

DRAFT
CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH

MINUTES OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

April 12, 2005

6:00 P.M.

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I. CALL TO ORDER

The Cultural Arts Commission (CAC) of the City of Manhattan Beach, California met on Tuesday, April 12 at 6:03 p.m. in the City Council Chamber.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Greco (Chair), Wright (Vice-chair),
Duncan, Phillips and Powell
Geoff Dolan, City Manager
Richard Gill, Parks & Recreation Director
Juanita Purner, Cultural Arts Manager
Megumi Sando, Rec. Supervisor – Cultural Arts

Absent: None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 8, 2005 minutes were approved with a spelling correction of Commissioner Powell's last name (page 2).

IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

V. GENERAL BUSINESS

05/0412.1 Strand Bench and Alcove Program

City Manager Geoff Dolan reported the progress of the Strand redevelopment project and proposed a public art opportunity for seating and alcove designs. On the Strand, 43 locations for alcoves are identified; and three are designated for the previously donated memorial benches. Trash cans will be installed away from the benches and the alcoves will be cleaned manually. Mr. Dolan stated that the City Council envisioned an artistic, whimsical environment on the Strand, but strongly urged avoiding personal memorial sites. The Council requested the Cultural Arts Commission develop project guidelines including the selection criteria, signage and donation system.

The following issues were discussed related to the alcove project:

- **Recognition**
Mr. Dolan emphasized that the recognition was a sensitive issue and the signage (donation plaques) could be displayed off site, not attached to the alcove design. Commissioner Greco agreed, commenting that the benches were for the public. Commissioner Powell introduced a numbering system that other cities (possibly Santa Monica or Malibu) employed, in which only numbers were inscribed on the benches and the corresponding donor information was kept separately.
- **Trial benches by the City**
Mr. Dolan suggested creating a couple of “sample” benches/alcoves, using Public Art Trust funds. These will set a standard of high quality. The Cultural Arts Commission will select the artist and design for the “samples” and present to the City Council for approval.
- **Timeline**
Mr. Dolan stated that the unveiling of the first artistic alcove may coincide with the completion of the 1st phase of the Strand project this fall.
- **Possible alcove features**
Commissioner Wright asked if the design could include landscape and lighting. Mr. Dolan answered it is unlikely those features would be utilized, considering the adjacent neighborhood’s request for less lighting and the lack of public water source on the Strand. Commissioner Wright raised the issue of ADA compliance and stated that the alcove should be kept at the same level as the strand pavement.
- **Liability**
Commissioner Powell asked about the liability, possible damages to the artwork and subsequent removal. Mr. Dolan explained that once accepted, the City would possess rights and liability over the artwork.

The Commission requested the most updated information of the Strand project, including the overall scheme and architectural drawings. Ms. Purner will obtain the necessary items for the Commission and will coordinate a walkthrough with Project Manager Michael Guerrero before the next commission meeting. Ms. Purner encouraged the Commission to prepare questions for Mr. Guerrero for further clarification.

To develop the guideline, the Commission suggested that staff collect samples from other cities such as Santa Barbara, Culver City, LACRA, and MTA.

VII REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Greco asked about the status of the Sculpture Garden. Ms. Purner answered that it is on hold pending the completion of the Metlox project. Commissioner Powell requested a progress report of the 9-11 Memorial and Mr. Gill explained that because of the legal issues, on-site work is not allowed before the safety facility is completed. The beams are presently undergoing off-site preparation work.

Commissioner Phillips called the Commission's attention to the community's needs for a performing arts space and suggested converting the City Council Chamber and the use of the Metlox site. She also recommended a family theater performance series with scheduled presentations in Manhattan Beach parks.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the Cultural Arts Commission adjourned at 7:45 p.m. The next meeting will be May 10, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. in City Hall.