

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

February 9, 2016
Manhattan Beach City Council Chambers
1400 Highland Avenue
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM.

B. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

C. ROLL CALL

Present: May, Samuels, Chairperson Ramezani

Absent: Dunn, Gill

Others present: Martin Betz, Cultural Arts Manager, Rosemary Lackow, Recording Secretary.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 12, 2016

A motion was made and seconded (Samuels/May) to approve the January 12, 2016 minutes with the following changes:

Pg. 2: (typo) Second paragraph (Sculpture Garden Update) second line: Replace “Mt.” with “Mr.” as follows:

“...the Arts Center January 7. ~~Mt.~~ Mr. Betz noted that the artists....”

Pg. 3: Fourth paragraph from top, third line from bottom, revise to read:

Commissioner Gill noted the ribbon cutting ~~is scheduled for~~ was February 25 last year and it was agreed....

Pg. 4: third paragraph from top, first sentence: revise to read:

“Chairperson Ramezani ~~inquired as to why~~ stated that the Commissioners are not getting notification of shows, ~~as~~ and they would appreciate.....”

Ayes: May, Samuels, Chairperson Ramezani.

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Dunn, Gill

E. CEREMONIAL None

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-Minute Limit)

Anne Pitts, resident, stated that she had seen a sculptor at a recent art show whose work she thought would be a good fit for Manhattan Beach. Chair Ramezani explained about funding, an issue because public money is involved and emphasized that all details must be fully vetted before a proposal for an art commission goes to City Council for approval.

Commissioner Samuels added that the City has a duty to conduct the selection process fairly and openly and ideally Ms. Pitts would be following the CAC process and participate. Commissioner Samuels also noted that the process is more project driven as opposed to deciding about a single proposed art piece. He advised it is probably better for the artist to come to the City with an interest letter to be submitted to Mr. Betz. Mr. Betz gave Ms. Pitts his business card and offered to speak with her in more detail at her convenience about submitting a proposal.

G. STAFF ITEMS:

Budget update

Cultural Arts Manager Betz distributed the same print out as in January – he is going to bring it every time and will comment of any change in status. Over \$400k is available to spend on public arts. There is a maximum permanent balance which can be an issue after 5 years.

75th Anniversary of Manhattan Beach Parks and Recreation Department

Manager Betz explained there will be a full day summer music festival in the park on July 24 which will include a morning yoga session followed by several bands. Booking is almost complete for the bands (genre will be reggae/blues). The event will be free to the public and there will be also food booths and some visual arts activities including a tour of the Art Center and Art in the Park.

There was brief discussion regarding how bands are chosen.

Update on Cultural Arts Division - Mr. Betz gave the following updates:

- **Staff retreat:** planned for March 21. The location is still undecided but staff is looking into having it at the Malibu Getty Museum. The first half of the retreat would be oriented towards the facility, art and a tour, then after lunch, staff would work on programming and various issues. Mr. Betz stated that he should know the venue location by the end of the week.
- **Joint City Council/CAC meeting:** Staff is still awaiting a date and this is the same status as with other commissions.
- **Plaques:** all the sculptures now have plaques; the *Light Gate* plaque is on the adjoining wall.
- **Kiosk Project:** Staff does not know yet how this will proceed.
- **Downtown Specific Plan:** The Community Development Department which is administering this project will continue to work with Mr. Betz and inform him when he should schedule a review by the CAC. All of the Cultural Arts Commissioners are encouraged to follow this program and provide input.
- **List of Projects:** these are being monitored by staff for future consideration by the CAC: Museum kiosk, the permanent sculpture garden and input on the Downtown

Specific Plan. This is the same list that will be agendaized for discussion at the joint meeting with City Council. Mr. Betz will add the joint meeting to the CAC agenda in March, if the joint meeting will be scheduled for April.

- Brief discussion followed regarding the Sculpture Garden. Mr. Betz responded to the Chair that the last piece of sculpture has not yet been installed and he plans to include this on the March agenda. Mr. Betz encouraged the Chair to be involved in the agenda preparation.

H. COMMISSION ITEMS

Commissioner May reported that she had a meeting with the artists group. Even though only a few people showed up, there were a lot of good ideas on how to encourage art in the City. However, more participation is needed in this group and Commissioner May will schedule another meeting. Mr. Betz is invited and supports this group, but staff authority is limited. Commissioner May is confident that once the group gets more firm, more activity will happen.

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

15/1208.1 Sculpture Garden

Mr. Betz advised that this item will be on the agenda in March and there was no discussion.

J. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded (May/Samuels) to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 PM to 6:00 PM on March 8, 2016 in the Council Chambers. The motion passed with the following roll-call vote:

Ayes:	May, Samuels, Chairperson Ramezani
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Dunn, Gill