

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH  
MINUTES OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**

January 10, 2017

Manhattan Beach City Hall, City Council Chambers  
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: Gill, Prigozhin, Manna, Chairperson May

Absent: Dunn

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

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 27, 2016 and December 13, 2016**

**September 27, 2016 (joint meeting):** A motion was made and seconded (Manna/Gill) to approve, no changes.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Gill, Manna, Chair May

Noes: None

Abstain: Prigozhin

Absent: Dunn

**December 13, 2016 (regular meeting):** A motion was made and seconded (Gill/May) to approve with one change: deletion of the entire line “Chair May.....” on Page 3, G. Commissioner Business.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Gill, Prigozhin, Chair May

Noes: None

Abstain: Manna

Absent: Dunn

**D. CEREMONIAL**

The Chair noted that she would like to have some formal way for the Commission to recognize long time special City residents who have contributed to the arts. The concept was well received by the Commissioners. Mr. Betz suggested that a certificate from the CAC be presented possibly at a single reception and while he supports this, is concerned chiefly that some artists could inadvertently be overlooked. Perhaps parameters should be established. Chair May invited Don Spencer to the podium, noting Don is a pioneer of the city as well as a very accomplished painter.

**Don Spencer** addressed the Commission, stating that the City is an incredible place to live in (his family came in 1930) and he is honored to be mentioned in this context. Chair May explained she'd like to be able to identify all residents who are artists. Mr. Spencer stated he is doing some sculpture but has become very interested in “content” and making things work

aesthetically. Commissioner Gill encouraged Mr. Spencer to stay informed. Mr. Spencer thanked the Commission for its good work.

**E. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-Minute Limit)**

**Amelia Amell** complimented the Commission and Staff for the pop up show recently at the Center, stating that it was very well put together and is a good sample of the city's art program, and such events promote the Art Center, making it ultimately widely known as a place to see good art.

**F. STAFF ITEMS**

Cultural Arts Division update

Manager Martin Betz noted the pop up show was a tremendous amount of work but with a great result, reporting that 200 people attended, 400 persons looked at and there were 800 "shares" on Facebook. The main strategy is to integrate artists starting with those local to Manhattan Beach and then moving farther out, in a fun way, to introduce the city program to a larger community.

Eilen Stewart gave a detailed presentation of the upcoming "Very Cinematic Narrative" exhibit, showing examples of the work of Cynda Valle (e.g. "The Three Graces") and Bill Sandell (e.g. "Gotta Light"). Eilen showed their respective studios and samples of their work including some to be in the shown and their unique techniques.

Presentation by Blanchard Fuentes Design regarding a band shell project for Polliwog Park

Mr. Blanchard made two powerpoint presentations, the first explaining the concepts of Zero-Net Energy and the second, showing a conceptual rendering of what a proposed educational structure being considered for the Polliwog Park bandshell might look like.

In the first, Mr. Blanchard described the building standard mandate (by 2020 all residential and by 2030 all new commercial buildings to be "net zero") including performance goals. He explained the definition of Zero Net Energy (ZNE) as: "the amount of energy provided by onsite renewable energy sources is equal to the amount of energy used by the building." Mr. Blanchard explained the construction models that have been developed (although not yet applicable to multi-story luxury developments on compromised sites) and that with application of "smart systems" they can achieve zero net energy.

Mr. Blanchard recounted the background of his project with the City, project sponsors and funding strategy, the concept of "mass timber" and applying architectural concepts, and common problems in achieving net-zero at compromised sites. He displayed several photos of existing "pavilion" structures in public spaces, including how exterior surface materials (glass tile e.g.) can produce energy. Showing the small model of the prototype, he then presented a conceptual design of the proposal in a proposed park location. Mr. Blanchard showed that a louver system would provide shade which was based on a solar access study. A kiosk is also suggested to visually frame a view of the pavilion and display the project sponsors.

## DISCUSSION

The Commission conducted a question and answer discussion with Mr. Blanchard, who responded: the project will serve as an educational tool, going through a life cycle from tree to lumber, to pavilion for 4 months, then dismantling and made into mulch to be used on the City walking trails, therefore going back to the earth. The photovoltaic materials will be powering lighting and possibly some musical instruments, however, the process of inverting from direct to alternating current makes it difficult to get full power for all instruments.

The discussion concluded with the Commission applauding such a huge effort but emphasizing that it is very important that it be thoroughly vetted.

Manager Betz explained that the action before the Commission is to decide whether this project should progress to the next level and he also stated he recommends that a funding plan be formally developed and included in the information submitted to the City.

## ACTION

It was subsequently moved and seconded (Prigozhin/May) that the CAC seek authorization from the City Council to discuss the proposed Net-Zero Pavilion project in connection with the summer concert in Polliwog Park at a future regular meeting.

Commissioner Gill led discussion which included the following suggestions to the architect: 1) because permission may be needed from a number of groups such as the School District (property is leased from district) and an HOA (Friends of Polliwog Park) presentations to these groups may help greatly; 2) it would be historically inaccurate for the structure to reflect a maritime timber ship theme for Manhattan Beach (as described in the presentation); 3) serious thought should be given to how to deal with kids who may want to crawl all over the structure; 4) the structure should visually be open to the concert audience; the use of the energy created on the structure should be a very strong talking point when soliciting support; 5) sight lines should be well thought out (perhaps a line-of-sight study needed); 6) when discussing funding, Mr. Blanchard should emphasize the public not commercial benefit.

It was clarified that the motion did not include a funding plan at this point in time but costs and funding would be expected to be discussed at the next phase, when back before the CAC.

Roll call (voice vote): The motion was passed 4-0-0-1 (ayes: Gill, Manna, Prigozhin, May; absent: Dunn).

Manager Betz stated that he will send a memo from Chair May to the City Council with a request to discuss further the subject proposal.

### Memo to City Council Regarding Sculpture Garden

Cultural Arts Manager Betz called the Commission's attention to a memo from Chair May to the City Council regarding the next cycle of the Sculpture Garden. The Commission reviewed and directed two changes: first paragraph - the sentence about the mission of the Sculpture

Garden should be revised to read “The purpose of the Sculpture Garden is to display a variety of public artworks in a community setting and to further the education of the community on the public on the arts.”; third paragraph - the sentence should read “artists have been unable” (as opposed to artists are unable).

#### ACTION

Subsequently a motion was made and seconded (Gill/Manna) to send the Chair’s memo with changes to paragraphs 1 and 3 as noted, and to correct the spelling of Chair May’s first name.

Roll call (voice vote): The motion passed 4-0-0-1 (ayes: Gill, Manna, Prigozhin, May; absent: Dunn).

#### Light Gate: treatment proposal

Mr. Betz noted there has been some graffiti but the sculpture is getting cleaned for the Jan 27<sup>th</sup> gathering at sunset (5:20 pm). The Commission briefly discussed. Commissioner Gill expressed concerns about different installation dates for the sculpture (on the sculpture and nearby concrete); it was advised that this is being corrected by City staff.

On the subject of public sculptures, Commissioner Gill asked regarding the status of the sailboat at the City Hall plaza. Staff advised that the pieces of the waves that go on the sides are ready to be attached, but there has been a slight delay in that stanchions are needed for safety due to an electrical component. Mr. Betz is recommending that the artist remove the electrical component or make it solar run. A party may still be hosted by the artist.

#### **G. COMMISSION ITEMS - None**

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

##### 16/1108.1 Discussion of work plan items for City Council consideration

Mr. Betz reported that this is still on hold, but he has been advised that the City Council may be considering the Commission Work Plan at its next meeting which would pave the way to the Commission being able to go forward.

#### **I. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, it was moved and seconded (Gill/May) and passed by voice vote (4-0-0-1) to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm to 6:00 pm on February 14, 2017 in the Council Chambers at City Hall.