

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

May 21, 2018

Public Safety Facility - Police/Fire Community Room

400/420 15th Street

Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Gill called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.

B. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Manna

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

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 16, 2018

It was moved and seconded (May /Rubino) to approve the April minutes with no changes; the motion carried (3-1-1) with a voice vote. (Ayes: Chase, May, Chair Gill; Abstain: Prigozhin; Absent: Manna)

D. CEREMONIAL

Recognition of Outgoing Chairperson James Gill for his years of service

Recognition of Outgoing Commissioner Alexandra Chase

Cultural Arts Manager Betz announced this was the last meeting for Chairperson James Gill, who has termed out after six years of service, and for Commissioner Chase, who is completing her one year term as student representative. Mr. Betz presented certificates of appreciation to Chair Gill and Commissioner Chase.

Chairperson Gill submitted a thick binder of all his records related to the Cultural Arts Commission (agendas, notes etc) and expressed his appreciation of his fellow commissioners. Commissioner Chase also expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to serve.

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

F. STAFF ITEMS

1. Cultural Arts Division update

- **Art Center exhibits:** Cultural Arts Manager Betz noted two Arts Center upcoming exhibits: “A Day in the Life of Manhattan Beach” (June 29 – August 5) and “Can’t See the Forest For the Trees” (mid-August through mid-October) which will focus on environmental landscapes/photography.
- **Summer concerts:** Manager Betz noted that the concerts program starts in July and commented that there will be fewer promotional pieces and as such the event draw is expected to be somewhat lower. Chair Gill suggested that the Cultural Arts Commission may be a good source of input for Staff in planning the concert events in the future; Mr. Betz noted that this can be done, perhaps when the band roster is finalized.

- **Velazquez mural in City Hall:** Manager Betz noted he has been in contact with the artist's daughter and it has been agreed that the mural, prior to removal will be repaired and made visible for public viewing and the decommissioning process will be documented. Manager Betz thanked Chair Gill for his hard work on this project.
- **Sculpture Garden update:** all of the artists chosen at the last meeting are interested in participating and the art models, which are due to be received June 8 will be reviewed by the Cultural Arts Commission at its next meeting.

2. Cultural Arts Commission Work Plan Update

Manager Betz noted that at the upcoming joint City Council meeting on June 4, discussion will be about work plan items that have so far been approved, with the exception that there may be some additional items added by the Council (though this has not yet been finalized) that have arisen from the Historical Society and the Council may be asking the Commission to do some programming for some arts related events ("walkabouts") which are small neighborhood festivals or events (e.g. a block party scale).

Commissioner Rubino inquired as to whether any new programs such as performing arts, other than through the community grant program, can still be added to the Plan. Mr. Betz noted that staff resources are a key issue but he would meet with Commissioner Rubino to discuss this issue.

3. Utility Box Beautification Presentation

Ceramics Supervisor Eilen Stewart gave a slide presentation, indicating that staff has conducted an initial city-wide search for utility boxes in well trafficked (cars as well as pedestrians) areas that might work well for the program. Forty locations initially have been identified but there is funding for between 15-20 boxes. More vetting will need to be done, but at this point Staff would like the Commission's input on how to prioritize locations throughout the city. Each location is unique but some issues to be considered include whether the location is in front of a residence or business or public area, the size and visibility and whether the box is a single or multiple box situation and if multiple, how that should be treated (i.e. use more than one artist concept?).

The Commission viewed an overview map showing all 40 locations and then looked in detail at several slides and photos of locations. The Commission discussed and came to a consensus suggesting the following guidelines for Staff to use in vetting possible wrapped utility box locations: Tier 1 (highest value) locations in "public areas" (e.g. at parks or a public parking structure). Locations adjacent to a front of a private residence are to be avoided. Next in priority or, Tier 2 would be locations adjoining commercial uses that are highly trafficked (e.g. along Rosecrans east of Sepulveda). The Commission was also in agreement that locations include as many throughout the City as meeting the criteria and that when more than one box is in front of a single address and/or there is a group of boxes in a single location (e.g. Parque Culiacan) a single theme and artist should be used. Beyond these points, the Commission also suggested that, if possible, a process could be established that would allow expansion into residential areas; if after the program is implemented, there is interest from the community. Regarding visual content, in order to encourage a creative approach, the Commission suggested possibly including in the RFP, a catalog of historic city images that might serve as inspiration for the proposed wrap images. Lastly opposed to mandating specific images.

Manager Betz noted that staff will incorporate this input into the RFQ which will be brought back to the Commission for review.

Chairperson Gill invited public comment.

Mrs. James Gill commented that she felt it important that there is a commitment of ongoing maintenance for as long as the boxes are in their wrapped condition.

DeAnn Chase suggested that the utility box sites chosen should be spread out into the community and be in very active locations.

F. COMMISSION ITEMS

Each Commissioner personally thanked Chair Gill and Commissioner Chase for their service, leadership and individual contributions.

Chair Gill announced a FOLA (Foundation of Local Arts) art show and school fundraiser on May 30th at Playa Hemosa Fish and Oyster in Hermosa Beach.

G. GENERAL BUSINESS

18.0521.01 Approval of Arts in Public Places Committee Membership

Cultural Arts Manager Betz gave a brief overview, explaining that this matter had its beginning back in April when the City Council approved the decommissioning and replacement of the Velaquez mural in the City Hall lobby but was specifically directed by the City Council at its May 1, 2018 meeting as a fast-tracked committee formation. The Art in Public Places Committee (APPC) being formed will be tasked with making recommendaitons on: 1) development of a scope and RFQ for the placement of a new art work in the City Hall lobby, and; 2) a specific artist for the replacement art work in the lobby, and; 3) to develop a scope and recommend locations and artwork to be installed in various locations as directed by the City Council. He explained the committee makeup which will include: (2 ea) Arts Professionals, (1 ea) college student, (2 ea) at-large community members, (1 ea) member of the Cultural Arts Commission, and the Student Representative of the Cultural Arts Commission (Grayson Matsumoto, recently appointed).

The action of the CAC tonight is two-fold: 1) appoint a member of the Cultural Arts Commission to the APPC, and 2) approve the entire roster of the Committee as chosen by Staff, along with the approved CAC member. Manager Betz described the backgrounds of Eve Rappaport, Amelia Amell, Emerald Padgett, Orhan Taner and Ksenia Peter who, with student Grayson Matsumodo would form the committee.

Chair Gill invited public comment.

DeAnn Chase commented that outgoing Commissioner Alex Chase would be a great addition to the APPC but understands the roster does not have a space that fits her situation. Manager Betz suggested that Ms. Chase might consider joining the group known as “Friends of the Manhattan Beach Arts Center”.

After a brief discussion it was moved and seconded (Gill/Chase) to appoint Commissioner Jacki May to the APPC Ad Hoc Committee. The motion passed 5-1 by vote vote (Ayes: Chase, May, Prigozhin, Rubino, Gill; Absent: Manna).

It was moved and seconded (Rubino/Chase) to approve the entire roster of proposed community members as chosen by staff, including a student representative and Commissioner Jacki May for the proposed Arts in Public Places Committee. The motion passed 5-1 by vote vote (Ayes: Chase, May, Prigozhin, Rubino, Gill; Absent: Manna).

Appointment of 2018-2019 Commision Chair

Chair Gill noted that Commissioner Manna is aware that he will be nominated for Chair and is agreeable. A motion was made and seconded (Gill/May) that Fred Manna be appointed as Chairperson for the Cultural Arts Commission, The motion passed 5-1 by vote vote (Ayes: Chase, May, Prigozhin, Rubino, Gill; Absent: Manna).

H. ADJOURNMENT

Following his final comments stating it was an honor to serve the last six years on the Commission, at 7:25, P.M, Chair Gill adjourned the meeting to the regular meeting at 6:00 P.M. on June 18, 2018 in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue; and there being no objections, it was so ordered.