

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

October 13, 2015

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

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM.

B. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

C. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: none

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

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Samuels moved to approve the September 22, 2015 minutes with the edit to P. 2, paragraph 2 clarifying that Commissioner Samuels did not give his individual feedback. Commissioner Dunn seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

E. CEREMONIAL

None

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Chairperson Ramezani opened the floor to audience participation.

Jim Murray, resident – Mr. Murray stated that he attended the City Council meeting for the presentation of the wayfinding information and feels that the Arts Commission is the only commission that oversees things from the aesthetics point of view and so should take an active role in the wayfinding and ULI projects. He also mentioned that he is disappointed that the Light Gate is not being maintained and cleaned. Mr. Murray offered to share his expertise if needed. Lastly, he recommended getting rid of pots for sculptures.

Commissioner May stated that she is in complete agreement with Mr. Murray.

Regarding the maintenance of the Light Gate, Commissioner Samuels stated that he would like a monthly update on the maintenance. Mr. Betz reported that staff is working with Public Works to develop a maintenance schedule for all of the art pieces in the City.

The floor was closed to public comment.

G. STAFF ITEMS:

Cultural Arts Manager, Martin Betz presented the following:

Introduction of Eilen Stewart, Recreation Supervisor-Ceramics – Ms. Stewart gave a brief overview of her background and plans for the ceramic studio.

Update on upcoming exhibition at MBAC – due to schedule changes, there is no exhibition currently scheduled. Commissioner Dunn inquired about the Ansel Adams exhibition. Mr. Betz stated that the County Library is not releasing the exhibition so he is not actively pursuing it until the Library system tells him it is available.

Update on Sculpture Garden – The Patricia Vader piece is installing October 14th at noon. The option of holding the reception on November 14th when the sun sets through the Light Gate was presented. After some discussion on whether the reception would be held at the Light Gate or the Art Center, an informal vote was taken with the result to have the reception at the Light Gate. Commissioner Ramezani respects the decision to have the reception at the Light Gate but is not happy with it. She feels that all the prior discussions were all focused on the Art Center and it is important to have activities on the East side. In the end it was left to Commissioner Ramezani and Mr. Betz to discuss and decide the location.

Mr. Betz distributed the monthly budget detail report.

Update on decommissioning policy – Mr. Betz stated that he is fine tuning the worksheet and waiting for a response from the legal department.

H. COMMISSION ITEMS:

Commissioner Gill reported that the City Council voted to ban all outside electronics from the dais. He also reported that he met with Tony Olmos, Public Works director regarding the Strand Wall project. He reported that Director Olmos told him that Public Works was having trouble getting bids on the stair project. There is now a higher budget and they are going back out to bid. The art project is done and the money is spent. They tried to patch up and put on extra cement to do the pattern sandblasting but it didn't go well so they had to go with a plan B. Mr. Olmos will present to the City Council to get the rest of the project completed and then come up with a plan to try to make everyone happy. Commissioner Ramezani questioned why the Cultural Arts division is not involved in projects when there is an art component. Commissioner Dunn stated that she is seeing symptoms of a larger problem. She says that it seems that root issue is the integration of Cultural Arts being more involved in the organic process. More participation and more oversight would solve some problems. Commissioner Gill asked if there was a target date for a joint meeting with the City Council. Mr. Betz stated that he will be more involved in the arts components in the City.

Commissioner Samuels stated that it is shameful that a maintenance schedule is not already in place for the Light Gate because the dirt is destroying the art work. With regards to City projects, he stated that there is no excuse for not having the staff when the Commissioners can be used to look at a work (specifically the Strand Wall) and to provide input as to what the Commission/City Council approved. Commissioner May stated that the construction dust

on Highland is filthy and the trees are full of dust but the City doesn't want to clean because of the water shortage.

Commissioner Ramezani stated that she suggested at the ULI focus groups that vintage elements and support of local artists be considered. She suggested that as the ULI come up with ideas, to bring them to Mr. Betz so that he can bring them to the Commission and maybe get issues on the agenda for discussion.

Commissioner Ramezani asked a procedural question to clarify the most effective way to address issues when the Commission has a concern. For example, is it most effective to individually contact city staff if a commission member has a concern? Mr. Betz suggested discussing issues at meetings and coming to group opinions to be presented.

Commissioner Samuels moved to request that the Commission be allowed to discuss the Wayfinding options that were presented, so that they may offer an opinion when the City Council decides the next step. Commissioner Ramezani seconded the motion.

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

Nayes: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

Commissioner May asked about the Museum Kiosk item. Mr. Betz stated that it would be on the agenda of the November 3rd City Council Meeting.

I. GENERAL BUSINESS:

none

J. ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Dunn moved to adjourn. Commissioner Samuels seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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

Nayes: none

Abstain: none

Absent: none

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 PM.