

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

March 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 06:04 PM.

B. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

C. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners, Ramezani, Gill, Samuels and May

Absent: Commissioner Dunn

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

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner May moved to approve the February 10, 2015 minutes as written.

Commissioner Gill seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ayes: Commissioners May, Ramezani, Samuels and Gill

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Commissioner Dunn

E. CEREMONIAL

None

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Chairperson Ramezani opened the floor to audience participation. Seeing none, the floor was closed.

G. STAFF ITEMS

Cultural Arts Manager, Mr. Betz updated the Commission on the opening at the Art Center Friday, March 6, 2015. He stated that people are now hearing that good things are happening and coming in to see the exhibits but some people are having challenges finding the Art Center. Mr. Betz stated that staff is working on the visibility of the Art Center.

Commissioner Ramezani proposed that the Sculpture Garden reception could be held at the Art Center instead of the Civic Center Plaza since an Art Center location will be included in the Sculpture Garden this year.

Mr. Betz stated that the next show will be the Mira Costa High School art students. The opening day will be April 14th.

Mr. Betz will present the next two exhibitions at the next meeting and distribute a new exhibit calendar. Currently, there is one week between shows but typically in the industry,

there is two weeks between. The schedule has changed as a result of trying to move toward this model.

Mr. Betz stated that the division is working on improving and expanding the Ceramics program and is getting ready to hire a supervisor. He stated that there is a great ceramics history in Manhattan Beach and we need to celebrate that. Commissioner Gill inquired about smoke rising into the residences from the ceramics classes. Mr. Betz reported that the program that was making the smoke (Raku) has been discontinued. It was previously done incorrectly, which was causing the smoke. It can be done, if done correctly, but training is needed. He stated that the new supervisor will have at least three years of ceramic studio management and will also teach classes.

Mr. Betz gave an update on the Harold Roach sculpture, which is back and installed at the same location. Harold Roach's daughter expressed her appreciation for the restoration in an email to Commissioner May. Mr. Betz asked Commissioner May to request permission to use her quote for possible future inclusion on the website.

Mr. Betz reported that the Light Gate installation and reception went well. He announced that the programs are getting great support from the local newspapers.

Commissioner Ramezani stated that the artists of the Light Gate mentioned that they would like to make a collage and that sending photos to them would be appreciated. Commissioner Ramezani stated that perhaps we should think of more creative ways to advertise events as there was not much public participation at the Light Gate opening.

H. COMMISSION ITEMS:

Commissioner Gill announced a Foundation of Local Artists (FOLA) event on March 19, 6:00-9:00pm at the Trina Turk store. 20% of all proceeds to go to FOLA.

Commissioner May announced that she will be showing at EGO studio in South Redondo Beach . The opening will be held March 14th at 6:00 pm. The show is called While the Cat's Away.

I. GENERAL BUSINESS:

15/1212.1 Strand Bench Program: Kraig Kalinich, resident, is still working on getting the structural drawings to present to Public Works. Commissioner Gill asked about the status of the brochure and the Shell Bench. Mr. Betz stated that he will be presenting a report on the Strand Bench Program to the City Council in April. Commissioner Samuels talked about submitting some sort of plan or guidelines for the program and rules for the catalog. He stated that having a plan would provide a goal to fulfill and guidelines to follow. Mr. Betz clarified that the procedures that the public would follow in order to obtain a bench would come from staff. The program outline that would determine the guidelines of the program, such as how a bench would be added to the catalog, would come from the Commission. Commissioner Ramezani stated that if there are limitations to what can be accepted, those limitations need to be defined. She stated that if a bench were to be denied because it does not "fit the City", the resident should be able to know why it doesn't fit the City according to the guidelines. She asked if the policy that Mr. Betz is presenting could be reviewed by the

Commission at the April meeting so that the Commission could offer suggestions and also be informed if the City Council were to ask them about it.

Commissioner May asked if the new artist would be added to the catalog. Mr. Betz stated that the Kalinich request is a one-off request and it is not the current plan to add this bench to the general catalog. Commissioner Samuels stated that there are two processes; one to add to the catalog and one for residents to add one bench. Commissioner Samuels asked the commissioners if they would find value in creating a plan for the catalog to continue. The Commissioners agreed that there would be value in creating a plan for the catalog. Commissioner Samuels asked that the Commission request permission from City Council to allow them to create a plan for the Strand Bench Catalog. Commissioner Ramezani stated that the request could be added on to the presentation when Mr. Betz presents in April.

Commissioner May recommended that Commissioner Samuels make a list of his questions and concerns.

After a short recess, the floor was opened to public comment.

Resident, Gary McCauley – stated that he hopes that the Bench program brochure will include a policy for deacquisition after a certain period of time so that people don't think that their bench will be there in perpetuity and the City will not be on the hook for maintenance of old benches.

Commissioner May mentioned that the benches would not fall under the law protecting works of art for decommissioning; works for hire are excluded.

The floor was closed to public comment.

Commissioner Samuels moved to request that the City Council approve the ability to create a Strand Bench Catalog plan. Commissioner Gill seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ayes: Commissioners May, Ramezani, Samuels and Gill

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Commissioner Dunn

14/0812.1 Sculpture Garden Competition – Mr. Betz showed the Powerpoint presentation of the Sculpture Garden finalists that will be presented to Council. The Commissioners viewed the maquettes.

The Commission recessed for five minutes to view the finalists' maquettes for the 2015 Sculpture Garden.

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

Commissioner Samuels moved to replace *Dragon Tales* with *Kites* as an alternate. Commissioner Gill seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ayes: Commissioners May, Ramezani, Samuels and Gill
Nays: none
Abstain: none
Absent: Commissioner Dunn

Mr. Betz will be presenting the finalists to the City Council. He stated that once approved by the City Council, he will be working on the contracts with the artists. He confirmed that the artists are responsible for the shipping of their pieces. Commissioner Ramezani asked if the Commissioners could be informed of the City Council meeting date so that they may attend. Mr. Betz stated that it would be nice if the Commissioners could attend.

Commissioner Ramezani mentioned that the Decommissioning policy should have been on the agenda. Mr. Betz stated that it would be placed on the next agenda.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Ramezani moved to adjourn. Commissioner Gill seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Ayes: Commissioners May, Ramezani, Samuels and Gill
Nays: none
Abstain: none
Absent: Commissioner Dunn