

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH**  
**MINUTES OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**  
December 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 6:00 PM.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Present: Dunn, Gill, Prigozhin, Chairperson May.

Absent: Manna

Others (Staff) present: Martin Betz, Cultural Arts Manager, Eilen Stewart, Ceramics Supervisor, Michelle Stoll, Natasia Gascon, Rosemary Lackow, Recording Secretary

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 8, 2016**

A motion was made and seconded (Gill/Dunn) to approve subject to a change on Page 5, second paragraph under Public Input/Discussion: to read:

“Mr. Betz clarified the bench program at Commissioner Gill’s request, that there ~~is only one type of bench that still can be used as a memorial and that staff is still selling benches without any real involvement by the Commission~~ are 4 types of benches that are available to be donated.”

Roll Call:

Ayes: Dunn, Gill, Prigozhin, Chairperson May

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Manna

**D. CEREMONIAL - None**

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

**F. STAFF ITEMS**

**Cultural Arts Division Update**

Cultural Arts Manager Betz distributed copies of the 46-page Winter 2017 “Manhappenings” Parks and Recreation publication, calling attention to the great job staff did. For example there are no stock photos used – all photos are those taken by staff. Mr. Betz noted that new staff member Michelle Stoll, also a resident, is working at the Art Center. The Commission welcomed Michelle, present in the audience. Mr. Betz welcomed Commission feedback on the document, while noting that the layout, with a focus on design (e.g.using the same font throughout) contributes greatly to its attractiveness. Commissioner Dunn requested that Mr Betz pass on a compliment to staff - that this document, because the layout is well thought out, becomes a key marketing piece. Commissioner Dunn suggested that the date of the next

session of art classes be included and the registration deadline. Eilen Stewart responded that the registration deadline is in the magazine already and believes that a decision was made to discontinue publicizing the next phase of classes in advance.

Mr. Betz described some other staff changes. Deborah Hom is now at City Hall, working on youth projects. Eilen Stewart has moved to the Art Center where she is the manager.

Mr. Betz introduced Natasia Gascon who presented, utilizing the City's website with the following highlights:

- December newsletter informing of events. Chair May stated she hasn't received it but Commissioner Gill noted he had. It was explained that you can sign up for the newsletter either in person at the art center, or by sending an email to the public art center [info@mbac.info](mailto:info@mbac.info). Natasia will double check subscriptions and believes that all city commissions are on the list, but also cautioned regarding difficulties such as emails being treated as spam, the fact that some email clients have a long delivery time, and challenges with graphics not being email compatible. Eilen noted that when she had sought permission to have a blog for cultural arts she learned that there are 2 problems: first the City's website does not have a blog function, and if the City were to use an external service it would not have control over the content. Michelle Stoll is doing outreach with the School District as well as other media outlets. Permission to share events in social media (e.g. Homeira's recognition) needs to be gotten from Kristen (Parks and Recreation Department). Commissioner Dunn thanked staff and recognized that this is a real stride and explained that the Commission is only feeling that since so much so much creativity and hard work is in play, the desire is to reach out to as many people as possible.
- Reminder: January exhibit by William Sandell and Cynda Valle.
- Reminder of Joslyn Center events including the December art sales and craft night.
- Demonstrated the list of classes with links to each.
- Reminder of the current Cheech Marin chicano art exhibit
- Reminder of the Council recognition for Homeira Goldstein
- Showcased the Library exhibit, recognizing work of Kathy Taslitz
- Reminder of I Heart MB exhibit and submission dates: from 12/08 to 1/24/17

Eilen Stewart gave a report highlighting:

- Ceramics sale: this is turning into a holiday sale coinciding with the craft event. Largely driven by the ceramics department this time they invited any one around, either taking classes or instructors and wound up beating last year's sales by about \$1,000 (total sales: \$5,500). A percentage goes to artists and then to the department in support of these types of events. The goal is for the event to support the artists.
- Craft Night: one night a year, around the holidays Parks and Rec hosts this event for kids who move through stations making crafts. There's a soup and roll food component, and Santa is there.

Discussion: Commissioner Dunn remarked as to whether such cool events such as this could be advertised by a volunteer (a senior?) at a booth at the downtown farmers market? Commissioner Gill wondered also whether the city could take on a wood working class since the high school space has been lost? Manager Betz explained that staff submitted a bid to use the old wood shop as a ceramics studio but the school district said no; however Staff can keep "an eye out" for a good replacement wood shop space. Chair May asked if the Commissioners are able to teach a City sponsored class? Mr. Betz said he would inquire with the Director.

Cultural Arts Manager Betz mentioned that a pop up event “California Loco” is to be scheduled for March at the Art Center. This will involve all South Bay artists, intergenerational. More info will be forthcoming. Regarding the sailboat sculpture at City Hall: Mr. Betz reported that the complete installation is pending submittal of a plan and building permit requested by the Building Department.

#### **G. COMMISSION ITEMS**

**Commissioner Gill:** reported he recently attended an event at the LightGate sculpture which was well attended. He was sorry to see that the sculpture needed cleaning and there was a large blinking machine left on the street nearby. He also noticed that the install date on the plaque says 2013 where it should be 2012 and all of the install dates on the plaque and nearby should match. Mr. Betz will follow up on this.

**Commissioner Prigozhin:** reported that the city fireworks event was great.

**Commissioner Dunn:** noted that former Cultural Arts Commissioner Peter de Maria has designed a pretty cool house near the intersection of Manhattan Beach Boulevard and Vail.

#### **H. GENERAL BUSINESS**

16/1108.1 Discussion of Work Plan items for City Council consideration.

Manager Betz reported that the City Council has decided to put this matter off till March. To maintain momentum, he suggested that Chair May write to the city council, stating what the Commission wants to do, with cost considerations included and authorize the group to meanwhile discuss these items. If given the go ahead the Commission can keep working on these ideas.

Discussion: For Chair May, Mr. Betz confirmed that the delay applies to all the Commissions but the hope is that the Council might authorize the CAC to more comprehensively discuss its priorities for spending on the arts, so the Commission might have a roadmap for the things the Commission wants to do. Mr. Betz informed of his opinion that the changes prior discussed for the sculpture garden could be started administratively because this is already a project that the CAC works on, and pending receiving approval from the Council to discuss. Manager Betz clarified for Commissioner Gill that the memo from Chair May would lay out an alternative whereby instead of going just with a plan incorporated in the Commission Handbook, Council could let this list go forward to discuss further as part eventually of a formal “work plan”. Commissioner Dunn suggested that the time taken out for this could be longer, perhaps 2 or 3 years but it may be useful to synch some projects.

Manager Betz advised that he will draft the memo to the Council and after sharing with the Commission.

Chair May invited comment from the audience, but no one wished to speak.

#### **I. ADJOURNMENT:**

It was moved and seconded (Gill/Dunn) and passed by voice vote (4-0-0-1) to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 pm to 6:00 pm on January 10, 2017 in the Council Chambers at City Hall.