

**CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**

**Minutes**

February 12, 2013

City Council Chambers and Conference Room

1400 Highland Avenue

Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present: Chairperson Samuels, Commissioner Gill, Commissioner Dunn  
and Commissioner De Maria

Absent: Vice Chairperson Humbarger

Staff Present: Gina Allen, Recreation Service Manager

**III. APPROVAL MINUTES**

Commission pointed out some discrepancies in the minutes for the meetings on December 11, 2012, and on January 28, 2013, which require revision.

A motion was MADE and SECONDED (Gill/De Maria) to APPROVE the minutes of December 11, and January 28, 2012.

AYES: Samuel, Gill, Dunn, De Maria

NOES: None

ABSENT: Humbarger

ABSTAIN: None

**IV. CEREMONIAL**

None

**V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Mark Lipps, Manhattan Beach Resident

Mr. Lipps spoke about the upcoming SAGE Expo on April 20-21 at the National Guard Armory on Bell Avenue in Manhattan Beach. The expo will focus on local companies and businesses who promote sustainable, green products. The current goal of expo organizers is to have 100 booths of these providers. The expo will also have a speaker series and feature local artists. It will be free to the public to attend.

Commissioner Dunn asked about the cost of a booth?

Mr. Lipps answered that if it's a non-profit group the cost is \$150, and if it is a commercial business it is \$300 for both days.

Commissioner Dunn asked if they were looking to solicit additional businesses.

Mr. Lipps stated that they were still actively seeking new businesses to participate, and they are currently holding breakfast meetings to attract new vendors.

Commissioner Dunn suggested reaching out to two solar panel companies, Varengo and Sun Run, to participant in the expo.

## **VI. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### 12/0911-2 The Architectural Bench Design for the Strand Bench Donation

Recreation Manager Gina Allen stated that Christoph had already submitted a presentation for the "Shell" bench design. Gina Allen's presentation would most likely change to better coincide with Christoph's presentation. The presentation is scheduled to go to City Council on March 5, but there is a chance that it may be pushed back to the following council meeting.

Chairperson Samuels asked Recreation Manager Gina Allen since the presentation was going to change would it be more beneficial to wait for the final presentation. Additionally, should a special meeting be held?

Recreation Manager Gina Allen answered that she would still like to give the presentation because it would provide a good base line for the actual presentation. She proceeded to go through her presentation for the "Shell" bench design including design, pricing, and photos.

The Commission agreed to hold a special meeting on March 1, 2013, at 3 p.m. to hear the actual "Shell" bench proposal from Christoph. The Commission also decided that if "Shell" bench design presentation is bumped from the March 5th City Council meeting agenda, that the Commission would hear Christoph's presentation on March 12, 2013, pending Christoph's schedule.

Recreation Manager Gina Allen brought up the email regarding Stacy Dukes and the current design of the "Waves" bench both with and without the back. Gina answered some of the Commissions questions about the "Wave" design including the color, specifications, and the current \$8,500 cost of the "Wave" bench design.

Commissioner Dunn then asked about the plaques for the benches and endowments.

Gina Allen answered that you are able to put a plaque on the bench but only certain wording is allowed.

Chairperson Samuels stated that the Master Plan addresses this issue regarding wording and placement.

Recreation Manager Gina Allen also answered that the specific wording for the plaques on the benches was approved by City Council.

#### 13/0801-3 Ansel Adams Exhibition

Commissioner Dunn proposed a three pillar approach regarding the Ansel Adams exhibit coming to Manhattan Beach. The first pillar is to host an opening gala or fundraiser with a Black & White night themed event. Then have the master printer come and present the photos and possibly hold a silent auction. The second pillar is to partner with TEDx and wrap up a TEDx sign around the salon. The third pillar is having the city host the Ansel Adams exhibition at the Creative Arts Center and partnering with the Manhattan Beach School District.

The Commission discussed possible dates to host the exhibition in the fall beginning in the last week of September and running through the first two weeks of October at the Creative Arts Center.

Recreation Manager Gina Allen stated she would look at the schedule for the Creative Arts Center to see if this exhibition could be scheduled then.

Commissioner De Maria suggested bringing in working photographers who are Ansel Adams experts to give a brief lecture for this exhibit on opening night.

Commissioner Gill stated he gives his full support for having this exhibition at the Creative Arts Center. Any other opening event at locations such as Shade or the Strand House, or selling tickets or wine, would have to separate from the City and the Commission.

#### 13/0208-1 2013 Sculpture Garden

At the Commissions last meeting, members voted not to extend the contracts for three of the current sculptures. These three sculptures (Tropic Birds, Tree Hugger, and Mariah) are currently being removed and the pots that these sculptures were residing in are being put into storage.

Commission members discussed possible alternative options to display future sculptures rather than using the current pot and pole approach.

Commissioner Dunn asked if staff could do research to see what other cities were using to display their public art pieces aside from using the pot and pole method.

Recreation Manager Gina Allen stated she would instruct staff to begin research into this.

### 13/0208-2 Stair Case

The Commission discussed designating a Commission member to work with the Public Works Department to renovate the stairs that lead down to the beach from the Strand.

Commissioner De Maria stated that he gave his presentation on the staircases to City Council.

Commissioner Dunn made a motion to select Commissioner De Maria to be the liaison to work with the Public Works Department on the stair case to the beach project.

Commissioner Gill seconded the motion. The motion carried with all Commissioners in favor. Commissioner De Maria abstained from the vote.

### 13/0801-2 Review Master Plan

The Commission spoke about familiarizing themselves with the details of the Master Plan. The Commission expressed some concerns regarding the Master Plan. One concern was whether any type of art project should go through the Cultural Arts Commission. The Commission expressed that they would like clarification of this language. Another issue the Commission had was in regards to funding. Commission members had questions regarding capital improvement funds and funding allocations on top of the Public Art Trust Fund.

Mr. Gary McAully, resident, stated that the Manhattan Beach Business Improvement District is planning to install a sculpture or other art piece on the median on Rosecrans Avenue leading into Manhattan Beach. Mr. McAully asked if this issue was something that needed to go before the Cultural Arts Commission.

Commissioner Gill reported that he was present at the City Council meeting when this was passed and that City Council approved this art piece without utilizing the Cultural Arts Commission. This was due to the fact the funds provided for this art piece were private and not public.

Commissioner Dunn asked when the ordinance regarding Public Art was approved. Was it prior to the adoption of the Master Plan or after.

Recreation Manager Gina Allen answered that the Public Art Master Plan preceded the passage of the ordinance by approximately four months.

## **VII. REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS**

The Commission reviewed the budget documents for the Public Art Trust Fund. Currently the budget has an ending balance of \$418,000 with \$150,000 going towards

the County Library Project, and \$130,000 going towards the Centennial Art Project. The Commission wanted to know how soon some of current funds would expire.

Commissioner Dunn asked what the \$20,000 credit was for.

Recreation Manager Gina Allen stated that the \$20,119 was the payment that the artist made for a permit to have their sculpture displayed in the sculpture garden.

Unbeknownst to the Commission, they also discussed the fact that artists must pay for a permit to have their sculptures installed in the sculpture garden.

Recreation Manager Gina Allen stated that the city pays the artist to rent the sculpture, while the artist needs to pay for a permit to have their sculpture displayed in the sculpture garden. Ms. Allen also said the cost of the permit depends on how big the sculpture is, the weight, and if it requires a special foundation.

The Commission had questions as to why the artists are paying so much for permits to have their sculptures installed.

Chairperson Samuels asked Ms. Allen to get more info on the permit process for renting and installing sculptures.

The Commission stated that they would like to see these reports on a monthly basis.

Commissioner Gill stated that the Commission should move ahead with scheduling the annual joint meeting with City Council.

Commissioner Gill asked if the City could print up certificates for the APPC members to thank them for their work.

Commissioner Gill also talked about a book or project in the schools.

Recreation Manager Gina Allen stated that the Commission needs to wait until the contracts are signed before moving forward with the book or school project. Gina has met with the City Attorney and made changes to the final draft and it is currently being written. The contract should be ready in time for the next meeting.

Commissioner Gill asked about the status of the new Cultural Arts Manager position and the minute's taker position.

Gina Allen answered that the Cultural Arts Manager position is open until filled and had reviewed applications with Director Richard Gill to start interviewing potential candidates. Their goal is to try and hire the new manager before Director Gill retires in May. In regards to the minute's taker, unfortunately the contract did not go through and other alternatives are being explored at this time.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.