

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**

June 9, 2015

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

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM.

B. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

C. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None

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

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Gill moved to approve the May 12, 2015 minutes as written. Commissioner Samuels seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

E. CEREMONIAL

Recognition of Nancy Dunn – a certificate of appreciation was presented to Ms. Dunn for her service as Commission Chair. Ms. Dunn thanked the commissioners for their support during her term as chair.

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Chairperson Ramezani opened the floor to audience participation.

The floor was closed to audience participation.

G. STAFF ITEMS

Cultural Arts Manager Martin Betz gave the following updates:

Current exhibitions – Mr. Betz stated that the Art Center is typically closed to exhibitions for the summer. Some renovations were scheduled as an exhibition had cancelled but those renovations have been delayed due to a last minute 2 day exhibition for local architect Patrick Killen. The opening reception will be from 6:00-9:00 p.m. on June 11th.

Commissioner Ramezani stated that she had spoken with Mr. Betz to ensure that the Commissioners are informed of the exhibitions in advance so that they can be in attendance to represent the City.

Upcoming Exhibition – The Older Adults exhibition is coming up in August.

Remodeling will be done in between the Patrick Killen and Older Adults exhibition to add more wall space.

Sculpture Garden: Mr. Betz stated that the sculptures are going in at their own pace. Public Works is working on a big remodel in City Hall so their time is limited. Some of the sculptures will be installed mid June. The Art Center piece is scheduled to be installed in mid July, with the last sculpture being installed in September. The reception will be held in September at the Art Center.

Commissioner Samuels inquired if the expiration dates of the contracts would be staggered. He suggested that next year in July or August the Commission might need to look at the expiration dates to see if any contracts need to be extended.

Commissioner Ramezani suggested telling the artists that the sculptures should be delivered at a certain time. Mr. Betz, stated that it is more complicated than that because of travelling art schedules and pieces that need to be fabricated.

Art Center Schedule – Mr. Betz distributed the exhibition schedule. The Art Center is participating in the SUR: Biennial exhibition featuring Latin American artists in Los Angeles. At the end of year, Homeira Goldstein will be hosting a show, artist(s) to be determined.

Commissioner Dunn inquired on the status of the Ansel Adams exhibit. Mr. Betz stated that it is tentatively scheduled for the beginning of 2016. The LA County Library is not currently exhibiting the photo suite as they are in conservation. Mr. Betz is working directly with the LA County Library head of photography.

Commissioner Ramezani inquired about the frequency of the exhibitions. Mr. Betz stated that there are six exhibitions scheduled per year. Some of the exhibitions have a permanent slot (High School and Older Adults) and the other four are decided by the department. Commissioner Ramezani asked if there would be a focus on local artists. Mr. Betz stated that it is our responsibility to focus on local artists but to also show a wider art world. Commissioner Ramezani asked if there could be a banner outside the art center to promote exhibitions. Mr. Betz stated that funds have been requested in the budget to redevelop the exterior of the Art Center to make it more visible.

Art as Experience family workshops - Mr. Betz stated that these family workshops are being held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. There were about 12 kids at the first workshop on June 7th.

Budget update – Mr. Betz stated that the numbers are updated through April. There is about a \$40,000 increase since last month. May and June figures are not yet available.

Strand bench policy – Mr. Betz stated that the Strand Bench policy will be presented to the City Council on July 7th along with Art Lab, Decommissioning policy and the LA County Arts Commission representative will present the choices for the new library art piece.

Commissioner Ramezani asked how the public art trust fund is spent. She asked if there could be a column with an expiration date. Commissioner Samuels stated that the accounting department would not let the funds expire, they would let the Commission know that money needs to be spent.

Pier installation project - Ms. Vilchis, who presented her project to the Commission in May, decided to pull back on the project and get her details together before presenting to the City Council.

Decommissioning Worksheet – Mr. Betz explained that the form is an internal form that staff would use when administering the decommissioning policy. The worksheet is an internal form being presented to the commission for review but does not require any approval vote. Commissioner Samuels asked if it is necessary to ask for the Nationality of the artist. Mr. Betz stated that it may not be necessary but it is an interesting field as it is an international process and could be significant for historical purposes. Mr. Betz stated that he is fine with removing the field. Commissioner Ramezani stated that it could be a good internal flag that could increase sensitivity. Mr. Betz stated that once the decommissioning policy is approved, there will be an inventory done of all the artwork in Manhattan Beach.

Commissioner Gill stated that if the Miguel Angel Velasquez mural were to be considered for decommissioning, none of the reasons listed on the worksheet would apply. Commissioner May stated that the mural does not fall under the VARA (Visual Artists Rights Act) laws as it was acquired before 1997. Commissioner Samuels stated that there are reasons listed on the worksheet that could apply to the mural.

Mr. Betz stated that the first step is to get the decommissioning policy in place and then take the steps to have the piece officially decommissioned if that is what the commission recommends.

Commissioner Ramezani mentioned that it was requested that the curtain be pulled back for public viewing. Commissioner Samuels stated that he would like to have the mural uncovered so that the public could weigh in. Mr. Betz stated that it is not as simple as pulling back the curtain as the mural goes all the way to the floor and there is a wall built over it

Commissioner Ramezani opened the floor to public comment.

Gary McAulay (resident) – Mr. McAulay stated that it is important for the City's policy to absolutely reserve the right to decommission an item for any reason that it chooses. He stated that maybe it should be stated explicitly that the works are the property of the City and they can be disposed of for whatever reason, aesthetic or otherwise. He stated that he is looking for a legal opinion and wants to ensure that the policy follows all legal requirements and it should be written to ensure that the city retains as much leeway as possible.

Mr. Betz stated that there are laws overriding decisions to decommission based on aesthetic judgments.

Commissioner May stated that the reasons listed on the form are taken from the VARA law, that there are conditions that could apply to almost any piece and City Council always has the ultimate say.

H. COMMISSION ITEMS:

Commissioner Ramezani stated at the beginning of the meeting, that in order to run the meetings in the most efficient manner, she would like to limit speculation and opinions before facts are available. She would also like the commissioners to speak in turn to keep the discussions orderly.

Commissioner Gill mentioned that there is an art event happening at Plaza El Segundo by the artist Ed Massey. You can sign up to paint the balls that will be floated on MacArthur Lake.

He stated that the artist is looking for a 15,000-20,000 sq. ft. space for more painting. Commissioner May stated that he is looking to paint 1000 balls in a 24 hour painting marathon. The artist has a Facebook fan page with more details on the event.

Salute to the Troops – Commissioner Gill is excited about the event to salute veterans and active duty service members. His company is sponsoring the headlining 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band.

Historical Society Pioneers group – Commissioner Gill announced that the first official meeting of the Historical Society Pioneers group had been held. They viewed videos of some residents of 50+ years about their experience here. The next meeting will be held in September.

I. GENERAL BUSINESS:

There were no General Business items to discuss.

Commissioner Gill asked if they could go back to the Cultural Arts master plan. Mr. Betz stated that part of the delay is that it is part of the Parks Master Plan. Commissioner Samuels stated that they could start with the one that exists and go from there. Commissioner Samuels suggested that the Commissioners read the current master plan before requesting that it be put on the agenda. Mr. Betz will send the current master plan to the Commissioners.

J. ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Dunn moved to adjourn. Commissioner May seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none