

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION
September 13, 2016
Manhattan Beach City Hall, City Manager Conference Room
1400 Highland Avenue
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson May called the meeting to order at 6:12 PM.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Dunn, Gill, Manna, Prigozhin, Chair May.

Absent: None

Others present: Martin Betz, Cultural Arts Manager, Eilen Stewart, Ceramics Supervisor, Deborah Hom, Recreation Supervisor and Rosemary Lackow, Recording Secretary

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 9, 2016

A motion was made and seconded (Gill/May) to approve subject to one change: in the Roll Call, add Commissioner Manna's name as being present.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Gill, Manna, Prigozhin, Chairperson May

Noes: None

Abstain: Dunn

Absent: None

D. CEREMONIAL None

E. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-Minute Limit)

Ann Pitts, resident, expressed high praise and appreciate for efforts of Martin Betz, Eilen Stewart and Deborah Hom. Ms. Pitts noted she and a small group of painters had over the years received instruction from and painted with artist Eva Goldstein through the South Bay Adult School. After Eva's passing, the painters group lost their studio space and needed a new space. Mr. Betz worked out that, for a year, they would be able to utilize a space in the Art Center and the painters in return would volunteer at the Center. Ms. Stewart stated that this is consistent with the goal that the Art Center eventually function as a community center.

Gary McAuley, Manhattan Beach Historical Society noted that the Burning Man festival this year had some really great art and encouraged all to attend next year.

Erik Blanchard, architect, Blanchard Fuentes Design stated that he is requesting assistance from the City for a research project his firm is doing with MIT that has a goal of understanding and applying new state net-zero building construction mandates. His firm is seeking corporate sponsors and eventually wants to bring the project into the public view. The concept is to erect a temporary structure, sculptural in appearance, which will engage and help the public understand new state/federal net-zero building mandates that will be in effect in 2020. Mr. Blanchard showed a scale model

illustrating an early concept. The main structural component would be made of wood, utilizing “mass timber” construction technology which is environmentally friendly and it will also employ a photovoltaic element as a skin to capture and store solar energy. Manager Betz explained that the goal tonight is for the Commission to discuss and direct staff as to whether they would like to consider this request on a future agenda.

The Commission conducted discussion, generally positive and in support. Commissioner Prigozhin suggested that the installation illustrate how energy generated through the technology employed could power something – like x number of electric cars. The structure might also be designed to provide other benefits to the public such as a bench, shade cover or outlets for charging cell phones. Commissioner Dunn suggested that Mr. Blanchard be referred to Sona Coffee, the City’s environmental programs manager and that the city Community Development staff be also involved. Commissioner Gill stated he thought it positive that the structure will be temporary and suggested that Mr. Blanchard meet with City Council members.

Manager Betz suggested this matter can be put on the next agenda, subject to approval from the Council. As to possible locations for the installation, Commissioner Dunn suggested that this may be ideal for the 2017 summer concert program.

It was moved and seconded (Dunn/May) that this subject be placed on the October Cultural Arts Commission agenda, subject to approval of such by the City Council.

Motion carried by the following hand vote:

Ayes: Dunn, Gill, Manna, Prigozhin, Chairperson May

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

F. STAFF ITEMS

Update on future work plan and September 27th Commission welcome reception

Manager Betz combined two agenda items, noting that the work plan cannot be discussed yet as the commissioner handbook is not yet completed, but he has been advised that the work plan might be discussed at the September welcome reception. He will check into whether the public will be able to attend the reception as well as any Brown Act implications and will email the Commission as to what he finds out.

Mr. Betz clarified that the 9/27 reception will be with all three Parks and Recreation Department commissions, will involve a city tour and there will be discussion with the other commissioners. Commissioner Gill asked that Mr. Betz look into the oath of office that has been requested of the Commissioners and why it is required. Mr. Betz noted offhand in his experience as officers of the City, this is a standard procedure, but he will look into this.

Formal recognition of community members

Manager Betz informed that this is a subject that Chair May will take the lead on and discuss with the Commission.

Other staff items:

Manager Betz gave a status report on the Art Center exhibitions. The Van Hammersveld exhibit has been widely attended. Brief discussion ensued in which it was noted that the poster outside the building has been very effective. The Commission (Dunn, Gill, May) expressed interest in obtaining a poster, if available. Manager Betz noted that a formal exhibit closing will be arranged. The Cheech Marin exhibit opening reception will be Wednesday, October 26.

Mr. Betz informed that he met with an urban forester who came up with some good ideas of landscaping improvements suitable for the Art Center. This is a more long range project and will be funded by the budget. Brief discussion followed in which Commissioner Dunn suggested some type of “eco art” be considered.

Commissioner Gill reminded that the Commission should bring work plan ideas to their meetings. Manager Betz clarified that he anticipates the City Council will approve the Commissioners Handbook at its first meeting in October after which the Commission would be able to discuss the Work Plan.

G. COMMISSION ITEMS

Commissioner Gill announced that that will be a FOLA (Foundation of Local Artists) event at Lido di Manhattan restaurant, Sunday, September 18, 5pm to 7pm, will be free and art will be available to purchase.

Chairperson May announced regarding the local artists group:

- The group will have its first art show “Beyond Books” on September 17, 3:30 to 5:00 pm at the City Library, attendees will be able to listen to jazz and view art.
- No dates have yet been set, but, they want to have some sort of jazz event. It was noted that the City is going to host a jazz event featuring Chuck Johnson soon at the Joslyn Center as part of a series.
- Other ideas of the local artist group include: a possible installation at Sand Dune Park at night after daylight savings time ends, with lights; an exhibit at the new Toyota Showroom sometime in the spring which may include sculptures; possibly an art walk, perhaps at Polliwog Park, and perhaps in the north end of Highland Avenue.

Chair May also noted she has a radio show 8 minutes long on “healthy life.net”.

Chair May called for a break at 7:20 and called the meeting back to order at 7:34 pm.

H. GENERAL BUSINESS

15/1208.1 Sculpture Garden

Manager Betz gave a powerpoint presentation on the Sculpture Garden, covering a background going back to the 2002 City Council Work Plan and inaugural 2009 installation, and four subsequent installations. Other topics covered include program logistics, when temporary art is appropriate?, case studies in other cities and issues surrounding the City’s program. Photos were included including

Asher Kelman's Sailboat, which though long overdue is now installed at the city hall plaza (a case that is an extreme example of several problems encountered).

Mr. Betz summarized six distinct options (or a combination of), moving forward:

1. **Keep program as is**, \$3,000 stipend to artist, one annual RFP; seven locations total: four at the Civic Center Plaza, one at Metlox, two at the Art Center, \$18,000 cost plus installation.
If this option is chosen it is suggested that it be a requirement that only already fabricated pieces be accepted.
2. **Change duration and number of sculptures**: to 2 year duration, 3 sculptures, \$6,000 artist stipend; one at Civic Center Plaza, one at Metlox, one at the Art Center; total cost plus installation \$18,000. It is suggested that the pieces have a cement platform, not a "pot and pole". The latter is stronger and likely preferred by Public Works as is easier to move.
3. **Create a sculpture festival** on the parkway: 3 month duration; 15 sculptures, \$2,000 artist stipend, large festival scale reception held at initiation.
4. **Secure loans of major works** from sculpture galleries or more prominent artists (similar to Beverly Hills program): Rental fee tbd, installation costs \$2,000 -\$5,000; maintenance fee \$2,000 per sculpture per year.
5. **Create a permanent sculpture garden in the parkway**: add one permanent piece from a curated show every year or other year (purchase and install).
6. **Have a large one day sculpture installation festival** (e.g. Montalvo Art Center Saratoga CA)

Manager Betz stated some general recommendations or items to consider including: 1) Do not accept sculptures into the program that are not completed and/or make sure an artist can follow through with the installation as planned; 2) Have artists submit work for specific sites; 3) solicit artists in the western US only (CA, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon), or within a 500 mile radius.

Discussion among the Commissioners followed. It was noted that currently there isn't a definition of "sculpture garden" and this might be helpful. Chairperson May stated she likes the last two options. Commissioner Dunn suggested that everyone come to the next meeting with specific ideas so that the group can take a specific vote for a recommendation to the City Council. Commissioner Prigozhin suggested considering an option of a laser or light sculpture competition where people could upload their sculptures and then rotate their display; they would need to invest in the infrastructure (screens). As to the next steps, Cultural Arts Manager Betz suggested that the Commissioners might consider presenting ideas to staff (Director Leyman) and Councilmembers on a one-to-one basis to get some input. He will meanwhile email the presentation and info out to the Commissioners. At the next meeting the Commission should expect to present ideas.

I. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded (Gill/Prigozhin) to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 PM to 6:00 PM on October 11, 2016 in the Council Chambers. The motion passed with the following roll-call vote:

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