

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

September 9th, 2014
Manhattan Beach City Council Chambers
1400 Highland Avenue
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 PM.

B. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

C. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: none

*Chairperson Dunn arrived at 6:26 with previous notification to the Commission.

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

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Gill moved to approve the August 12, 2014 minutes with changes requested by Commissioner Samuels. Commissioner Ramezani seconded the motion.

Page 5 – corrected Commissioner Samuels statement to reflect the position that all options are not available without a deaccession process in place.

Ayes: Commissioners Ramezani, May, Samuels and Gill

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Dunn

The motion passed.

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 reported that there is a City Council meeting on September 30th to discuss the work plan and how the City Council will direct items and communicate with Commissions. There will also be a video available for commissioner

Brown Act training. Commissioner Ramezani asked if there could be a process for the new City Manager and Assistant City Manager to meet the commissioners. Commissioner Gill stated that it would be nice if the City Manager attended a meeting. Commissioner May stated that Mayor Powell will be holding a Town Hall meeting that may serve that purpose.

Mr. Betz announced that Concerts in the Park have concluded and there were some lessons learned that will be addressed for the next season. He stated that the selection of music is of primary importance and the sound and staging was new and functioned extremely well. Commissioner Ramezani stated that she went to a concert and was impressed by staff presence.

Mr. Betz thanked the Commissioners for attending the art show opening for the Natalie Arnoldi. The opening was a great success with about 200 attendees.

Mr. Betz stated that he would be providing the Commission with an Exhibition calendar through 2016 for the Arts Center as soon as it is completed. Commissioner Ramezani asked if the commissioners would have any input on the exhibition calendar. Mr. Betz stated that the commission has a governance function and this is a programming function but if there were any problems with the schedule, to please let him know. Commissioner May expressed that she was looking forward to more local artist exhibitions. Commissioner Ramezani observed that she was surprised that she didn't recognize many people at the opening and hoped there would be more local participation. Commissioner Gill stated that Homeira Goldstein has a wide circle and brings in many people from all around Los Angeles. Commissioner May stated that Ms. Goldstein has many connections in the art world and brings in high caliber shows that draw a large crowd. Commissioner Gill stated that in the past Ms. Goldstein's shows have been subsidized by the Public Art Trust Fund. Mr. Betz stated that this show was not funded by the Public Art Trust Fund and the model has changed so that the Center no longer pays for exhibitions.

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

Mr. Betz informed the Commission that the Harold Roach sculpture repair staff report would be reviewed by the City Council on October 7th.

Commissioner Gill inquired about the Shell bench. Mr. Betz stated that the bench had been manufactured in the way it was presented. The manufacturer fixed them and has delivered the finished product to be installed.

Commissioner Gill inquired about the vacant Library Art Commission representative position and how the representative would be chosen. Mr. Betz stated that the vacant spot would be filled by the artist representative, Jacquelyne May, who will serve as the representative on the Library Art Commission along with Commissioner Samuels.

Commissioner Ramezani inquired about the role of the Cultural Arts Commission in the Library Art process. She asked if the Commission is entitled to learn any more of the details of why a new artist is being chosen and the timeframe for the project being that a significant amount of money to fund the piece is coming from the Public Art Trust Fund. Commissioner Gill inquired about the Miguel Angel Velasquez mural. Mr. Betz reported that he was unable to find any history on the artist. He consulted with Latin arts experts who were also unable to

find any information. Commissioner May stated that she spoke with Steve Napolitano, who was on the City Council at the time, and he said that it was covered when City Hall was renovated and it didn't go with the new design so it was covered. Commissioner Gill asked how we can move forward. Mr. Betz said that it is a City Council decision to make. Nancy Dunn stated that she would also speak with Steve Napolitano. Commissioner Samuels stated that it should be up to the community to decide whether or not the mural stays or goes. The Commission is simply asking for a temporary unveiling to get feedback from the public. Commissioner Gill stated that the Commission previously made a request to City Council to unveil but nothing has actually happened. Commissioner Ramezani stated that many points had been clarified so it is now time to City Council for a decision. Commissioner May suggested that a pamphlet be made available to the public once it is unveiled to help the public make their decision. Commissioner Dunn would like to know who was on the Cultural Arts Commission in 2003 to try to gain some information from those members. Commissioner Dunn asked Mr. Betz to advise the Commission of who was on the Commission in 2003 when the piece was covered. Commissioner Dunn asked Mr. Betz to follow up with the City Manager to find out what the process would be to move forward and review the proposal that was sent to City Council approximately a year ago.

Commissioner Dunn inquired about the review of Peter DeMaria's proposals for the Strand Bench Program and Sculpture Garden Competition. Mr. Betz stated that the whole Strand Bench Program has already been set and is running. Commissioner Gill stated that the document was meant to be used to add more benches to the program. Commissioner Dunn stated that the document was meant to set a process in place and prevent the Commission from having to reinvent the wheel every time.

H. COMMISSION ITEMS:

Commissioner Samuels gave an update on the LA County Art Commission meeting. He stated that the original artist, Lita Albuquerque, and LA County mutually decided that she wasn't a good fit for the library project. New invitations were sent to 5 additional artists selected by LA County which were presented to the Art Commission from which 3 were selected. At the next meeting, the artists will present and the Commission may choose one. They are moving very quickly. The Commission still thinks the art will be ready by the time the Library opens in Spring 2015. Commissioner Ramezani asked if there will be community outreach once the artist is selected. Commissioner Samuels stated that the 3 artists selected have significant experience dealing with the public.

Commissioner Samuels stated that although Lita Albuquerque was paid for the work she did before she left, money was replenished into the art fund so there is actually more money available now than the original amount.

I. GENERAL BUSINESS:

14/0812.1 – Sculpture Garden Competition 2015 – Mr. Betz recommended the Commission to request funds to the City Council. Commissioner Dunn stated that in the past, Gina had a list of artists who were sent the RFP. Mr. Betz stated that he would like to change the process a bit and request electronic submissions, narrow down and request models and plans from a smaller group, then choose a smaller amount to present to City

Council. Mr. Betz stated that he would also like to request that one of the existing pot and poles be moved to the Art Center for a total of seven pot and poles.

Commissioner May inquired how the artists are chosen for the RFP distribution. Mr. Betz answered that it would be announced to Americans for the Arts public call and to LA Culturenet in its public call as well as local arts organizations and anyone on the current list, UCLQ Public Arts Group, SPARK, other local cities that have a similar type of program. Commissioner asked if there would be an ad in the paper. She stated that most of the local artists would only see the opportunity if it was advertised in the paper. Chairperson Dunn stated that from a marketing perspective it would be better to get the press involved and get an article written for free instead of spending money on an ad. Commissioner May clarified that she meant that the publication would publish an announcement for free.

Commissioner Ramezani asked how the decision is made as to the location for the sculptures. Commissioner Samuels stated that Public Works decided where the pots would be located. Commissioner Gill stated that staff makes the decision which pieces would go in the various locations. Mr. Betz stated that the Commission would want to think about the locations when considering the pieces to recommend.

Commissioner Samuels moved to request to move one of the pot and poles to the Arts Center and to approve \$21,000 for seven art pieces for the next sculpture art garden to follow the included schedule. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gill. The motion passed.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Commissioner Samuels inquired how many benches are approved. Mr. Betz will verify how many bench designs have been approved by the City Council.

Commissioner May stated that there is a blue/green bench is looking worn but wasn't sure of the exact location. She was asked to provide the location so that Mr. Betz can look at it and determine if it was the bench that was removed for repair.

Commissioner Ramezani asked about the resident who had inquired about a new bench design. Mr. Betz stated that he is working with him separately.

Commissioner Ramezani inquired about the plaques next to the art pieces and if the plaques will indicate that the piece is part of the Sculpture Garden. Mr. Betz stated that they've been ordered but have not yet been received and that the artist's name and the name of the piece would be included. Commissioner Dunn suggested a QR code so that people will have an interactive experience. Commissioner Dunn stated that philosophically, it's the job of the Commission to do what it can do to educate the community and provide more information to invoke more thought and discussion. She

stated that if doing that is as simple as putting up a plaque to give more information, then that's what should be done.

Mr. Betz distributed the budget report showing no change since July. Commissioner Dunn asked for the budget report to be included on the agenda as a standing staff item.

Commissioner May inquired about the Public Art Master Plan. Mr. Betz stated that there is no movement on that currently. Commissioner Gill inquired about hiring a consultant. Mr. Betz stated that the Public Art Master Plan needs to be considered as part of a larger Parks and Recreation master plan that needs to be developed.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Samuels moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Gill seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None.