

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

February 11, 2014

Manhattan Beach City Council Chambers

1400 Highland Avenue

Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:02PM

**B. ROLL CALL**

Present: Chairperson James Gill, Vice Chairperson Nancy Dunn, Commissioners Russ Samuels, Peter De Maria and Loli Ramezani

Absent: none

Others Present: Recreation Services Manager Gina Allen

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

None

**D. CEREMONIAL**

None

**E. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

None

**F. CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER REPORT**

Recreation Services Manager Gina Allen reported that eight candidates had been interviewed for the position of Cultural Arts Manager. The list has been narrowed down to three candidates that will have a second interview the following week.

Centennial update –Rebecca Ansert, the Department’s Public Art Consultant, is working with the artist on the fabrication of Light Gate. Once there is more to discuss, Rebecca will attend a commission meeting and report further details. Once the Light Gate is finished, it will be placed in its permanent location. There will be no temporary location.

The Sculpture Garden Finalist will be presented to City Council at the February 18<sup>th</sup> meeting along with the new architectural designs for the Strand Bench Program.

Chairperson Gill inquired about the Cultural Arts Master Plan. Ms. Allen said that a consultant had been contacted and that information is being gathered as to the cost and scope of developing the Cultural Arts Master Plan. Once that is compiled, a staff report will be prepared and presented.

**G. CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION ITEMS:**

Commissioner Ramezani – Arts Manhattan is participating in the Palm Springs Art festival February 14-17<sup>th</sup>. The festival is open to the public.

Chairperson Gill – attended a Foundation of Local Arts fundraiser for arts in the school district two weeks ago. It appeared to be successful and the funds are to be donated to arts programs in our local school district.

**H. GENERAL BUSINESS:**

**13/0813.4 Strand Bench Program**

Resident John Bushman presented a new bench design. Commissioner Gill asked about the price point. The cost of the bench would be \$900 plus shipping. He and his siblings would like to have a bench on the Strand in their parents’ honor and none of the current Strand Alcove Bench Program choices are appealing to them.

Ms. Allen reviewed the Strand Bench Program presentation for City Council. Artist John Sporano presented his design, “The Loop.” The overall resident cost for the bench including shipping will be \$18,250. Lead time will be 90 days. Chairperson Gill expressed concern about the price being higher than he had imagined as he had expected this simple design to come in at the bottom of the price range. Ms. Allen reviewed the purchase policy that the donor and artist deal directly with each other and then the City receives the bench as a donation. Mr. Sporano will speak with fabricator to see if the price can be adjusted.

Artist Stacy Dukes was unable to attend due to a family emergency. Gina presented Mr. Duke’s six bench designs. Mr. Dukes requested that the Commissioners pick the one that they would like presented to the City Council. All of the designs use the same material, as the current approved “Wave” design. All designs would sit on the same base as the current “Wave” bench. The cost of the “Wave” bench is \$8500, the new design will be closer to \$9000.

[5 minute recess to allow the Commissioners and public to view Mr. Duke’s samples]

Artist Gaston Nogues presented his design “Puddle.” Material would be copper because of formability but could be stainless steel. Thermal flame spray finish would have a white glazed finish that would reflect the heat of the sun and resist abrasion. The form could be filled with high density foam or concrete to regulate the heat and reduce any hollow sound when sat upon. The current costs for one bench is \$16,000, for two benches \$23,000 with a lead time of one month. Mr. Nogues will recalculate a price based on production of five benches with the hope of reducing the cost of the benches for donors.

He also said that the price could come down if stainless steel is used instead of copper. The finish color can be white or gray but the white is much more attractive in his opinion.

Chairperson Gill opened the floor for public comment. Seeing none, public comment was closed.

The Commissioners voted to present Stacy Dukes bench #2 design to City Council if only allowed to present one bench. Ms. Allen will check with the City Clerk to see if more than one design may be presented.

Commissioner Samuels wanted to acknowledge to the City Council that a vision statement for the Strand Alcove Bench Program is being created and will be worked on with a consultant. Ms. Allen stated that this program was a City Council directive and was in the 2005-2007 work plan. The City Council directed staff and the Commission to establish this program and policies. The Commission proposed that there be several bench designs approved to be offered for the program so the donor could select from the list. Commissioner DeMaria stated that there was no direction as far as aesthetics, the Commission had been approached by residents to get benches on the strand but the process was subjective and took a long time.

Commissioner Ramezani asked how the process will work if a citizen does not like the benches in the program and wants to have a different design. Commissioner Samuels stated that this is why the vision statement/guidelines are important. Commissioner Ramezani stated that the guidelines need to be objective and easier to understand so that if a citizen wants to seek their own design, they will have the requirements for their commissioned piece.

**I. COMMISSION ITEMS:**

Chairperson Gill stated that the Ansel Adams Exhibit should be on every agenda until the show occurs.

Commissioner De Maria is working on protocol templates for the Sculpture Garden and the Strand Alcove Bench program.

The Commissioners and Ms. Allen addressed an artist's concern regarding her mockette for the Sculpture Garden. The outcome was that Ms. Allen reviewed procedures with staff to avoid future confusion.

Commissioner Dunn mentioned that Commissioner De Maria's term will be expiring in June, so the Commissioners should start thinking about people who might be interested in serving on the Commission.

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairperson Gill made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Samuels seconded the motion.

Ayes: Commissioners Gill, Dunn, Ramezani and Samuels

Noes: None

Abstain: None

The motion passes.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.

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Gina Allen  
Recreation Services Manager

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James Gill  
Commission Chairperson