

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

July 19, 2021

Meeting by teleconference (Zoom) – in accordance with procedures on agenda
1400 Highland Avenue
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Marcy called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Manna, Spackman, Tokashiki, Rubino, Chair Marcy

Absent: Ryan

Staff present: Eilen Stewart, Cultural Arts Manager (CAM), Linda Robb, Parks and Recreation Management Analyst.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - June 21, 2021

It was moved and seconded (**Tokashiki/Rubino**) to approve the minutes as submitted; the motion passed by a roll call vote 5 – 1 (Ayes: Manna, Robino, Spackman, Tokashiki, Chair Marcy; Absent: Ryan).

D. CEREMONIAL – None

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

F. GENERAL BUSINESS

Discussion of Work Plan Items

a) MBAC (Art Center) Revamp: **Manna, Rubino, Spackman**

Commissioner Rubino noted she started looking into possible sign contractors however some guidance is needed; it was agreed that this issue would be discussed with **CAM Stewart** outside the meeting.

b) PR and Marketing Campaign: **Manna, Spackman**

Commissioner Manna stated there was nothing to report.

Before continuing with committee reports, there was a discussion about how the committees should move forward including Brown Act implications. **CAM Stewart** clarified that under the Brown Act no more than 3 (out of 6 commissioners, or a simple majority forming a quorum) should meet or communicate on an item of Commission business. This rule applies to all forms of communications, not just meetings.

It was discussed that each committee should first meet as a whole, to determine meeting availability for the group and may designate a spokesperson for the group. After meeting first as a committee then it would be appropriate for each spokesperson to arrange a meeting with **CAM Stewart**. The purpose of the meeting should be clearly stated so that staff can prepare.

c) Rainbow Crosswalk: **Marcy, Rubino, Ryan**

CAM Stewart reported that she has received feedback on crosswalk locations from City Traffic Engineer Zandvliet. Mr. Zandvliet anticipates that installing a brand new crosswalk on MBB mid-

block from the Art Center to Polliwog Park would require a budget upwards of a million dollars and take multiple years to implement. Two other locations discussed were intersections at Morningside/MBB and Highland Avenue at either 34th or 36th Street. The Traffic Engineer noted that at these locations the existing crosswalks are paved with a blue tile-like material which would have to be removed, which adds cost. Mr. Zandliet also informed that the intersection of MBB and Peck Avenue is planned to be upgraded and possibly the Rainbow Crosswalk project could be incorporated into that project. The possible down side is that the project is not expected to be implemented for several months possibly up to 2 years; it is not clear at what point the rainbow crosswalk can be installed as a part of that project.

Chair Marcy noted that he has understood that the Rainbow Crosswalk project has had a relatively high level of urgency and the thought has been to potentially implement it during June as part of a pride month celebration. He inquired as to next steps. **CAM Stewart** noted that the next step would be for staff to write a staff report to the City Council for their consideration of a specific project approval, but this is in a holding pattern currently and she needs direction from the Commission.

CAM Stewart clarified that the way the options are presented to Council is up to the Commission - options can be listed and ranked if desired. The Commission can suggest project priorities, with the awareness that Council has final authority. After some discussion there was consensus that there are only two locations that should be presented as possible locations: MBB/Morningside (downtown) and MBB/Peck Avenue. A Highland intersection, while previously discussed was dropped from consideration. **CAM Stewart** requested that the project status template be updated to show the locations to be considered and she will also update her notes. **Chair Marcy** offered to review the project with **Commissioner Spackman**.

Commissioner Manna suggested that of the two locations he feels the one most likely to be approved was MBB/Peck Avenue as this location is already slated for improvement and is a prominent location. There was agreement that Peck/MBB is the preferred of the two locations.

Commissioner Rubino will send out all powerpoint presentations that she has that have been shared with the Commission on projects.

- d) Arts Grants – Murals: **Ryan, Tokashiki**
Commissioner Tokahashi reported that direction is needed since both committee members are new to the Commission. **Commissioner Manna** noted that the Bo Bridges mural has been installed on the parking structure west wall on 13th Street.
- e) Arts Grants - Utility Infrastructure Beautification: **Marcy, Rubino**
Chair Marcy reported that a suggestion was received that manhole covers be included among the public utility items that might be beautified. The Committee will look into that suggestion.
- f) Arts Grants - Sculpture Garden: **Manna, Ryan, Tokashiki**
CAM Stewart noted that due to recent uptick in COVID cases it is uncertain as to when Public Works can relocate the Egrets and Dragon Tale sculptures that will be permanent installations. **Chair Manna** reiterated one item to be investigated will be any practical issues regarding changing installation methods away from the traditional “pot and pole”.
- g) Arts Grants - Performing Arts: **Rubino, Spackman, Tokashiki**

Commissioner Rubino reported that the Committee still needs to meet but she questioned whether there was any progress on the arts grants general guidelines. **Chair Marcy** noted that there is a subcommittee (**Spackman, Tokashiki, Marcy**) working on the general guidelines, progress has stalled but he will take the lead. **Chair Marcy** commented, **CAM Stewart** agreed that the Committees should not be waiting for the general guidelines to be developed, but should now be looking for any guidelines that are unique to their project which might supplement the general guidelines. For example, for performing arts, the committee can consider which types of performing events and activities would be desired.

h) Arts Grants - Digital Wall Art (City Hall): **Manna, Spackman**

Commissioner Manna stated that the committee still needs to meet but they would like to consult with **Chair Marcy** as well to tap into his resources and Chair Marcy stated he would be happy to meet with the Committee.

i) Arts Grants - School/Education: **Rubino, Ryan**

Commissioner Rubino stated that there was no new information to report.

j) Arts Grants - Permanent Sculpture: **Manna, Ryan, Tokashiki**

Commissioner Manna stated that there was no new information to report.

CAM Stewart raised the question about how to proceed with the general guidelines for the arts grants. **Chair Marcy** suggested and it was agreed that the committee meet offline with **CAM Stewart** before bringing this item forward for discussion by the entire Commission, hopefully at the next meeting.

G. **STAFF ITEMS**

CAM Stewart reported:

- PATF (trust fund) status: total is approximately \$2.1 million including with \$1 million allocated and about \$1.1 million unallocated; no funds will expire until 2023. A recent allocation of \$350k was made for artwork at Bruce's Beach. **CAM Stewart** explained that expiration occurs if funds are not allocated within 5 years of being collected.
- Cultural Arts Division: The *Annual Community Exhibition – 80 Years of Creating Community* is installed and ongoing; **CAM Stewart** cautioned that the mask mandate is back in place. The Patricia Vader piece that was a temporary loan for the Sculpture Garden program has been taken down and returned to the artist.
- Work Plan project template sheets: Prior to each meeting, each committee shall submit to **CAM Stewart** and **Linda Rob** one updated template sheet per work plan item, that reflects progress made by the committee as a whole. She will assume if no update is submitted, there is no progress to report. It is not expected that progress can be made on all projects for each meeting.
- City Council Updates: None
- **CAM Stewart** reported she has been promoted from interim to permanent Cultural Arts Manager. The commissioners expressed their congratulations.

H. **COMMISSION ITEMS**

Commissioner Manna informed that he was notified by resident Gary McAuley that multi-colored plastic materials have been attached to the screening at the Live Oak Park dog park. Mr. McAuley feels this installation has a somewhat “cheesy” appearance and requested this be brought to the attention of the City.

CAM Stewart informed that this topic – i.e. how “guerrilla” art installations should be handled by the City - would fit well within a discussion currently going on at the staff level in developing a policy on art donations and the like. The Commissioners are encouraged to email their thoughts to her.

I. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:00 P.M, Chair Marcy, seeing no objection, adjourned the meeting to August 16, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.