be consulted. Mr. Betz stated that he felt comfortable with the knowledge base that was present at the meeting. Mr. Betz will report back to the Commission with the process that was presented, to confirm whether or not it is what was promised.

Commissioner May asked what happens if all the strand spots fill up. Mr. Betz stated that the program would either be over or new alcoves would need to be added.

Commissioner Gill inquired about the Miguel Angel Velasquez Mural. Mr. Betz stated he had been told that the City Manager has to make a decision on this and he has not yet been able to review the issue. Commissioner May believes that City Council needs to approve whether or not the mural is uncovered. Mr. Betz will review the past minutes to determine whether it is a City Manager or City Council decision at this point. Mr. Betz reported that he did some research on the mural but was unable to find much information on the artist. The mural was donated by Manhattan Beach's sister city and the artist does not appear to be well known in the larger art community. Commissioner Ramezani feels it would be useful to learn more about the mural to enable the Commission to make a recommendation to the City Council. Mr. Betz stated that he had worked hard to find some information about the artist. He consulted with experts from Wellesley College and was told that the artist was not well known and that it was here because it was a gift from our Sister City. Mr. Betz stated that while the artist is not well known, it does not detract

from the fact that it is a competent piece of artwork and the fact that the artist is not famous should not be considered when deciding what to do with the piece. Commissioner May thought that maybe Steve Napolitano would be a good resource as he was on the City Council when the piece was covered. Commissioner Samuels wants energy focused on unveiling which will give time to study the history later. He stated that it needs to be clarified whether the City Manager can make the decision to uncover or if he will make a recommendation for City Council to approve the uncovering. Commissioner Ramezani stated that said summary would be a good record moving forward for future Commissions. Commissioner Dunn stated that, in general, one would need the history to make a good argument to a decision maker and requested a summary of the known history of the piece. Mr. Betz will assemble a summary report of the City history of the mural for the next meeting and suggested that when and if the mural is uncovered, representatives from SPARC should be invited to view it.

H. COMMISSION ITEMS:

Commissioner Ramezani mentioned that Arts Manhattan has dissolved and is now known as Art Avenue. Their first exhibition at The Creative Arts Center will have their opening reception on September 4th from 6:00-8:00 PM. The artist's name is Natalie Arnoldi.

Chairperson Dunn reported that there is an interesting exhibit on Graffiti at ESMoA.

Commissioner Samuels inquired if the Commission had replaced Peter DeMaria on the LA County Arts Commission Manhattan Beach Library Civic Art Project Committee when he termed out. Mr. Betz stated that he had received an email stating that a new representative was needed and it needed to be the Artist Representative which would be Commissioner May. Commissioner Samuels stated that at the time he and Peter DeMaria were chosen, it just needed to be two members of the Commission. The LA County Arts Commission is meeting to choose a new artist for the Library public art piece. The City has invested \$150,000 from the public art trust fund. The City has 4 members on the LA County Arts Commission, two City Councilmembers and two Cultural Arts Commissioners (non-voting members). Nancy Dunn asked if any Commissioners were interested in being on the Commission. Jackie May and Nancy Dunn both expressed interest. Commissioner Ramezani has business obligations that prevent her from attending the meetings. Commissioner Gill volunteered to be the alternate in the case that a representative could not attend. The Commission decided that Commissioner May would attend the August 13th meeting as she had been invited by Mr. Betz and that the protocol for choosing a new representative will be explored so that an official representative can be chosen next month. Chairperson Dunn requested that the update from the meeting be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Commissioner Dunn announced that the El Segundo Art Walk would be held on Main Street 7-10 PM, August 15.

The Commission as a whole requested clarification on the definitions of the Agenda items. The Commission also requested more detail within each section of the agenda as the public should know what is being discussed even if it is not considered to be a

General Business item. Commissioner Dunn stated that there was a higher level of detail on the agendas in the past. Commissioner May stated that if the Commission is going to be talking about the art in the Library, there might be members of the public that might want to attend.

Commissioner May inquired about art in the schools as a function of the Commission and Mr. Betz stated that there is a goal to work with the schools but they currently have art programs in place already. He stated that the goal is to get into the schools eventually but it is more important now to make sure that the existing cultural arts programs are running well first.

Commissioner Gill stated that one of the goals of the Commission is to implement a master plan. Mr. Betz stated that the proposal to hire a consultant to develop the master plan is on hold.

Commissioner May stated that she would like to see more support of local artists.

Commissioner Ramezani stated that the Commissioners should be advised ahead of time of exhibitions. She asked if it would be possible for the commissioners to see the exhibition calendar and give input before it is published to the general public in case the Commissioners have some relevant input. Commissioner May agreed and stated that more could be done with the Metlox Movies, Arts Festivals and FOLA, for example.

Commissioner Dunn would like clarification on several things regarding protocol and understanding of what the Commission is actually supposed to do. Commissioner May stated that there is a Commissioner handbook that explains protocol. She stated that the definition of the Commission that is on the website states some things that do not seem to be true. Mr. Betz suggested an in service with the City Clerk's office to review protocol for meetings. Mr. Betz stated that there is a gray area between governance and programming and that needs to be clarified.

I. GENERAL BUSINESS:

14/0708.1 – Decommissioning Policy for Public Sculpture –

Mr. Betz stated that the Decommissioning Policy document is still being reviewed by the City Attorney.

13/1112.1 – Harold Roach Sculpture

Mr. Betz presented an additional proposal for the repair of the Harold Roach Sculpture in the amount of \$3,485. The company is very experienced with dealing with metal near the sea. They are currently working on the Hermosa Beach Pier. Commissioner Gill asked if the proposal included repairing the bolt and Mr. Betz confirmed that it did. Commissioner Ramezani inquired if the proposal was for the work to be done on site without removing the sculpture. Mr. Betz confirmed that it is.

Commissioner Gill moved to recommend to the City Council to approve the new proposal for \$3485 to restore and repair the Harold Roach piece. The motion was seconded by

Commissioner May. Chairperson Dunn opened the floor to public comment. Seeing none, the floor was closed.

Commissioner Samuels stated that the Commission might be jumping the gun to repair the sculpture when this may be a candidate for deaccession. He stated that he feels that without a deaccession policy, the commission has no choice but to fix it and would like to wait until the City Attorney has reviewed the deaccession policy before moving forward.

Commissioner Ramezani stated that she is in favor of the motion to repair. She stated that art is subjective. There was a reason that the piece was installed and it is a part of the City's history.

Commissioner May is in favor of the motion to repair and would like to move forward. She stated that she wasn't aware that the question of whether or not the piece would be kept was still on the table.

Commissioner Samuels questioned if this proposal includes maintenance; Mr. Betz stated that the piece would need to be looked at in a couple of years. The proposal does not include maintenance but that a general maintenance program would need to be established when the Light Gate is installed.

Ayes: Gill, Ramezani, May, Dunn

Nays: Samuels

Absent: none

Abstain: none

The motion passed.

14/0812.1 – Sculpture Garden Competition 2015

Mr. Betz recommended that the Commission ask City Council if the Commission can talk about this in September. Chairperson Dunn would like some clarification on why the Commission needs to ask for permission to discuss ongoing programs. Commissioner Samuels stated that the question could be specifically for these two programs and that the commission could ask for permission to discuss these items as needed on an ongoing basis. Commissioner Ramezani stated that she thought permission had already been requested and granted. Commissioner Samuels stated that it may be because every new garden is considered a new project. Mr. Betz stated that it needs to go to City Council because the money needs to be allocated each year. Commissioner Dunn stated that it would be nice to have an annual calendar.

Commissioner Gill moved to ask City Council to begin talking about Sculpture Garden 2015. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Samuels. The motion passed.

Ayes: Commissioners Dunn, Gill, Ramezani, May and Samuels

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None.

Mr. Betz was asked to resend Peter DeMaria's Sculpture Garden and Strand Bench program templates to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Gill inquired about the accounting report for the Public Art Trust Fund. Mr. Betz stated that it had only changed slightly from last time for the fountain maintenance.

Mr. Betz updated the Commission on the Sculpture Garden. *Believe* and *Not a Step* have been removed and *Chairman of the Board* has been installed. Mr. Betz is working on identification tags for the pieces.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Dunn moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Samuels seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM.

Ayes: Commissioners Dunn, Gill, Ramezani, May and Samuels

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None.