

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

May 12, 2015

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

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM.

B. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

C. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners, Dunn, Gill, Samuels, May, Ramezani

Absent: None

Others present: Cultural Arts Manager, Martin Betz and Recording Secretary, Linda Robb

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Gill moved to approve the April 14, 2015 minutes as written. Commissioner Ramezani seconded the motion.

The motion passed.

Ayes: Commissioners Dunn, May, Ramezani, Samuels and Gill

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

E. CEREMONIAL

None

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Chairperson Dunn opened the floor to audience participation.

Virginia Vilchis (resident and artist) showed a proposal for an art installation related to the Special Olympics World Games. The proposed piece would be at the Pier and stretch 729 feet down the pier. Commissioner Gill asked about the expenses. Ms. Vilchis stated that she is hoping that the City will financially support the project. Commissioner Gill recommended meeting with the Mayor to tell him of her idea and also meet with the City Manager to ask how to expedite. Commissioner Dunn also recommended speaking with the Mayor and also contacting the Special Olympics Host Town committee.

Commissioner Ramezani echoed the sentiment and stated that the short timeline will make it challenging to get installed. Perhaps this is a project that may be done without the Special Olympic relationship so the timeline could be extended.

Commissioner May stated that Ms. Vilchis should go through the process and not try to approach the members of the City Council individually. She cautioned that it may be a

lengthy process to obtain approval from the Coastal Commission. Additionally, she stated that the pier is an icon that belongs to the public and putting an installation there may be controversial.

Cultural Arts Manager, Martin Betz stated that Ms. Vilchis has been advised to think of the project as timeless and not attach it to a particular event so that it would have the time to go through the proper process.

Commissioner Samuels moved to request from City Council to place the subject on the Commission agenda. James Gill seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ayes: Commissioners Dunn, May, Ramezani, Samuels and Gill

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Gary McAulay (resident)– Thanked the Commission for realizing that there are many issues and it is not a great idea to rush things through. It is important to go through the proper processes.

The floor was closed to audience participation.

G. STAFF ITEMS

Mr. Betz thanked the Commissioners who attended the opening for the Jim Murray exhibition. He stated that the show that was scheduled next has been cancelled so there will be some rehab work in the art center.

Mr. Betz will bring the exhibition calendar to the next Commission meeting.

Sculpture Garden – Mr. Betz stated that he is finalizing contracts for installation in July. There are some pieces coming in from out of state. Once the pieces are in, the reception will be at the Art Center.

Commissioner Dunn inquired about the development of an app that will give a tour of the public art using QR codes. Mr. Betz replied that there are several things being considered.

Mr. Betz reported that the Feelgood Festival was a success and many things were learned about how to make it better for next year.

Mr. Betz distributed the budget that reflects funds that have been committed. Commissioner Dunn asked about the time limit on the undesignated balance. Mr. Betz stated that there is a five year limit. The funds need to be designated within five years, not spent. Commissioner Ramezani asked if the Art Lab is to be funded from the Public Art Trust Fund. Mr. Betz confirmed that the funding for Art Lab would come from these funds.

Strand Bench Policy - Mr. Betz stated that the Strand Bench policy will be presented to the City Council. The policy will round up all the loose details.

Commissioner Samuels asked if there was an update on communications with Stacy Dukes and buyer, Gerry Martin. Mr. Betz stated that he has been in communication with both parties.

H. COMMISSION ITEMS:

none

I. GENERAL BUSINESS:

15/0512.1 Youth Art Initiative – Mr. Betz made a presentation on Art Lab MB- a program that will be facilitated at the Art Center. This program will be an intensified afterschool program that will allow art and non-art students from Mira Costa High School to work on independent projects in a non-academic environment alongside professional artists/mentors.

There will be two arts professionals in the program. Studio time will be Wednesdays from 3:00 – 7:00 pm and Fridays from 6:00 – 10:00 pm.

The program will run for the school year starting in September and may accommodate up to 30 students.

Parents will sign some sort of commitment to ensure regular attendance.

ArtLab MB will be subsidized for the first year to develop the program and create a track record. Grants will be secured in following years. Commissioner Ramezani asked if the students would be charged. Mr. Betz stated that there may be a nominal fee. Supplies would be provided. Mr. Betz stated that he is trying to create an opportunity for students to be creative without having to worry about how much the project will cost. Commissioner May stated that the program could probably get donations of tools.

Commissioner Dunn stated that she could connect Martin with Sammy Hoi from Otis to give a tour of the Otis studio and to get an idea of the philosophy of setting up a studio. She suggested getting high profile artists in on a schedule and making it an academy. She also suggested partnering with local art schools to help pave the way for students to get into great art schools.

Commissioner May mentioned going to visit artists with the students.

Commissioner May asked if the students would have an opportunity to show their work around the area. Mr. Betz said that there would be opportunities. Commissioner May stated that the City really needs an Art Group with members of all ages.

Commissioner Ramezani mentioned that making connections with museums would be beneficial. She also stated that the students are selecting their classes for next year now so it might be a good idea to present this idea to the art teachers so they can talk about to the students. Mr. Betz stated that the teachers are already aware of the program.

Commissioner May stated there are local residents who might be willing to show their personal collections to the students as well.

Commissioners Gill and Samuels both support the idea. Commissioner Samuels stated that if the program will be a one or two year expense he support it but would be hesitant to start a program with an ongoing expense.

Commissioner Ramezani stated that FOLA would be a good partner as they support arts and art education.

Commissioner May made a motion to accept the proposal and recommend that City Council approve the funds. Commissioner Samuels seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ayes: Commissioners Dunn, May, Ramezani, Samuels and Gill

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

15/0202.1 Marlo Bartels Strand Bench – Mr. Betz stated that he received a letter from a structural engineer stating that the benches are structurally sound. Commissioner Gill stated that it was requested that the artist come back with a more realistic model. Commissioner Samuels stated that he loves the idea of the bench but is not comfortable with approving the bench without a more accurate rendering. Commissioner Ramezani stated that she does not want to set a precedent for not sticking to the Commissions’ original request. Commissioner Dunn asked Mr. Betz to go back and ask for a rendering. The Commission agreed to take no action until a design can be presented.

14/0708.1 Decommissioning Policy for Public Sculpture – The Commission reviewed the document that will be presented to the City Council. Mr. Betz showed the commissioners the worksheet that will need to be worked through in the event that a piece is considered for decommissioning. Commissioner Gill stated that the reasons for decommissioning on the form do not match the wording in the policy. Mr. Betz stated that he would go through and match up the wording. Commissioner Samuels asked that the verbiage of the form match the verbiage of the policy and asked that the worksheet be put on the agenda for discussion.

The floor was opened to public comment.

Gary McAulay (resident) requested and received a copy of the Decommissioning policy.

Selection of 2015/2016 Cultural Arts Commission Chair – Commissioner Gill moved to appoint Commissioner Ramezani as Chair. Commissioner Samuels seconded the motion.

Ayes: Commissioners Dunn, May, Ramezani, Samuels and Gill

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Commissioner Samuels moved to appoint Commissioner May as Vice Chair. Commissioner Gill seconded the motion.

Ayes: Commissioners Dunn, May, Ramezani, Samuels and Gill

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

J. ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Samuels moved to adjourn. Commissioner Dunn seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Ayes: Commissioners Dunn, May, Ramezani, Samuels and Gill

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none