

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

July 15, 2019

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

A. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Ryan called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM.

B. PLEDGE TO FLAG

C. ROLL CALL

Present: Bennett, Manna, May, Vice-Chair Ryan

Absent: Taner, Chair Rubino

Others present: Eilen Stewart, Arts Supervisor, Rosemary Lackow, Recording Secretary (remote)

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - June 17, 2019

It was moved and seconded (Manna/Bennett) that the June 17, 2019 minutes be approved subject to one change: Pg. 4, Commission Business, in Commissioner May's comments, strike "Working in Foam"; replace with "Walking Through Foam". The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

E. CEREMONIAL - None

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-Minute Limit) – None

G. GENERAL BUSINESS

Discussion of workplan items

Cultural Arts Supervisor Eilen Stewart noted that no new information is available; Staff is still waiting on a number of contracts to be approved.

H. STAFF ITEMS

Art Center Signage

No new information is available from Staff.

Cultural Arts Division updates

Cultural Arts Supervisor Eilen Stewart highlighted two recent events:

- **"Discover Manhattan Beach":** Community wide art exhibit, opening on July 12th was most attended ever for a city show; 800 + attendees (increase of 200 from last year); 110 exhibits (70 last year); free event with music, food and beverages, many positive, virtually no negative comments received. Had incredible variety of art media on display and staff will conduct an evaluation of all input, especially how to continue to support the event and accommodate its rapid significant growth in popularity. The suspended cubes were enormously popular but some attendees were observed playfully batting at them, which resulted in staff having to attend to them after the event.

Commission discussion: Commissioner Manna asked if staff could attribute the somewhat rowdy behavior with the cubes to anything in particular (e.g. alcohol service?); Ms. Stewart felt that, while serving alcohol may have had an effect, there were no significant problems; behavior was self controlled and playful, not malicious, out of control or disorderly. Commissioner Manna stated that, although the event had same format as first year, it felt different; he liked the cubes and variety in the exhibits. Vice Chair

Ryan stated that she noted many social media postings and she was happy to see so much publicity generated.

Commissioner May noted she had a conversation with a visitor who commented that her drink had been knocked over on the floor inside the gallery after, as directed by staff, she moved the cup from an art pedestal; could more places be provided for attendees to sit on or rest cups in the exhibit hall? **Supervisor Stewart** noted that exhibit openings are the only times that visitors are allowed to take a drink or food inside the gallery; visitors are expected to hold their drinks while viewing the exhibit and some furniture is provided outside the building for visitors. The exhibit pedestals cannot be used as places to put cups as spills could damage the art and staff watches for spills and cleans them up quickly should this occur.

Commissioner Bennett enjoyed the event, especially seeing her own art displayed, and liked the cubes. **Commissioner Manna** inquired as to whether there have been any video recordings of past exhibits which can be used for marketing - **Ms. Stewart** indicated none officially and **Commissioner Manna** suggested creating a short (e.g. 30-second) video loop that could be played during exhibit openings near the front of the reception area that shows past, present and future events. **Vice Chair Ryan** suggested it might be fun and interesting for the attendees to be able to watch a short video that shows the exhibit being installed or a video just promoting Cultural Art programs in the City (e.g. murals being installed). **Supervisor Stewart** noted that the gallery has a new TV in the reception area, and perhaps this can be used to display a video, whether it be the installation going up or, past exhibits, or for example, Instagram videos submitted to the show. **Commissioner Manna** suggested displaying a video that shows anything innovative and/or promotes the City.

- **“Queen Nation” concert (summer concerts):** yesterday in Polliwog Park, over 13,000 persons in attendance and was very successful; notable that virtually no incidents occurred. Commissioner May commented “was fantastic”; Commissioner Manna requested a copy of the video footage taken by staff.

City Council updates

Ms. Stewart indicated there was no new information to report.

I. COMMISSION ITEMS

Commissioner Manna inquired as to the status of **Commissioner Taner’s** suggestion to change the name of the Sculpture Garden program. Supervisor Stewart will make a note that this item should be placed on a future agenda, possibly for the August 19th meeting.

Commissioner Bennett noted that for her senior project her NCL (National Charity League) group will, in August, be painting images of sea animals on a total of 10 storm drains (of which 3 will be near the pier) to discourage littering.

J. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:28 P.M, **Vice Chair Ryan** moved adjournment, to the regular meeting of August 19th at 6:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue.