

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

January 13, 2015

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

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

B. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

C. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Dunn, Ramezani, Gill, Samuels and May
Absent: none

Others present: Cultural Arts Manager, Martin Betz and Recording Secretary, Linda Robb

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of minutes delayed until February meeting due to extensive edits.

E. CEREMONIAL

None

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Chairperson Dunn opened the floor to audience participation.

Margaret Alvarez – would like to see the Harold Roach sculpture put back in the original location, she feels like it was stuck in the corner hidden after the Leadership Manhattan Beach updated the garden. She hope that the Commission will consider moving it to a more prominent place.

The floor was closed for audience participation.

G. STAFF ITEMS

- Update on Social Media – Martin Betz gave the update as Recreation Services Manager, Gina Allen was unable to be present. There is a contest to take photos of the pier and upload to Snap n Share and invited the Commissioners to participate by snapping a photo and sharing. The Parks and Recreation Department is moving forward with social media initiatives and is pushing to do the marketing and event planning through social media. Commissioner Dunn stated that Commissioner Gill has been pushing for social media but there have been limitations in the past. Commissioner Dunn requested that Gina Allen come to the next meeting to explain the social media. Commissioner Dunn stated that marketing wise, social media might be a way to separate Cultural Arts identity from recreation as many in the public do not connect the two. Commissioner Gill stated that #MBArts had been established. Commissioner Ramezani asked if evites to events could be sent through Facebook in the future. Mr. Betz confirmed that would be possible.
- Update on programs and events –Mr. Betz stated that there were 26 entries for the *I ♥ MB* art competition. The entries were judged by Commissioner Jacquelyne May, along with two other artists (John Scott and Don Spencer). All pieces will be hung at City Hall. The reception will be held on January 29th at City Hall.

- The new Art Center exhibition opens Thursday, January 22nd. The reception will be held from 6:00-8:00 pm. The exhibition features three Manhattan Beach artists.
- The Strand Alcove Bench program was discussed by City Council. City Council has directed staff to put a hold on the Shell bench and put together a report on the bench program to be presented to Council in April. Commissioner Samuels asked if they are referring to a master plan. Commissioner Ramezani asked if defining the term functionality would be a part of the report. Commissioner Samuels asked if City Council is questioning the aesthetics or functionality of the bench? Mr. Betz stated it may be aesthetics. Commissioner Samuels stated that he does not think it is right to question the aesthetics of it as it was a carefully considered choice to include the bench in the program and people will always have their own opinions about art. However, he has a problem with the functionality. He reiterated that is not comfortable to sit on and it would be uncomfortable to sit with strangers. Commissioner May stated that she saw the original proposal and the color was much different, it was a light green. Commissioner Gill stated that the commission had received a color sample and the color was lighter than what was received. Commissioner Ramezani asked if there are any measures in place to prevent this from happening again and does the commission need to brainstorm to see how to avoid this in situation in the future. Commissioner May inquired if there is a final approval process before placing the benches once they have arrived. Commissioner Dunn asked Mr. Betz to use the Commission to help with ideas. Commissioner Dunn asked Mr. Betz to make a note that a life size model rather than a mockette would be great; the color that was approved was not the color that was delivered, and before the first bench of a particular design is installed, it should go through approval process and loop back to original proposal and designs that were originally approved. Having the best recorded and documented history would be appropriate as there is always movement, whether it be new commissioners or new staff. Commissioner Ramezani stated that as a resident considering a purchase, as long as there is a seating area, she might be satisfied as the purchaser. She stated that the guidelines for the bench requirements need to be very clear and defined.
- Update on Harold Roach Sculpture –The work should take 2 days, will be on site and should start the week of January 19th. Mr. Betz asked public works about fixing the pedestal and possibly moving the sculpture. Commissioner Samuels requested that the subject moving the sculpture be put on the agenda to be discussed by the commission. Commissioner Ramezani spoke of the movement of the sculpture not being an arbitrary decision, that it was carefully considered by both Leadership Manhattan Beach and the Commission. Commissioner May mentioned that Harold Roach’s daughter likes the position of the piece where it is right now.
- Update on Sculpture Garden – The deadline for submission was January 9th and there were 26 submissions that will be reviewed at the next meeting. Commissioner Dunn asked if the pieces could be previously vetted before the meeting. Mr. Betz stated it is good for the judging body to see all the pieces submitted and that the Commission will review all of them once and eliminate the ones that are clearly not suitable first and then go from there. Commissioner Gill asked Mr. Betz to send out the power point presentation to the commissioners in advance. Commissioner Dunn asked that the artist websites be included and requested that the computers on the dais be enabled for internet at the next meeting.

- Update on *Light Gate* Installation – The installation of the frame will be January 14th 10:00-2:00. The glass is scheduled to be installed 2/4/15. The artist will come out for the February installation and will possibly have a reception on 2/5/15 hosted by the Cultural Arts Commission. Presentation will be in Council Chambers with reception in lobby. Mr. Betz stated that there will be a film crew out to document the installation. Commissioner Dunn asked that the members of the APPC be notified of the installation and reception. Mr. Betz stated that the public will be invited to the official reception.
- Update on Art Lab proposal – Mr. Betz stated that the staff report for the Art Lab will be presented to City Council in March.

H. COMMISSION ITEMS:

- Commissioner May stated that EGO Gallery in Redondo Beach signed a 6 month lease and will stay open for at least six months longer.
- Commissioner Gill inquired if the artist for the Library art had been finalized. Commissioner May stated that the Commissioners would be able to see the art before the official public announcement.
- Commissioner Ramezani reported that she had been invited to the Urban Land Institute interviews to give her input. The findings will be presented 9:00 a.m. on Friday, January 16th. Commissioner May stated that she participated as a downtown resident. She said that the ULI representative told her that “Manhattan Beach does not have any art.”
- Commissioner Ramezani announced a FOLA fundraiser on the Strand. FOLA raises funds to promote local artists and art education in schools.

I. GENERAL BUSINESS:

14/0708.1 Decommissioning policy – Mr. Betz presented a draft of the City of Manhattan Beach Decommissioning policy, which is a conglomeration of many decommissioning policies. This draft has been reviewed and approved by the City Attorney. Mr. Betz’ opinion is that the policy is very good.

Commissioner Samuels stated that in item III, there is no definition of disposal and it should be clarified. Commissioner Gill agreed. He stated that perhaps a definition of disposal could be added or the phrase “other means of disposal” could be added to clarify.

Commissioner Samuels would like to remove the word “grossly” from section IV. Commissioner Ramezani stated that if “grossly” was left in, it would need to be defined.

Commissioner Samuels was not sure of the meaning of disposition in this context in section B. Mr. Betz stated it is referring to the condition of the piece and will make that more clear.

Commissioner Ramezani asked that in the last bullet under section E, the timeframe for notification be defined and the typo in section D, “Work of Act” be corrected to read “Work of Art.” Commissioner Samuels asked that the number of days be typed

Commissioner Gill stated that further to Commissioner Samuels comments about disposal, the definitions seem to limit the options to sale/exchange or other transaction. It does not specifically mention disposal.

Commissioner Dunn stated that she thought that the subject is fairly complete but it could be clarified by adding “as a last resort, disposal” as an option. She asked that the process and procedures also be added. Mr. Betz suggested the procedures as an attachment.

Commissioner May inquired if the items in section #D are in order. Mr. Betz stated that they are not in a particular order but the order is set by VARA. Commissioner Samuels requested that the steps be listed in order.

Commissioner May stated that on the last page, #2 –she would like the word “may” to read “will.” “City Council will give the artist the right of first refusal...” She also asked if the time frames for reply from the artist could be extended in the case of extenuating circumstances. Mr. Betz stated that would be up to the Commission.

Mr. Betz will make the requested amendments and redistribute.

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

J. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Gill moved to adjourn. Commissioner Ramezani seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none