

DRAFT
CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH

MINUTES OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION
February 22, 2006
6:00 p.m.

CONTENTS

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Cultural Arts Commission (CAC) of the City of Manhattan Beach, California met on Wednesday, February 22, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Manager's Conference Room.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners
Sharon Greco (Chair),
Candy Duncan
Susannah Rosenthal
Francey Seckinger
Juanita Purner, Cultural Arts Manager

Absent: Shelby Phillips (Vice-chair),

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Greco indicated approval is pending on the November 8th minutes until corrections are made.

December 13th minutes:

- Commissioner Greco referred to the processes stated in the City of Manhattan Beach Public Art Master Plan and the Ordinance for art in public places section on Use of Funds. The Master Plan states: "The Public Art Trust Administrator shall oversee the acquisition of public art on the basis of informed and carefully considered professional judgment." The Ordinance for art in public places section on Use of Funds states: "Projects to be funded from the proceeds of fees collected hereunder shall consist of works of art placed in public places or incorporated into public buildings, art education programs or art display programs designated by the Cultural Arts Commission and approved or accepted by the City Council."

The other Commissioners shared their concerns and voiced frustration with the Commission being left out of the process. It was decided that the Commission would draft a letter to Richard Gill expressing their concerns.

- Commissioner Seckinger pointed out an omission to a letter Commissioner Greco had suggested during the meeting.
- Insert the following sentence in the end of the same paragraph: “It was decided that the commission would draft a letter to Richard Gill expressing their concerns.”

Commissioner Rosenthal pointed out an omission of the word “designated” in the last paragraph. The word was misspelled and read as “designed.” It was corrected.

Minutes from December 13th were approved as corrected.

IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Mr. Arledge
 Mrs. Caroline Falk
 Mr. Aaron Falk
 Caroline Falk
 Therese Trebaol

V. GENERAL BUSINESS

(Note: This section of the agenda was moved to the last item for the meeting.)

06/02/22.1 Strand Alcove/ Bench RFP Review

- PAAC member confirmation:
 - 1) There are three applicants who applied: Dean Nota, Homiera Goldstien, and Alison Wright. No recommendations have been made.
- Commissioner Greco pointed out to the Commission that they need to nominate additional PAAC members before they can proceed with Beach Alcove selections. These nominations must be generated by the commission members. Application forms for nominees can be obtained through email from Ms. Purner.
- Copies of the new submissions for the Strand Alcove/ Bench RFP are passed out to acquaint the commissioners with the range of work submitted. This was not a voting process.

VII REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

A. Mr. Arledge – Memorial Benches on the Strand

Mr. Arledge indicated he used the strand a good deal “I use the strand a lot, I go to the beach, I run...” He is disturbed by the benches on the strand that memorialize individuals. He became aware of the Strand Alcove/ Bench art project and wanted to become a part of the process to get the existing memorial benches off the strand and in a more appropriate location.

- Commissioner Duncan inquired which of the three benches that are currently on the Strand concerned him the most?

2) Mr. Arledge responded, “The most offensive is the bench that has the remains of the deceased person mixed in with the concrete it is made from.” Also, the bench that is made of black granite is offensive because it looks like “a tombstone with legs,” He further stated, “this bench is disturbing and makes him angry because he finds it elitist.”

- Commissioner Greco points out that other people in the community were equally upset about these benches and this is the reason why the Master Plan was written, to prevent this type of bench from reoccurring.

3) Mr. Arledge goes on to say that to his knowledge no one from the family still reside in Manhattan Beach.

- Ms Purner responds that she received a call from the Dubois family last week.
- Commissioner Greco asked Ms. Purner if, after the renovation and completion of the bench /alcove art project, the memorial benches being reinstalled on the Strand?
- The reinstallation was confirmed.

4) Mr. Arledge’s final comment is that he wishes to be an advocate for the removal of the memorial benches from the Strand. He also has brought pictures of the benches for the commission members to see.

- Ms Purner points out the memorial bench donors have a contract with the City.
- Commissioner Duncan suggests speaking to a lawyer to determine the City’s rights, i.e. if they could remove the benches from the strand.
- Commissioner Seckinger wonders if the commission can create an agenda item for city council to look at regarding the benches.
- Commissioner Greco thinks speaking to the owners of the benches first might be a more hospitable approach, to see if they are in any way agreeable to have their memorial benches removed off the Strand and into a more appropriate place.

B. *Young at Art’s* public art project, “The Beach City Gates”- Veteran’s Parkway:

1) Caroline Falk a volunteer with *Young at Art* would like the City of Manhattan Beach’s support in placing an art installation/education project for children entitled “Beach City Gates” on the Veteran’s Parkway of Manhattan Beach. This project is based on the “The Gates,” a public art project by artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude, which was installed last year in New York’s Central Park.

- Caroline Falk is an artist /volunteer with *Young at Art* and a resident of Hermosa Beach.
- Mrs. Falk is requesting permission to use the Veteran’s Parkway to install 6,000 gates for one weekend in May 2007. There will be 5-8

interpretative signs placed near the gates offering information about the project.

- Finally, Ms. Falk is requesting permission to store the gate frames at the City yard for one week. The wire frames are 20”w x 35”h.

Commissioner Seckinger commented that one weekend is not enough time, considering all the effort put into the project, and it should be extended. She also suggested some research should be conducted regarding liability issues.

Commissioner Seckinger added that perhaps Mira Costa’s film students could document the project and that Mr. Hernandez headed up this department. The commissioner also suggested a map of the signage would be helpful.

- Ms. Falk was aware of Mr. Hernandez but, at this time, moving forward with some of these suggestions is dependent on final approval from Manhattan Beach and Hermosa.

Commissioner Greco adds that having this project installed for just a few days is the essence of what Christo and Jean-Claude art projects are all about. An art piece that is on display for a limited time initiates considerable public interest and motivation to get there to see the art work.

Mr. Aaron Falk (Caroline’s husband) points out there are a lot of approvals involved with the Young at Art project and coordination between the two cities and the school system. So far everyone involved has been pretty enthusiastic. There was an article in the Daily Breeze about the project and there is some interest generating in the community. Jane Harman’s office called about donating supplies to the project.

In response to Commissioner Rosenthal’s question about any other occupations Mrs. Falk may have, Caroline replied she is an artist who works in assemblage, painting, photography and art education projects.

Commissioner Greco sees a lot of potential with this project; she feels it is very exciting, it is great for the students and will generate a lot of press coverage—she congratulates Caroline.

Commissioner Seckinger moves to recommend this project to City Council for approval. It was seconded unanimously.

C. Gary Sweeny Proposal for Public Art Restoration of the artwork “How Soon Hath Time.”

Mr. Sweeny forwarded a proposal to Ms. Purner regarding the restoration of the 65 panels that are on the north side of Joslyn Center. His proposal indicated that he can restore panels by using outdoor paint on PVC panels for the total cost of \$875.

Commissioner Duncan recommends that Mr. Sweeny be allowed to restore the 65 panels next to the Scout headquarters. The cost of the restoration was clarified by Commissioner Greco and the \$875. will be paid from the public art fund. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rosenthal and approved unanimously.

D. Metlox- Jazz series

Ms. Purner discussed the Manhattan Nights Jazz series: there are four performances scheduled with two dates in the Spring and in the Fall. Kenny Johnson, Performing Arts Coordinator, will book the event once sponsorship is confirmed.

E. Theater performance proposal - *Fantastics*

Ms. Purner: Kenny Johnson, Performing Arts Coordinator, submitted a proposal to present the FANTASTICS stage play in the Joslyn Community Center auditorium in July. The cost for the production is \$20,000.

Commissioner Seckinger: wondered if Joslyn was the only venue and if Mira Costa's Auditorium was a possibility. Mira Costa does not rent out the auditorium during the summer. Commissioner Greco confirmed this event fits the criteria for Public Art Trust fund use.

The Commission is very excited about the possibility of sponsoring this event but they have additional questions. A meeting with members of the theater company is tentatively planned to gain more information.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm