

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

March 8, 2016

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

A. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairperson May called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Dunn, Gill, Samuels, Vice-Chairperson May.

Absent: Chairperson Ramezani

Others present: Martin Betz, Cultural Arts Manager, Rosemary Lackow, Recording Secretary.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 9, 2016

A motion was made and seconded (Samuels/May) to consider this matter at the next meeting in April.

Ayes: Dunn, May, Samuels, Gill

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Chairperson Ramezani

D. CEREMONIAL - None

E. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-Minute Limit) - None

F. STAFF ITEMS

Cultural Arts Administrator reported on the following matters:

- **Budget update.** Cultural Arts Manager Betz stated that there is no change from last month's report – the same amount of money (over 400k) is available to spend on public arts.
- **Sculpture Garden installation update:** Staff is still waiting for the artist Asher to complete the piece - it is still in fabrication. Mr. Betz will keep the Commission updated if this status changes.
- **Update on Cultural Arts Division:** Currently the main focus of the cultural arts staff is the budget. Staff expects to bring three proposals to the Commission at its April meeting. One is an exhibition, and another is a proposal by an artist for the City to purchase a piece already installed in the City. Staff is also very much involved in planning for the City's 75-year celebration to be held July 25. Staff is looking for sponsorships (all being done online) and may seek input from the Commission, once he understands the protocol for the outreach. Mr. Betz gave a summary of the all-day

event explaining that there will be a focus on bands from the local area, and there is a blues theme. There will be food booths, and activities for kids. Mr. Betz also gave a brief update on the planning for the July 3rd Salute to the Troops. A military band will perform in full uniform.

Commissioner Dunn commented that she thinks it would be beneficial if it can be determined as to how Manhattan Beach compares in terms of its programs with similarly sized cities.

- **Update on Downtown Specific plan Downtown Specific Plan.** Mr. Betz announced that there are community workshops 3/16 and 3/24 from 6-8 pm at Police and Fire Facility Community Room and the Commissioners are encouraged to attend. The Commission expressed concern that they for the whole process be kept more closely in the loop of the plan process. It was discussed that Mr. Betz would look into the best way to approach the Council, perhaps two Commissioners (e.g. Chair and Vice-Chair) can meet with the Mayor. Discussion turned towards how the CAC can be kept better informed of the status of its projects, with Commissioner Gill suggesting that Staff keep a running list of their projects that they have voted on and Mr. Betz explained that he keeps track by reviewing the minutes and noting action items for Staff. Commissioner Dunn suggested coming up with a template report that would list all the open projects the CAC is working on and a status of each that could be attached to as an addendum to the monthly agenda with comments on timing. It was suggested by Commissioner Gill that perhaps this should be the responsibility of the Chair, and Mr. Betz stated that it is the joint responsibility of Staff and the Chair to do this. Mr. Betz also stated that he had been meeting with the Chair on the day of the monthly meetings, but perhaps Staff should resume the practice of meeting with the Chair earlier to set the agenda. Mr. Betz will discuss this with the Chair.
- **Update on Decommissioning policy.** Mr. Betz reported that the policy has been finalized and Staff is going to start applying it. He noted this is a big accomplishment, in the works since 2012. Mr. Betz will email a copy to each commissioner. The next step will be to do an inventory and develop a report with dates each piece was commissioned in the collection. May come back to CAC for permission and funding to hire an outside consultant although this hasn't been formally determined. Commissioner Dunn asked if whether a research project can be included in the inventory scope, as to where the City of Manhattan Beach stands compared to other cities as to how much is being spent for public art as this would help in going forward with spending. Mr. Betz commented that this is a big discussion, the funding that is existing is not so much, and the Staff is also waiting on the Downtown Strategic Plan and how that will work out. He will keep the Commission informed, but this will not be on the April agenda.

Commissioner Samuels explained that there is an art piece in the City Hall which was installed back in the 1970's and it has been partially structurally covered since 2003 and otherwise obscured. The Commission is interested in the history of this piece.

G. COMMISSION ITEMS

Vice-Chairperson May reported that she has again met with the Manhattan Beach artists group. They discussed a mission statement and name of the group but this is still up in the air. Everyone however is very excited and Commissioner May invited all interested parties to attend. Meetings are held the first Monday in the month at Arts Center.

Commissioner Gill announced that on March 20, 5-9 pm the 7th Annual Fundraiser for the Foundation of the Arts will be held at Lido's Manhattan restaurant. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$35 at the door. Commissioner Gill also mentioned that he got a message on his Facebook page from the daughter of the artist who did the large mural inside City Hall – that the artist died last month. Commissioner Samuels asked if Commissioner Gill would share this information. Mr. Betz cautioned that the City is planning to get an opinion from an outside expert on the City Hall piece and this is key to where this goes next.

Vice-Chairperson May suggested that the Commission could be using Facebook more to publicize art programs and events. Mr. Betz explained that Staff already uses Instagram and Facebook and is working on this – some ideas include an electronic newsletter for the Art Center and this could be set up on a Facebook page just for the Art Center. Staff needs to get with the new IT Director to help get this started up. Commissioner Gill noted his Facebook page is “Art in Manhattan Beach”.

H. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

15/1208.1 Sculpture Garden. Martin Betz reported that staff is not ready for this - he hasn't been able to do the comprehensive thinking on what should be done. Thinking how a recommendation is needed on how to proceed or not. Commissioner Gill inquired as to because there will not be a 2016 garden, the art that is out there now will be out there for 2 years as we will not have a new garden in 2016? Martin confirmed this. Mr. Betz also noted that next year there will be some exciting projects including exhibits of the work of John Vanamerstahl (spelling?) and Ed Moses and his family.

I. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other items to report, it was moved and seconded (Gill/Dunn) to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 PM to 6:00 PM on April 12, 2016 in the Council Chambers.

Roll-call vote:

Ayes:	Dunn, Gill, Samuels, Vice-Chairperson May.
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Chairperson Ramezani