

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

July 14, 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 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 Gill moved to approve the June 9, 2015 minutes as written. Commissioner May 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.

Carla Spring, representative of the Friends of Redondo Beach Arts – Ms. Spring invited the commission to opening day for their show at AES Power Plant on July 31st. All artists are from California. Friends of Redondo Beach Arts is a nonprofit organization supporting art in Redondo Beach. The exhibition will be held over two weekends, 7/31-8/2 and 8/7-8/9.

Gary MacAulay, resident – Mr. McAulay stated that he is disappointed about the wording on strand bench program donor plaques coming up again. He feels that the strand should not become a long memorial area. Mr. McAulay made two suggestions: 1. Create a wall or walkway so that members of the public can buy a brick or tile that is affordable to everyone. 2. Buy the rest of the benches with the public art fund. If the benches must have plaques perhaps Leadership Manhattan Beach could make a tribute to the pioneers or other leaders who contributed to the success of the City.

Alistair Tober – Mr. Tober thanked Commissioner Ramezani for inviting him to the meeting and expressed his desire to learn how to get more involved.

The floor was closed to audience participation.

G. STAFF ITEMS

Presentation by LA County Art Commission regarding the art piece being installed at the Library - Jennifer from the LA County Arts Commission spoke on the process for selecting the art pieces.

Artist, Kathy Taslitz presented her concept for the library art. Ms. Taslitz presented the two works. *Personal Archeology* will be against the wall and will be a kelp form with words hidden in the leaves. She spent a lot of time walking the streets of Manhattan Beach asking a diverse cross section what the City means to them and from that process she chose representative words to embed in the texture of the leaves.

The second piece, *Prevailing Affinities* will consist of 18 fiberglass jellyfish, each with 7 silicone tentacles. Each jellyfish will be colored on the underside. The colors will be representative of the City flag. The jellyfish will be grouped together symbolizing family. The design is being finalized now. Installation is expected late Spring/early Summer of 2016.

Commissioner Gill wanted to clarify that the artwork was paid for with \$150,000 from the Public Art Trust Fund and \$150,000 came from the County.

Recreation Supervisor Deborah Hom spoke of the conference she attended. She is working on applying for grants. Ms. Hom stated that she would be reaching out the local PTAs to rekindle the Reflections program.

Cultural Arts Manager, Martin Betz gave the following updates:

Upcoming Exhibitions – Older Adults exhibition – Mr. Betz stated that there are three jurors needed and it would be great if the Cultural Arts Commissioners could be jurors. It was decided that Commissioners Ramezani, Samuels and Gill would be the jurors. The exhibition will open on August 6th and run through August 25th.

Update on Sculpture Garden, installation by Jimmy Descant: *Rocketship* was installed at the Art Center. The Summer Camp kids came out and met the artist. The next piece, *Archimedes' Goose* will be installed in front of the Fire department by the elevator.

Art Center update – The renovations are almost complete.

Update on monthly budget details – Finance keeps a tab on the maximum permitted balance will make the commission aware when the funds need to be used.

Update on Strand bench policy –The subject was pushed off the agenda and did not go to City Council. As such, staff will review the policy. It will come back to the commission before it goes back to the City Council.

Commissioner May stated that she is not sure where the benches stand as far as their status as art. Mr. Betz stated that any pieces with an edition of less than 200 fall under VARA.

Update on decommissioning policy – Staff will review and consider feedback from the public and bring back for the next meeting.

Update on Art Lab – Staff will be presenting to City Council soon. The hope is that it can start with the next school year.

Commissioner Gill inquired about the Miguel Angel Velasquez mural. Mr. Betz stated that no progress has been made but suggested waiting for the decommissioning policy to be approved. Commissioner Samuels stated that the mural is half covered by a wall so it may be

difficult to solicit public opinion. Commissioner Ramezani agreed that it would be better dealt with after the decommissioning policy is in place.

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

H. COMMISSION ITEMS:

Commissioner Ramezani received a message from the Neptunian Women's Club requesting a representative to attend a meeting to present the Cultural Arts Commission initiatives. They are requesting a presentation on permanent and temporary art installations. Commissioner Ramezani volunteered to present, Commissioner Gill would like to attend. Commissioner Samuels suggested that if both Commissioners Ramezani and Gill were attending that the other commissioners should not, to avoid any Brown Act violations.

Commissioner May stated that she had seen some kiosks in San Francisco displaying rotating art exhibits. She thought that it might be great to have one in Metlox Plaza.

Commissioner May brought up the idea of an art group. Many local artists would like a local art group. Mr. Betz stated that the group should organize and make a proposal to the Commission for discussion.

The Toyota dealership on Sepulveda is building a new showroom and have expressed an interest in having an art show featuring local artists. Lexus in Torrance has a show now.

Mr. Betz stated that if the art group wanted to work with Toyota to organize a show, they would do it directly. Commissioner Ramezani stated that there might be an opportunity to work with Toyota to use the showroom as an additional venue for art shows. Commissioner Samuels stated that many businesses would be interested in displaying art so there is no shortage of venues. Commissioner May clarified that she would like the commission to facilitate a group for artists to come and talk about what they're working on. Commissioner Samuels stated that the Art Center would be the place for that kind of activity. Mr. Betz agreed that if a group wanted to have a monthly meeting to talk about art, they would make a request and it would be considered against the calendar.

Commissioner Ramezani opened the floor to public comment.

Carla Spring stated that she had seen the art display at Lexus and there were hundreds of pieces hanging. She enjoyed the fact that she could look at the art while she waited for her car to be repaired.

I. GENERAL BUSINESS:

None

J. ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Gill moved to adjourn. Commissioner Ramezani seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Ayes: Commissioners May, Ramezani, Samuels and Gill

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Commissioner Dunn