

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

July 12, 2016

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

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson May called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Chairperson May, Gill, Manna

Absent: Dunn, Prigozhin

Staff Present: Martin Betz, Cultural Arts Manager, Eilen Stewart, Ceramics and Program Supervisor

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - April 26, 2016; June 14, 2016

The minutes of April 26, 2016 will appear again on the next agenda as there was not a quorum of Commissioners present who were in attendance at the April 26th meeting.

Commissioner Gill moved to approve the June 14, 2016 minutes with the following change:

Page 4, 6th paragraph, 1st line- correct "Crem's: to "Crum's"

Commissioner Manna seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

D. CEREMONIAL - None

E. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-Minute Limit)

None

F. STAFF ITEMS

Staff items were moved to the end of meeting at the request of Recreation Services Manager, Martin Betz.

Recreation Supervisor Eilen Stewart reported that the Outside the Lines show will open at the Manhattan Beach Art Center (MBAC) on July 21st with a reception from 5:00-7:00 pm. The exhibition will feature works from older adult residents and Older Adult Program participants. The deadline for submission is July 15th. Artists may submit up to two pieces and one will be chosen for display. The exhibit will be juried by artist, Pamela Hudson.

Ms. Stewart invited the commissioners to the Parks and Recreation 75th Anniversary celebration on July 24th. There will be activities all day long including a chalk walk, art village and raku firing.

The John Van Hamersveld exhibition, *Contemporary Post Future* opening will be August 25 from 6:00-9:00 pm. Commissioner Manna asked if it might be possible to do a screening of *Endless Summer* at the MBAC. Ms. Stewart will check on this possibility. Recreation

Supervisor, Deborah Hom reported that *Endless Summer* was recently screened in Hermosa Beach. Chair May stated that John Fitzgerald, who puts on the film festivals in Hermosa Beach has expressed interest in working with her art group and maybe in the future, the Cultural Arts Commission can collaborate with Hermosa Beach on times.

Shakespeare in the Park will be held in Polliwog Park on August 12th and 13th.

Fab Five Review on August 13th is a vaudeville show. This event is free.

There will be a screening of the Miriam Sachs movie at the MBAC on August 16th. Miriam Sachs was a Mira Costa student who graduated this year and will be attending USC Film School in the Fall. She made an award winning film about the importance of art and art education. We wanted to recognize her and her achievement by screening her movie at the Art Center.

The Incredibles will be shown at the Library on Friday, August 19th.

Update on future work plan – The Commission needs to develop a work plan.

Chair May stated that she has offered to help several times at the Art Center but has been turned down. She is willing to help set up or clean up for exhibitions.

Cultural Arts Manager Martin Betz reported that the City Council is considering the Commission work plans in September. A joint meeting is being scheduled between the City Council and, concurrently with all of the Park and Recreation Department commissions. Commissioner Manna has mentioned the need for a joint meeting to Mayor D'Errico.

It was decided by the Commission to meet in August if they are able to discuss the work plan. Chair May will meet with Mr. Betz to determine whether there will be enough to talk about to justify holding a meeting in August. If not, the meeting will be canceled. Commissioner Manna stated that the Commission only meets once a month, meetings should not be canceled. Chair May suggested that a formal meeting may not be necessary; maybe they could do a field trip. Commissioner Manna stated that perhaps a tour of the City's art facilities would be useful. Mr. Betz replied that a tour would be part of the joint meeting in September.

Commissioner Gill asked about the status of the frieze at the Manhattan Beach Art Center (MBAC) and if the Commission would be involved in reviewing the final design before it is placed on the building. Mr. Betz stated that the frieze will be put up for the art show and then it can come to Commission to determine its future. The item can be discussed in September.

G. COMMISSION ITEMS

The following items were raised by the Commission:

Commissioner Manna mentioned that the StArt Program exhibition at the MBAC is on display until July 13th. He also mentioned going to City Council and announcing upcoming events. Commissioner Manna will attend the July 19th City Council meeting to announce the Older Adults exhibition.

Commissioner Manna mentioned that he is aware of some talk about a potential crosswalk going from the MBAC across Manhattan Beach Boulevard. He stated that he would like to see a signal or a red curb at the driveway for the Art Center to make the entrance a little more obvious. Ms. Stewart will look into the steps necessary to get the red curb on the parking spot.

Commissioner Manna suggested approaching the Parking and Public Improvements Commission to do a traffic study to determine the necessity for a crosswalk.

Commissioner Manna stated that there are tables at the Art Center but they are not heavily utilized. He suggested adding a Keurig coffee maker to offer free coffee and encourage people to sit and take advantage of the space. He also mentioned the idea of a rolling rack with art books that people could peruse while enjoying the outdoor area. Ms. Stewart added that food and beverage are not normally allowed within the gallery to prevent accidental damage to the art pieces. Commissioner Manna clarified that he intended for the coffee to be outside only.

Chair May stated that her art group had been offered a space at the Art Village but was not sure if the offer was still valid. Ms. Stewart explained that she was asked to spearhead the Art Village and she was not aware of the offer. It was decided by staff that the spaces in the Art Village would be open to students enrolled in our Parks and Recreation classes and instructors and staff working for the Parks and Recreation programs. The reason it was limited was because there was lot of interest from different groups making it difficult to jury. She stated that if Chair May's group needed a small space to distribute brochures, it could probably be arranged. Chair May will inform her group that they will not have a space at the Art Village.

Commissioner Gill encouraged Commissioners May and Dunn to review their notes from previous meetings to make sure everything relevant is included in the work plan discussion.

Commissioner Gill has been in contact with the daughter of the artist who painted the covered mural in City Hall and learned the artist recently passed away.

Commissioner Gill received some feedback from a parent of one of the participants who didn't complete the StArt Program. The parents felt that there was not enough structure. Mr. Betz stated that more structure was added later in the program when it was determined that the students needed it. He added that the next program will be 6 months long instead of 9. Mr. Betz stated that the project is funded through next year but will need to explore other options for future years. The project is currently funded by the general fund.

Commissioner May stated that she would like to see younger artists be able and encouraged to create as well. She was surprised at the lack of skills of some of the high school and college students she has met along the way. She believes this is a result of not being exposed to art opportunities at a younger age. Mr. Betz reported that he had made a proposal to Mira Costa High School that would utilize the wood shop area for the StArt and Visual Arts program but the school decided to allocate the space to the Performing Arts program instead.

H. GENERAL BUSINESS

None

I. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded (Gill/Manna) to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 PM to 6:00 PM on August 9, 2016 in the Council Chambers. The motion passed.

Ayes: Gill, Manna, Chairperson May
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Dunn, Prigozhin