

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

September 22, 2015

Manhattan Beach City Council Chambers

1400 Highland Avenue

Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM.

B. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

C. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Commissioners

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

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Samuels moved to approve the August 11, 2015 minutes as written.

Commissioner May seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ayes: Commissioners Ramezani, May and Samuels

Nays: none

Abstain: Commissioners Gill and Dunn

Absent: none

E. CEREMONIAL

None

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

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

Julie Nunes, Director of Community Involvement for the Sunscreen Film Festival – announced the Sunscreen Film Festival to be held October 2- 4 at the Hermosa Civic Theater. She asked the Commissioners to help spread the word in the community.

Kendra Davis – City of Manhattan Beach, Management Fellow – distribute a flier promoting the community input meeting on October 15th for the City strategic plan process. Commissioner Ramezani suggested outreach to the senior community.

G. STAFF ITEMS:

Cultural Arts Manager, Martin Betz presented the following:

Karen Domerchie, Public Works Sr. Management Analyst introduced representatives from Selbert Perkins who gave an overview of the wayfinding signage plan to be presented to the City Council.

Mr. Selbert outlined how to build awareness for the City, create a unified system, remove clutter and help people find parking. Items included would be gateways, signs, directional signage, information signage, mobile apps, merchandise, etc. Looking to find positive characteristic elements and use them throughout the City.

Mr. Selbert presented 3 options:

- 1) one based on the current North Manhattan Beach materials with different colors.
- 2) Vintage – goes back to mid-century plan, more wood, graphic elements more 50's style, perhaps murals on parking garages.
- 3) Modern – look to the future – incorporate photography, perforated metal.

He stated that responses to the survey on Open City Hall have been very evenly distributed.

The Commissioners, with the exception of Commissioner Samuels, offered their individual feedback based on their personal opinions.

Ms. Domerchie announced that the three plans will be presented to the City Council to get direction on next steps. She stated that the City Council has only approved action up to this point and if the City Council approves to move forward, then they will be coming back to the Commission for feedback.

Update on Sculpture Garden – Mr. Betz reported that the Margaret Lazari and Lauren Evans piece *Egrets* has been installed in the Civic Plaza. Patricia Vader's piece, *Butterfly* is ready for installation and will go in after October 12th. He stated that it is likely that the Sculpture Garden reception will be in November. Mr. Betz stated that the plaques for the pieces with QR codes will be available for the opening reception. Commissioner Gill suggested the reception be held on the date that the sun sets through the Centennial Light Gate. Commissioner Samuels and Mr. Betz agreed that that the schedule for the next year's garden may need to be examined and contracts may need to be extended so that the schedule can be reset. Mr. Betz stated that when new pieces are fabricated, it is difficult to predict when the pieces will be installed. Commissioner Samuels mentioned that a timeline had been laid down previously by former commissioner Peter DeMaria. Commissioner Dunn suggested deciding for the next two cycles to get caught up. Commissioner Ramezani suggested considering a biennial sculpture garden.

Update on monthly budget details – Mr. Betz distributed the latest Public Art trust fund report which was unchanged from the previous month.

Update on decommissioning policy – additional language was added on the recommendation of the legal team to give the City more leeway as to what may be decommissioned, with language stating the relationship to federal and local laws. The decommissioning policy has been returned to the legal team for approval.

Update on Art Lab – Art Lab was approved by the City Council and will be funded from the General Fund instead of the Public Arts Trust Fund. The department is currently in the process of contracting the lead person and is hoping to begin the program in mid-October. Artist, Yaron Daton will develop and run the program with one other artist to be hired to help.

Update on Pier Public Art Project – Virginia Vilchis – Ms. Vilchis presented an updated version of her Pier illumination project. She has had her concept reviewed by an engineer and included his report. The design will require a pole to be attached to the existing poles to secure the wires for the lights. The height of the installation accounts for the view of the roundhouse and allows for emergency vehicles. The clamps that will be used on the attached poles will not damage the existing light poles. She showed an updated image of the lanterns that would be used. Commissioner Ramezani asked how long Ms. Vilchis was planning to display the installation. She stated that she was thinking one month but that the City might consider reusing the hardware for other projects. Commissioner Ramezani asked for the budget. Ms. Vilchis stated that the updated cost is \$19,140. Mr. Betz stated that there would also be internal costs for Public Works labor to install. Ms. Vilchis stated that she has the approval from the Coastal Commission to install through 2015. It was recommended that Ms. Vilchis request an extension because of the timeframe.

Commissioner May asked what makes this project more creative or special than other places that have strung lights above their spaces. Ms. Vilchis stated that the location and experience will make it very special.

Mr. Betz recommended amending the budget to include Public Works labor costs and an artist fee (even if given back) and contingency, so that more accurate numbers could be presented to the City Council.

The commission requested Mr. Betz to prepare a staff report to request permission from the City Council to discuss the art project.

Update on Strand Stair project – Mr. Betz stated that this project has two components: Strand Wall and Strand Stairs. The strand stair component is in the bidding process. There is a new schedule and bidding will begin in 12/15.

Mr. Betz showed a presentation on the Strand Wall project which is 99% complete. The walls still need the anti-graffiti sealer. The Commission voiced their disapproval of the project outcome as not being what was originally recommended. Commissioner Ramezani pointed out that not all of the money that was allocated from the Public Art Trust Fund for the Strand Wall Project has been spent but the art portion of the project is near completion. She requested that Mr. Betz research how the remainder of the allocation will be spent and questioned why Public Art Trust Funds would be used on non-artistic portions of the project. Commissioner Gill asked Mr. Betz to express the Commission's displeasure at the final result. Commissioner Ramezani asked if the Commission can see the final design that was approved and know why it changed. Commissioner Samuels stated that if the City Council likes it, they have the final word, but that there is a history of approved designs that change by the time the projects are finished. Commissioner May stated that she had been unable to comment on the Strand wall project when it came to the City Council because Mayor Burton had moved the item to the beginning of the meeting and she missed the item.

Mr. Betz stated that, regarding the list of ideas that the Commission would like to create, the commission is allowed to create the list without the permission of the City Council.

Commissioner Dunn exited the meeting at 7:50.

Mr. Betz announced the opening reception for the Sur Biennial will be October 3rd from 5:00-8:00 PM, the exhibition will open September 24th.

H. COMMISSION ITEMS:

Commissioner May spoke on the kiosk museum project. She stated that she had spoken with Elsa, the artist who created the kiosk museum concept, who is very interested in consulting on the project.

Commissioner Gill moved to request permission from City Council to include the art kiosk museums on a future agenda for discussion. Commissioner Ramezani seconded the motion.

Ayes: Commissioners Ramezani, May, Gill and Samuels

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Commissioner Dunn

Commissioner Gill announced a FOLA event on October 11th at Lido de Manhattan from 5:00 – 8:00 PM.

I. GENERAL BUSINESS:

15/0212.1 Marlo Bartels Strand Bench – Kraig Kalinich – Mr. Kalinich did not attend the meeting. As such, this item was not discussed.

J. ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Gill moved to adjourn. Commissioner Ramezani seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Ayes: Commissioners Ramezani, May, Gill and Samuels

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Commissioner and Dunn