

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

August 13, 2013
City Managers Conference Room
1400 Highland Avenue
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm, then adjourned at 6:05pm and relocated to the City Council Chambers.

The meeting was again called to order at 6:10pm.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioner James Gill
Commissioner Nancy Dunn*
Commissioner Russ Samuels
Commissioner Loli Ramezani
Commissioner Peter De Maria
*Arrived at 6:28p.m

Others Present: Recreation Services Manager, Gina Allen
Administrative Clerk, Jasmine Williams

C. APPROVAL MINUTES

July 10, 2013 minutes approved.

D. CEREMONIAL

None

E. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

John Bushman, Resident, would like to propose to have a bench on the strand for his parents who passed away and were well known in the community. Mr. Bushman is not the designer of the bench, and states that the bench is one of a kind. Mr. Bushman anticipates the cost of the bench will be anywhere from \$600-\$700.

Commissioner Gill stated that the City is trying to create a brochure of benches that are already made so that in the future other people who may want a bench can have a list to choose from instead of going out and finding a bench of their own, which will be pre-approved by City Council.

Commissioner Gill explains the process of getting a bench to Mr. Bushman. Commissioner Gill lets Mr. Bushman know that they will take his proposal, submit it to Council, and if approved to be placed on the next agenda he will be contacted by Recreation Services Manager, Gina Allen.

Robert Enriquez, Business Owner in Manhattan Beach, Talent Manager and Film Producer, would like to announce a film festival to be held in the City of Manhattan Beach. Mr. Enriquez has teamed up with a film festival that is based out of Miami, Florida, the Sun Screen Film Festival East. The film festival, if held in Manhattan Beach, will be called the Sun Screen Festival Film Festival West. Mr. Enriquez would like the festival to be held at Archlight as well as Raleigh Studios. The festival is scheduled to be held October 11th, 12th, and 13th.

Commissioner Ramezani states that she thought this was a great idea when presented to her and wondered how the Commissioners could help.

Commissioner Gill states that since the Archlight Theater is in El Segundo there isn't much involvement we could have there. Commissioner Gill also states that Raleigh Studios is private property. Mr. Enriquez states that he has offices at Raleigh studios and that he has already talked to staff in regards to having the festival there. Mr. Enriquez would like the City's help as far as exposure.

Commissioner Gill asked Mr. Enriquez to email Commissioner Ramezani with further ideas of how the Commission can help. Commissioner Gill suggests that maybe Mr. Enriquez could attend a few more meetings and during the public comment section, make an announcement giving more information such as date and time of the film festival.

Commissioner Gill closed public comment section.

F. Cultural Arts Manager Report

Mrs. Gina Allen stated that the candidate for the Cultural Arts Manager position has not been filled as of yet and that they are continuing to look for someone to fill the position.

Mrs. Allen stated that the "Meet and Great" library meeting was very well attended and the walking tour was also well received.

Commissioner Samuels suggested that it would benefit the Commission if Commissioners could attend the library meetings.

Mrs. Allen stated that the Strand Bench Program brochure is being updated.

Commissioner Dunn asked if the minutes have been approved. Mrs. Allen said yes. Mrs. Allen announced the following upcoming department events:

- 5th Annual Kids Extreme - August 16th
- Concerts in the Park, the Suzy Hansen Latin Band - August 18th
- Manhattan Beach Open - August 24th -25th
- Concerts in the Park Neil Diamond Tribute - August 25th
- Concert in the Park Sunday Classic Rock Nathan Shrike - September 1st

- Older Adult Art Exhibition entry form
- Push and Flow Art Exhibit at the Creative Arts Center – Opening Reception, September 13th from 7pm to 9pm, artist talk at 6pm and a lecture by the artist October 5th at 2pm.

Commissioner Dunn asked if the Push and Flow exhibition was presented by the City. Mrs. Allen answered yes.

Mrs. Allen let the Commissioners know that she will be on vacation next month and that Megumi will be filling in while she was gone.

Mrs. Allen introduced Jasmine Williams, Registration Clerk, as this evening recording secretary.

Commissioner Gill asked what is the status was of the Light Gate. Mrs. Allen answered that it was still with the artist for their review.

G. Commission Announcements

Commissioner Ramezani asked how to get the Sun Screen Film Festival on the agenda so it could be discussed at a future meeting. Mrs. Allen explained that Commissioner Ramezani can bring it up as a Commission Items, and if the Commission makes a motion and agrees, it will become a new business item in the General Business section at the later meetings.

Commissioner Dunn reports that her friend, who is an actor and producer, has created a show called After Birth. This fall will be its 10th anniversary. It is a spoken word night.

Commissioner De Maria states that Allison Wright will be having a book signing on August 21st at 7:00 pm at Paige's Book Store.

H. General Business

13/0801.0 Ansel Adams Exhibition

It was discussed at the last meeting that the Ansel Adams Exhibition would be postponed until next year. Mrs. Allen stated that she has some possible dates for the event and the previously estimated budget, which requires revision.

Commissioner Dunn stated that she will put together a schedule working backwards from the possible dates. She will present the information and determine how to proceed.

Commissioner Gill opens public participation. Seeing none, he closes public participation.

13/0208.1 Sculptural Garden Annual Exhibition

Recreation Services Manager, Gina Allen informs the Commissioners that a staff report needs to be put together and a motion needs to be made for Council's approval for a direct invitation process. Mrs. Allen also reminded the Commissioners that they wanted to extend the dates on two contracts, which also requires Council's approval.

Commissioner Gill asked if the Commission could extent the contracts for an additional twelve months. Mrs. Allen answered yes.

Commissioner Samuels suggested to the Commission to expire both contracts at the same time opposed to them having different expiration dates.

Commissioner Gill stated to simply extent the contracts by twelve months from the contracts original end dates.

Motion: Commissioner Samuels moved to seek City Council's approval to extend the contracts for Believe Green and Not a Step for one year. Commissioner Ramezani seconds that motion.

Ayes: Commissioner Gill, Dunn, Samuels, Ramezani, De Maria
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

Commissioner Gill stated that an amount for the 2013-2014 Sculpture Garden artist stipends needed to be determined.

Commissioner Dunn explained that in previous years the stipend was \$2500 and the Commission wanted to raise the amount to \$3500.

Commissioner Ramezani believes that the \$3500 is a fair amount.

Mrs. Allen confirms that the artist fee had been and is still currently \$2500.

Commissioner Gill suggested raising the amount by an additional \$500.

Commissioner Samuels would like to raise it to \$5000.

Commissioner Gill believes that it should not be raised to \$5000 because that would be doubling the budget.

Mrs. Allen stated that the minutes from March 12, 2013 indicated that the Commission has agreed to raise the artist stipend to \$3000.

Commissioner Samuels believes that if the artist stipend is going to be raised it should be more than \$3000.

Commissioner Dunn agrees with Commissioner Samuels and believes the fee should be raised to \$5000

Motion: Commissioner Samuels moves to seek City Council's approval to spend up to \$35,000 for artist stipends for up to seven new sculptures. Commissioner Dunn seconds that motion.

Ayes: Commissioner Gill, Dunn, Samuels, Ramezani, De Maria

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Mrs. Allen states that a motion is needed for the invitation process.

Motion: Commissioner Gill moves to seek City Council's approval for a direct invitation process for the 2013 Sculptural Garden Program. Commissioner Samuels seconds that motion.

Ayes: Commissioner Gill, Dunn, Samuels, Ramezani, De Maria

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Commissioner Ramezani points out that the Sculpture Garden pieces do not have plaques or descriptions.

Commissioner Gill stated that everything is online.

Mrs. Allen states that there are brochures and that they are located near each piece. However, they are not available at this time. Staff is looking into creating an app where people can look up information on their smart phones or call a tour phone number.

Commissioner De Maria suggested that when someone is in their first or second year on the Commission, they should become the liaison for the Sculpture Garden Project for that year.

Commissioner Samuels asked Mrs. Allen if she had the invitation prepared.

Mrs. Allen stated yes, that it was the invitation the Commission had approved some months ago. All it required was a new timeline and artist stipend amount. The invitation, along with a staff report, would be presented to Council. Once approved it could be sent out.

Mrs. Allen stated that the invitations will state that selected artist will be compensated with an honorarium of \$5000, and that the doubling of the fee will be written in the staff report.

Commissioner Samuels stated that he would like Public Works to notify the Commission if any extra costs may be involved during installation.

Mrs. Allen stated that pieces would have to be presented to Public Works before going to Council, so that they can determine any additional cost.

Commissioner Dunn refers back to Commissioner Ramezani remark of having a plaque near each sculpture. Commissioner Dunn suggested that each piece should have individual information post cards.

Commissioner Gill asked where would the funds come from to pay for the postcards. Mrs. Allen stated that the funds would come out the general department budget.

Mrs. Allen stated that a design model submittal deadline still needed to be determined.

Mrs. Allen stated that typically the Commission would have a date in the fall, but a winter or spring installation is also ok.

Commissioner Gill stated he would like something sooner than later. The Commission agrees on a date of October 28, 2013.

Mrs. Allen reminded the Commission that the invitation be sent out to the centennial and local artists.

Mrs. Allen asked to confirm the following dates:

- Staff report to City Council September 17th
- Submissions due October 28th
- Commission will make selections November 12th or December 10th
- Selections to City Council December 3rd or 17th.

The Commission will tentatively plan for a February installation.

Commissioner Gill opened the item for public participation. Seeing none, he closed public participation.

13.0208.2 Strand Stair Case Project

Before beginning the presentation, Commissioner De Maria asked what is the objective of this presentation. Mrs. Allen stated the objective is to see how the Commission can influence some type of art element into the project.

City Engineer, El Roy Kiptkey and Consultant, Scott Rice presented the Strand Stair Case Project.

Mr. Rice states that they have had two public meetings so far, the City obtained federal funding, and the primary reason for this project is to bring the numerous staircases along the strand up to ADA compliance. They would like to provide a product that is a little more durable and that will last longer during the rain and cold seasons. The funding source is the safety fund which is approximately \$1,500,000. From 8th street on the south to Rosecrans on the North are the stairs that they would like to focus on as potential art related staircases. Mr. Rice stated the type of handrails that are required and in compliance with the ADA. Mr. Rice opened for questions.

Commissioner Gill lets Mr. Kiptkey and Mr. Rice know that depending upon Council approval, there are funds to help with the project. Commissioner Gill asked what the timing is on the project.

Mr. Kiptkey explains that they are still in the information gathering stages. It will be at least a year before final drawings are prepared, since more data and information needs to be collected. Mr. Rice states that if they were to begin the project, it would not be until fall of 2014. The goal is to be completed by the following summer, however they cannot give an exact time for completion.

Commissioner Dunn suggest to Mr. Rice possible art elements that could be used on the walls of the staircases. Perhaps they could reach out to the schools and possibly have an art contest with the Manhattan Beach children where they submit some of their best work that could possibly be used on the walls.

Mr. Kiptkey states that putting artwork on the walls would be difficult to maintain.

Commissioner Dunn makes a suggestion of using tiles that people can purchase with family hand prints, footprints, or painting, and it could be self-funding where they can buy a piece of tile.

Commissioner Samuels states that he likes the idea of having the community involved, and thanks the gentlemen for being open to art ideas to add to the project. Commissioner De Maria asks to review the slides once more to view the proposed budget with Mr. Kiptkey and Mr. Rice. Commissioner De Maria also asks to see slides of the current railings that are there now to see what exactly the ADA compliance is. Commissioner De Maria ask if they have ever heard of Glass Fiber Reinforced Concrete (GFRC) and have they considered that as one of the materials to use oppose to using the rebar. GFRC may reduce the need of rebar.

Mr. Rice states that the use of GFRC will not reduce the need of rebar.

Mr. Kipkey states that Commissioner De Maria brings up some very good ideas but they are not that far along in the process of the project, they need to get into the design of the structure to see what material is needed and where.

Commissioner De Maria states that even though the tile and painting ideas were good ideas, after a few years it begins to fall apart. Commissioner De Maria suggests something that may not delaminate over time. As an alternative he suggests that instead of implying something to the concrete why not emboss something into the concrete, so that in the forms you can create a patten, pour the forms flat then an artist can come and sandblast the wall and all you will see is shadows, and it will then be a maintenance free solution.

Commissioner Samuels asks when the design meetings are going to begin.

Mr. Kiptkey states that they have a public design meeting coming up in September, or October, and then they will look to the Council to give direction on when to move forward with design. Design will probably be ready to go to construction in the fall of 2014.

Commissioner Dunn states that she likes the idea of sandblasting, and wants to know is there any room to also do something or create art for the handrails as well as the wall. She also suggested thinking of ideas that will last for years to come.

Mr. Kiptkey states that yes, there is room for creativity for the handrails.

Commissioner Gill states that he hopes they all can continue to work together to come up with great ideas.

Commissioner De Maria states that maybe using the idea of embossing might reduce the costs of application. Maybe the Commission can come in and sponsor a competition of some sort for a sand blasted mural that would take up two or three staircases, so that it becomes a real community event.

Mr. Kiptkey states that art portion should take place during construction and not at the end.

Commissioner Samuels states that the Commission should come up with a good time frame where they can come with a few ideas to bring to council.

Commissioner Dunn asks Mrs. Allen can she call for a special “walking meeting” for everyone involved and maybe even the public to take a walk to look at the actual staircases.

Mrs. Allen states that this is something that she can look into, and get back into the Commission.

Commissioner Gill asks if the GFRC is something that they are allowed to use, and if color could be added.

Mr. Rice states that it is glass fiber that is added into standard concrete.

Mr. Gill asked if color be added to the mix.

Mr. Kiptkey states that color can be added, however it would not guarantee a specific color but it can be done with no significant costs.

Mr. Gill asks how many railings can be eliminated

Mr. Kiptkey states that could be something that is observed on the walk along the beach.

The Commissioners view the slides to see which rails could possibly be eliminated.

Commissioner Gill states that if Mr. Rice or Mr. Kiptkey were to come up with any ideas to email Mrs. Allen.

Commissioner Dunn asks how the figures for the budget came about.

Mr. Kiptkey says that he doesn't think a real hard estimate has been put out there and the funds have already been set aside.

Commissioner Gill opens for public comments and since there were no public comments, he closed public comments.

The Commissioners discuss different ideas on how they can improve the walls and the staircases.

Commissioner Samuels suggest having a vision statement, to have when presenting to the Council.

Commissioner De Maria suggest opening up to artist and have some sort of competition. He uses the University of Texas and their attention to detail as an example. He also suggested the contractors provide us with three extra inches of concrete so, if needed, an artist can go back and sand blast or emboss the wall without compromising the integrity of the wall.

Commissioner Gill and Commissioner Dunn remind Commissioner De Maria that the presenters stated that any "after work" art was not recommended due to warranties.

Commissioner Samuels stated that the Commission should move as quickly as they can and be as efficient as they can.

Commissioner Ramezani feels that collaboration between the engineers and the architects is needed, so that it can be a team effort.

The Commission discussed how to clearly define the scope of the project and the Commissions involvement.

Commissioner Gill likes the idea of a vision statement. Commissioner Dunn asked if a special meeting could be held to create a Vision statement.

Mrs. Allen answered yes and suggested that they individual work on a vision and discuss it during September's meeting.

Commissioner Gill suggested that the Commissioners all send a few key words, thoughts, or sentences to Mrs. Allen and she will compile it all into one email and send it out to the Commissioners. The Commission would then discuss it at the next meeting.

Mrs. Allen stated that she would contact Mr. Kiptkey for a rough time line.

Commissioner Ramezani stated that there needs to be good communication and understanding between all parties.

Commissioner De Maria is concerned of the amount of time it takes for an artistic selection, and doesn't believe that the construction workers would be able to start as soon as possible.

Commissioner Dunn and Commissioner Ramezani corrected Commissioner De Maria and stated that Mr. Kiptkey and Mr. Rice both said during the presentation that it will be at least one year before they can start the process.

Commissioner Samuels used the Centennial Art Project as an example of how quickly things can get done.

Commissioner Gill stated that if a special walking tour meeting cannot be done then everyone should go out individually and tour the five proposed staircases. He also reconfirmed that next month the Commissioners will put together a vision statement.

13/0813.4 Strand Bench Program

Mrs. Allen reported that the cost of five benches, with the cost of the mold, would be \$13,585.00. The artist recommended that the cost of the mold be distributed evenly amongst five benches.

Commissioner Samuels suggests that the City cover the costs of the mold so that it could bring the price down to about \$12,000.

Mrs. Allen stated that the Commission could consider the purchase of the first shell bench, which would include the full mold cost. This would reduce the cost of the next four benches.

Commissioner Gill stated that the price for the mold was \$3100 and the master was \$3900.

Commissioner De Maria stated that we should stick with the original price.

Motion: Commissioner Samuels moves to seek City Council's approval for the allocation of approximately \$7000 from the Public Arts Trust Fund to pay for the masters and mold of the Shell Bench. Commissioner Dunn seconds the motion.

Ayes: Commissioner Gill, Dunn, Samuels, Ramezani, De Maria
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

Commissioner Gill opens discussion on the John Bushman bench proposed during Audience Participation.

Commissioner Samuels discussed different points of the presentation, like having an affordable bench for the community, so that every bench doesn't have to be \$10,000.

Commissioner Gill stated that he is not comfortable discussing the Bushman bench until it is formally placed on the agenda for discussion.

The Commission agreed to discuss the Bushman bench in February. Mrs. Allen would inform Mr. Bushman of the guidelines and February date.

Commissioner Gill stated that he would like Mrs. Allen to let Mr. Bushman know that we are still moving forward with submissions and that we are still dealing with previous submissions prior to July.

Mrs. Allen reminded the Commission that they had completed stage one and still needed to move forward with stage two and three.

Commissioner Dunn suggested placing the Stacy Dukes' bench on the next agenda.

Mrs. Allen stated that before moving onto the Stacy Dukes' bench, which is stage three, they should first finish stage two.

Commissioner Samuels suggested putting all the benches/stages together on next month's agenda to discuss them further.

Mrs. Allen suggested having a mock presentation in October before going up to Council

Commissioner Gill opened public participation. Seeing none, he closed public participation.

I. Commission Items

Mrs. Allen stated that in September the Commission would be reviewing the Roach art piece.

The Commission took a five-minute break.

Commissioner Gill stated that Commissioner De Maria would like to ask Council to place two items on the agenda. The first item would be the Green Project.

The Green Project is where 12th Street would be shut down and transformed into a “green” walkway.

Commissioner Samuels felt that before the Commission presented the item to Council, it should be researched to further support its success.

Commissioner Ramezani does not see how this project relates to the Cultural Arts Commission to lead.

Motion: Commissioner De Maria moves to seek City Council’s approval to discuss the Green Project. Commissioner Dunn seconds the motion.

Ayes: Commissioner De Maria
Noes: Commissioner Gill, Samuels, Ramezani
Abstain: Commissioner Dunn
Absent: None

Commissioner Gill stated that the second item was Allison Wright’s Single Red Pen.

Commissioner De Maria brings to the commission a proposal that was brought by Allison Wright, Single Red Pen a type of instillation. Commissioner De Maria would like it to be placed on next month’s agenda

Commissioner Gill stated that the artist should submit the piece for the 2013 – 2014 Sculpture Garden.

J. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:35pm