

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

February 10, 2015

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

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 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

Commissioner Gill moved to approve the December 9, 2014 minutes with the changes below.

Page 2, paragraph 5 – Commissioner May had remembered the comments differently but after review of the meeting audio, revoked her request for amendment.

Page 2, paragraph 7 – Wording was added to clarify Commissioner Ramezani’s comments regarding the availability of art classes for residents.

Page 3, paragraph 4 – changes were made to convey Commissioner Samuels’ understanding of the approved amount for the Strand Stair project and clarify that no additional funds would be allocated without the Commission’s knowledge.

Page 3, paragraph 5 – the phrase “has since been coated” was changed to “had been coated” to clarify to clarify timeline. Wording was added under Commissioner Dunn’s comments to give background information on why the Strand Bench Program was established.

P. 4, paragraph 3 – the phrase “member of the audience and resident was added to identify Gary McAulay.

Commissioner Ramezani seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Commissioner Gill moved to approve the January 13, 2015 minutes with the changes below.

Page 2, paragraph 1 – Commissioner May provided the artist name Don Spencer to replace the erroneous Jim.

Page 2, paragraph 3 – various typos were corrected within the paragraph. The phrase “whether or not anyone likes it” was removed at Commissioner Ramezani’s request as it is not necessary and does not properly convey her point.

Page 3, paragraph 6 – quotation marks were placed on the phrase “Manhattan Beach does not have any art” at Commissioner May’s request as this was a direct quote from a ULI representative.

Commissioner Dunn seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

E. CEREMONIAL

None

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Chairperson Dunn opened the floor to audience participation.

The floor was closed for audience participation.

G. STAFF ITEMS

- Update on Social Media – Recreation Services Manager Gina Allen gave an update on the Social media campaigns launched in January. The City has a Facebook page but Parks and Recreation has been approved for their own Facebook page. The Instagram handle is @MBParksandRec and the Twitter handle is the same. Facebook will be MBParksandRec. The social media soft launch was in December and the department is hoping to expand the following by 300%. Our social media accounts feature Motivational Monday, Wellness Wednesday and Fun Fact Fridays along with behind the scene stories on staff members. There will also be contests featured. Ms. Allen invited the Commissioners to follow or like the Parks and Rec pages and informed the Commission that currently, Parks and Rec is the only department that is allowed to interact on Social Media. Commissioner Gill asked that some of the Fun Facts Fridays be related to Manhattan Beach. He also mentioned that he has been hard at work on the Art in Manhattan Beach Facebook page and that if there is anything the City would like to share on his page, it should be sent to him. Commissioner Dunn asked if there could be separate Cultural Arts social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter because people may not associate Cultural Arts with Parks and Recreation. Ms. Allen stated that before division specific social media accounts could be created, we have to make sure that we have the staff support to manage the accounts, which require a lot of attention.

Commissioner Ramezani suggested historical facts about Manhattan Beach. She stated that once we are engaged on social media, we open the door to comments and everything stays out there which requires careful monitoring. Commissioner Ramezani also mentioned it would be great to focus on front line staff profiles.

Commissioner Gill stated that the Facebook paid-targeted advertising could take the presence to the next level. Ms. Allen stated that funds are being requested in the budget for the next fiscal year from City Council. Commissioner Samuels suggested taking the advertising funds to hire a company to come in and train the team to use social media effectively. Commissioner Ramezani stated that notifications for things like the Sculpture Garden RFP can be publicized through social media in the future.

Cultural Arts Manager, Mr. Betz stated that the Light Gate frame is installed. The glass will be installed on February 24th, and the ribbon cutting, reception and artist talk will be on February 25th, from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Mr. Betz announced that the opening reception for the I Heart MB art competition was held at City Hall on January 29th. He stated that people seem to like the idea of having art hanging in City Hall. Commissioner Dunn stated that perhaps there would be room in the new library for a rotating art exhibit. Commissioner May stated that Mayor Powell is planning on requesting that the I Heart MB art contest become an annual event. Commissioner Gill suggested that the Commission could ask that it be put on the agenda to discuss so that the request is coming from both sides. Commissioner May stated that there is interest from local artist groups to show their work in the City.

Mr. Betz reported that the Mira Costa AP Art students came to the Art Center and met with the artists showing at the Center. He stated that the students were very engaged.

Mr. Betz reported that the Harold Roach sculpture is being repaired and has been removed from the pedestal for the repair and reconditioning. The decision will be made administratively with Public works input on where to reposition the sculpture within the same location.

H. COMMISSION ITEMS:

Commissioner Gill asked Mr. Betz to forward any art related photos to him to post to his Facebook page.

Commissioner Ramezani asked that at the receptions, the artist be introduced or wear a nametag which would facilitate interaction. Mr. Betz stated that the artists generally do not like to be introduced at the event but there could be a personal introduction. He stated that he would like to move toward patron preview type walk-throughs before the openings. Commissioner Dunn thought that it might be nice to offer a VIP type membership for that concept. Commissioner Gill stated that he thought the City would shy away from VIP treatment and make it equal for everybody. Mr. Betz stated that the previews have been included in the budget request for the next fiscal year.

Commissioner Gill reported that he had attended the FOLA fundraiser on the Strand.

I. GENERAL BUSINESS:

15/0212.1 Strand Bench Program: Mr. Betz introduced Kraig Kalinich (Resident Shell St.) and Marlo Bartels who presented a bench design for 44th Street.

Mr. Kalinich stated that he has been working on getting a bench at 44th St. for about six months. Mr. Kalinich expressed that the bench site at 44th St. is a gathering place for the neighbors to come nightly to watch the sunsets year-round. He stated that he has been working with artist, Marlo Bartels who has done many public and private commissions. Mr. Kalinich shared a power point presentation on the proposed bench. Mr. Kalinich stated the bench is being funded by the community and he is coordinating the effort. The group has started a community garden and would love to add a bench.

The Commissioners questioned the artist on the bench colors and material used for construction. Mr. Kalinich stated that the more input the better and that he and the group of residents want the bench to fit in on the Strand. Commissioner Dunn stated that she has concerns about the color palette being approved and asked if Mr. Kalinich's group and Mr. Bartels would be open to changing the color palette if requested. Mr. Kalinich expressed the desire to work together to come up with a design that fits. Mr. Bartels stated that as an artist, it is difficult to work with the constraints of the color preferences of others but he would consider it. Commissioner May asked if Mr. Kalinich had approached the owners of the houses that are in front of the proposed location. Mr. Kalinich stated that the owners of the houses are participants in the request.

Commissioner Gill expressed his support of the bench design and price point and stated that he would love to consider it for the catalog. Commissioner Samuels stated that the Commission will defer to Public Works as far as durability. He also stated that a bench that blends in would have a better chance of getting approved. He recommended the presence of the neighbors at the City Council meeting when the bench is being considered. Commissioner May also expressed her support for the design. Commissioners Samuels and Dunn both expressed their appreciation of community aspect of the request. Commissioner Ramezani expressed her support of the design and recommended that Mr. Kalinich and Mr. Bartels walk the City and speak to some residents to see what kind of design and color palette will fit the best in the community. Commissioner Gill recommended that Mr. Kalinich and Mr. Bartels speak with the City Council members due to the recent issue of the Shell bench and asked if the bench design had been presented yet to Public Works for their approval. Mr. Betz stated that it has not yet been presented to Public Works.

Commissioner Dunn opened the floor to public comment.

Nicholas Fado, resident, stated that the design will prevent skateboarders from skating on the edges of the bench as it would not be a smooth surface. There is a strong community that would love to enjoy the bench.

The floor was closed to public comment.

Commissioner Dunn stated that the idea has the support of the commission but she has the concern that it needs to fit in with the area in order to get through the process. Mr. Kalinich stated that the group is looking for function first. Mr. Betz stated that from the perspective of the Cultural Arts Division, it would be great to have a bench from a well-known artist like Mr. Bartels, and that it would be great to expand the choices.

Commissioner Gill made a motion to move forward with the bench design to public works and allow the artist to create a more realistic image of colors to review before final recommendation to City Council. Commissioner May seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ayes: Dunn, Ramezani, Samuels, Gill and May

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

The meeting adjourned for a short break and reconvened at 8:10 p.m.

Commissioner Ramezani moved to postpone discussion on the Decommissioning Policy to the next meeting in order to move on to the Sculpture Garden. Commissioner Dunn seconded.

Ayes: Dunn, Ramezani, Samuels, Gill and May

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

14/0812.1 Sculpture Garden – Mr. Betz stated that 29 artists responded to the Sculpture Garden Call for Artists. The Commission selected six artists and two alternates for the 6 available spots in the Sculpture Garden. The artists selected will be presented to the City Council on March 17, 2015.

The Commission selected the following six artist and two alternates to present to City Council:

1. Patricia Vader
2. Jimmy Descant
3. Margaret Lazzari/Lauren Evans
4. Cat Chui Phillips
5. Asher Kelman
6. Arnold Martin

Alternates

1. Randall Art Ranch
2. Mark Wholey

Commissioner Samuels moved to recommend to the City Council the six artists and two alternate artists to be approved for inclusion in the 2015 Sculpture Garden Annual Exhibition. Commissioner Gill seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ayes: Dunn, Ramezani, Samuels, Gill and May

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

J. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Samuels moved to adjourn. Commissioner Dunn seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none