

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

June 19, 2017

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

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Gill called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Chase, Gill, Friedman, Manna, May, Prigozhin, Chairperson Gill.

Absent: None

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

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 15, 2017

It was moved and seconded (Manna/May) to approve the May 15, 2017 minutes as submitted. The motion carried with voice vote: Ayes: Friedman, Manna May, Prigozhin; Noes: none, Absent: none, Abstain: Chase, Rubino and Chair Gill.

D. CEREMONIAL – Recognition of outgoing Commissioner Friedman

Chair Gill thanked Commissioner Friedman for her service and contributions, recognizing that she “blazed the way” for a teen representative seat on the Commission. He presented her with a certificate of appreciation and a group photo was taken.

Chair Gill welcomed new commissioners Chase and Rubino and explained that he will be running the meetings with more attention to Roberts’s Rules, a copy of which will be provided to each Commissioner.

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

F. STAFF ITEMS

Cultural Arts Division Update

Movers, Shakers and Art Makers Program

Supervisor Deb Hom gave a presentation on the “Movers, Shakers and Art Makers” art intensive summer camp which just opened for ages 5-12 and will run for 8 weeks. The stated mission of this program is “to (a) enhance and promote the cultural and artistic experience of the youth in our community and (b) to provide engaging, and thought-provoking and creative activities for the advancement of education.” Ms. Hom explained that the camp will involve the participants in a comprehensive appreciation of the arts, led by well-qualified visual artists Michelle Sin and Gabriel Rojas, and music instruction by Music Rhapsody. On the last day of each camp week, a theater instructor will choreograph a culminating musical performance.

Ms. Hom also went over the program marketing and plan to evaluate the program at its end by discussing with parents of participants.

The Commission had a brief discussion about the program. Ms. Hom responded to comments and questions noting that there are 6 participants so far, and they are between 5-12 years, and participate as a group, with the older ones acting as mentors to younger ones. The instruction is interactive for example at the end of the first day (today) the group produced a skit. Ms. Hom stated her goal is up to 30 participants and the staff will be doing additional marketing on social media.

Ms. Hom confirmed that the instructors, with staff, will devise a plan for each day in advance and each week will culminate in a theater performance. The main objective is for the participants to learn to recognize art in a practical way – as a part of daily life and also tie art into math and science. The program has been profitable and financially independent. Flyers were given to the Commissioners to distribute.

Exhibit and Program Updates

Cultural Arts Manager Martin Betz briefed the Commission on other cultural arts programs and events:

- June 17th - Cross Town Traffic pop up show and art auction. This was a raging success with 200 participants and proceeds upwards of \$9,000. There was good engagement with the community. It was suggested that having a screen displaying the bidding live would have helped to create excitement but this was not an available option this year.
- June 22- July 1 - South Bay Film Festival – youth showcase. This overall event is a collaboration with Hermosa Beach, with three components focusing on youth taking place exclusively in Manhattan Beach. The events in Manhattan Beach include: June 22 (youth photography exhibit running to July 1); June 23 (student films); and June 24 (movie and panel discussion).
- July 7-9th - Older Adults Art Show, is open to adults 55 and older who are either a resident or taking art classes in the city.
- July 2 – Concerts in the Park starts with “Salute to the Troops” featuring the Air National Guard Band of the West which represents the US Air Force.
- July 14 : opening of the “Method Movement Memory” exhibit featuring work of June Edmonds, Pamela Hudson-Smith, Nicolette Komanos.
- July 21, August 18: Summer Surf Movie Series – outdoor family films, in Library courtyard

Manager Betz noted that after the summer concerts and July exhibit at the Art Center there will be a break however the figural drawing and open mic sessions held on the first and last Thursdays will continue through the summer at the Art Center. These have been successful with increasing participation.

Brief discussion ensued. **Commissioner Rubino** inquired as to whether there was a single place where the public can access all the City cultural events info, to which Manager Betz responded that there currently is not a single portal as such, just the City website, email list, and newsletter,

although such a portal would be definitely desirable. **Chair Gill** noted that the City staff has greatly increased its use of social media but there are many IT hoops to go through in using social media for the City. He mentioned a Facebook Page that he maintains @Art in Manhattan Beach, where he promotes cultural events in the City.

Manager Betz gave two additional updates: 1) in July staff will be starting a “spoken word” program similar to “the Moth Hour” on NPR radio, which will include a six month learning process and culminating presentation; and 2) the sailboat structure is now done and Staff will inform the Commissioners when a reception is scheduled.

Chair Gill invited input from the Commission.

Commissioner Friedman complimented Commissioner May on the North End Art Walk held June 10. She is working on a “7 by 7” film to submit for the Film Festival coming up very soon. She feels there should be more publicity for the film festival, but acknowledged it has been better than last year. Mr. Betz commented that the Beach Reporter is going to be advertising the festival on its next front page.

G. COMMISSION ITEMS

Commissioner May reported on the June 10th North End Art Walk, that the participating artists felt it was a success. There will be an evaluation in early July. **Commissioner Chase** complimented Commissioner May on a great job and stated that she enjoyed seeing a “bee man” who was showing kids about bees. **Commissioner Rubino** thought the event was lovely and the calm atmosphere enabled her to be able to talk to the artists about their work. **Commissioner Manna and Chair Gill** added their compliments for the event.

H. GENERAL BUSINESS -

16/1108.1 Discussion of joint meeting and work plan items for City Council approval

Manager Betz noted that staff will be going back to the City Council soon with a list of Work Plan items possibly on July 20th but he will need to confirm this date and will advise the Commission accordingly. The purpose of tonight’s discussion is to refine the list that will be provided to the Council when they consider Work Plan items at an upcoming joint meeting. He distributed a draft list of programs, including those current and ongoing, those recommended by staff as new programs and lastly, a “wish list” that the Commission would like to see included in a Work Plan. Included on the current ongoing programs are two items: Sculpture Garden Program, and the Strand Alcove Bench Program. The new programs recommended by Staff include three items: The Cultural Arts Trust Fund Re-granting Program (Community Arts Grant Program); the Public Art Conservation Assessment; and the Special Exhibit materials and bus tours to the Manhattan Beach Art Center for MBUSC students. The 4 items on the Commission wish list include: A “Projection Sculpture Piece”; Replacement of Main ID Sign at the Manhattan Beach Art Center; Replacement of City entry monuments; and lastly a public sculpture related to the birth of volleyball and paddleboard race events.

Chair Gill invited discussion and any inquiries as Mr. Betz went over each item on the list. **Commissioner Prighozin** explained the digital sculpture for the new commissioners. The

Commission with concurrence of staff directed that 1) on the “wish list” the first item should be retitled as “Digital Sculpture Piece”; 2) that the two items relating to sign replacements (at the Art Center and entry monuments) be deleted entirely; and 3) that the title of the last item should be simply “Public Sculpture” and 4) that the term “Commission wish list” should be retitled more strongly as “Commission Recommendations”.

Chair Gill noted that, when meeting with the City Council, speaking as individual Commissioners, unless as a private citizen is discouraged. The Chair is the spokesperson for the entire Commission and he advised that the Commissioners’ role will be to attend and listen to understand how cultural arts are being discussed.

The Commission agreed that there needs to be more discussion about the new recommended programs including the digital sculpture and possibly a laser light exhibit. It was agreed that **Commissioner Prigozhin** would meet with Manager Betz to discuss the digital or light sculpture concepts and that Manager Betz would meet one-on-one with Councilmembers and possibly with a commissioner present. Manager Betz noted that staff will need to do some research for the grant program. **Commissioner Rubino** expressed concern regarding future use and maintenance of the conservation assessment once it is created. Manager Betz responded that a system will be created to maintain the assessment the Cultural Arts Division which will be the responsibility of the current Cultural Arts Manager (or his replacement). Mr. Betz suggested that the updating of the assessment could be incorporated into the program.

Chair Gill opened the topic to public comment.

DeAnn Chase, resident, commented that she thought there might be council support for more pop up art and she supports this concept as being interesting and engaging.

Manager Betz clarified for **Commissioner Rubino** that the trust fund is not limited to visual art, but can also be applied to a pop up show or something theatric.

The Chair invited final comments from the other Commissioners. **Commissioner Friedman** stated that it felt organized but added that she would like to see more in the way of performing arts. **Commissioner May** inquired as to a definition of “pop up show” to which Mr. Betz responded that his understanding is that it refers to a very short term exhibit or event that, once done then goes away. It was suggested that if the Commission will be recommending more pop ups, it will be necessary to define the concept. **Commissioner Rubino** stated that she likes the idea of more performing arts or perhaps some type of festival that incorporates a variety of the arts.

Cultural Arts Manager Betz thanked the Commission for its input. Chair Gill thanked the Commission for electing him to the Chair and noted it is his intent to meet monthly with Cultural Arts Manager Betz and run the meetings efficiently with opportunity for all to provide input.

I. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:45 P.M, it was moved and seconded (Prigozhin/Manna) and passed by voice vote 7-0-0 (7 ayes, 0 absent, 0 abstain) to adjourn the meeting to 6:00 P.M. on July 17th in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue.