

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

December 18, 2017

Manhattan Beach City Hall, City Manager’s Conference Room, 2nd Floor
1400 Highland Avenue
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Gill called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: May, Manna, Prigozhin, Rubino, Chairperson Gill

Absent: Chase

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

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 20, 2017

It was moved and seconded (Manna/ Rubino) to approve the November 20, 2017 minutes subject to correction of the following:

- Pg. 1, at top, call to order, replace “calling” with “called”.
- Pg. 1, Approval of minutes vote: Add Prigozhin to the four names who voted “aye” along with Manna, May and Rubino.

The motion passed with a voice vote: ayes: Manna, May, Rubino, Prigozhin, noes: 0; abstain: Gill, absent: Chase.

D. CEREMONIAL – None

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

F. STAFF ITEMS

Manager Betz asked that the Commissioners review the material in the Commissioners Handbook on absences and confirmed that that the rules apply to the student member. He encouraged each Commissioners to speak to him in advance if he/she was having difficulty with their schedule so that he can check as to whether an anticipated absence might be able to be excused.

Cultural Arts Division Update: Events/staffing (Eilen Stewart)

Ms. Stewart reported:

- Staffing: Two 28-hr/week staff members have given notice and the Division is working on re-staffing with a mid-level salary (\$20-22/hr.) position.
- A volunteer group “Friends of MBAC” composed of 10 women is active. Their role is as an “influencer group” and are unofficial ambassadors of the Art Center and use social media.
- The December 9th gingerbread workshop/art sale was very successful with 20 artists participating and was a collaboration with Parks and Recreation this year, with more crafts added.
- “Toyetic “ Exhibit (January 12 to April 1) will focus on art works inspired and informed by the toy industry with works from artists John T. Quinn and Chuck Hohng. Both artists will be present at the

opening reception January 12 6-9 pm and there will also be a “Late Night at the Library” event February 9, 8 to 10-pm where the exhibit will be explored with the artist(s) in a casual setting.

Cultural Arts Division update: Public Arts Projects (Martin Betz)

Manager Betz gave a PowerPoint on the topic of Public Arts Projects for 2018 -2019 as an FYI and for discussion as to direction from City Council. He highlighted the following:

- Love Sculpture – (Robert Indiana): staff has the go ahead but the City Council wants to meet with the artist. The original concept will be taken to council for approval January 16. The location will be at the beach with the pier in the background. This is on a 10-year loan which covers the life of the sculpture.
- Sculpture Garden: The RFP has gone out and will be due 3/2/18; cc approval will be 5/2018 and installation 2/2019 and program will be complete 2/2021.
- Mural on Sepulveda: A building at the corner of Marine was shown as a possible site. The process involves: sending out a local Request for Qualifications; getting groups in town together to determine a set of buildings and then working with the building owners. The Council will have the final decision on the artwork. Staff will choose the artist. There is a \$20,000 budget limit. Mr. Betz stated he believes that the murals will stay up as long as the building owner wants.
- Electrical cabinet wrappings: Mr. Betz showed an example from another city. The City will go with one company to fabricate and the wraps should include some historic imagery. Public Works will be assisting in determining the cabinets available. Staff will select 40 images that will be shown to the CAC who will narrow down to 20 to take to Council. Chair Gill requested that staff send the images to the Commissioners prior to the meeting at which this will be discussed.
- Art Grant Program (re-granting back to the community): will be developed early 2018 with CAC review in March and council approval in April, 2018.
- The A.C. Conner exhibit is still being worked on, with anticipated showing in July 2019.

G. COMMISSION ITEMS

Commissioner Rubino gave an update on the proposal that came through Janet Jones to collaborate with the Library on a Saturday event live concert series. The event will not be in the evening. A canopy would cover the musicians and the audience will sit on the slope. The discussion turned towards the possibility of forming some kind of joint sub-committee (Library/CAC) to work on this. The purpose of such committee would be to meet and gather ideas and information and come back to each of the Commissions. It was agreed that Manager Betz will work with City Administration to determine if the CAC and Library Commission can legally form a subcommittee which is formed by two persons from the CAC and others from the Library Commission. Commissioner Rubino will form a basic proposal that will come back to the CAC.

Commissioner May noted that the North End MB Holiday Stroll on December 7 was very successful with 75 artists participating.

Chair Gill announced a FOLA event coming up Mardi Gras Exhibition Sunday January 28 5-7 pm at Laurel Tavern in Hermosa Beach

Commissioner Prigozhin shared his photography with the Commission and noted that he is on Instagram at F_stopper, and is looking for space to exhibit. Chair Gill suggested that he discuss with Manager Betz about what's possible.

H. GENERAL BUSINESS

17/1218.01 Skechers mural proposal review

Chair Gill noted after a staff presentation and questions to staff, and public input, the Commission will discuss this item and take a vote. Manager Betz gave a presentation noting that the requirement for the CAC to review and approve this proposal is wrapped into the city council's approval of the Skechers retail store expansion. There would be a mosaic on both Manhattan Avenue and Manhattan Beach Boulevard. The marine subject matter was chosen as Skechers is also building an aquarium at the end of the pier. The picture shown is a sketch of a mosaic layout. Questions of staff? Mr. Betz indicated there would be no writing as that might make it into a sign. The mosaic will be inset and framed and will occupy an area about 8' x 11'.

The Commission discussed the mosaic. Commissioner Manna stated he had no problems and Chair Gill thought the concept is fine as it relates to the aquarium project. Mr. Betz clarified that this review is part of the building permit and does not go back to the City Council and will be handled administratively.

Public Input

Muralist **Trek Kelly** addressed the Commission, pointing out that this wall on Manhattan Beach Boulevard and the one opposite the Boulevard on the Diane's Bikinis building opposite together form a gateway to the pier and the beach. The location is premium from social media perspective – and he believes that this is a rare opportunity for the city to involve some world class artists. If Mr. Greenberg is not set on this particular plan and if the other owner on the opposite side can be persuaded, some very quality art can be installed. He requested that the CAC consider a recommendation that such a concept be pursued with the other building owner, to form a double mural. Perhaps this particular mural could still be installed down on the pier as part of the aquarium and look at a more sophisticated mosaic that can be done on the two walls.

Martin Betz responded to this input noting that this has been discussed and worked on for some time and this is coming at the last minute. If the CAC votes "no", then this particular sketch would not go forward.

Mr. Kelly suggested that additional time be taken to consider this and he could suggest some very good artists.

Mr. Betz encouraged the commissioners to decide whether to approve or disprove the concept. Commissioner Rubino likes tile and mosaic but doesn't feel it represents Manhattan Beach. Commissioner Prigozhin doesn't like the design as he feels it looks too amateur. Chair Gill suggested an option would be that, as some new valid points have been raised that Skechers could come back to the Commission and be in attendance.

A point was raised that there are two Skechers pieces one on each street and perhaps they should be approved separately.

Chair Gill made a motion to continue the discussion of this item to the next available meeting, that staff should explain the CAC's concerns and request that a representative from Skechers be present. The motion was unanimously passed 4-0-1 (Manna, May, Prigozhin, Rubino, Chair Gill ayes), and one absence (Chase).

Manager Betz informed that the next regular Monday meeting (January 15th) is a holiday and an alternate meeting date will be needed. January 22nd was mentioned as a possible alternative date. Alternative dates were also discussed for the February meeting.

Manager Betz noted that it has not yet been determined when the CAC meeting will start to be publicized.

Commissioner Rubino suggested that staff come up with some specific questions to direct to Skechers for the next meeting.

I. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:45 P.M, Chair Gill adjourned the meeting to the regular meeting at 6:00 P.M. on January 15, 2018 (or alternate date to be determined) in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue; and there being no objections, it was so ordered.