

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

March 18, 2019
City Hall – City Council Chambers
1400 Highland Avenue
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Manna called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.

B. PLEDGE TO FLAG

C. ROLL CALL

Present: Matsumoto, May, Rubino, Ryan, Taner, Chairperson Manna

Absent: None

Others present: Martin Betz, Cultural Arts Manager, Eilen Stewart, Cultural Arts Supervisor, Rosemary Lackow, Recording Secretary

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 4th minutes were continued to the April 15 meeting; no objections, it was so ordered.

E. CEREMONIAL - None

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

G. GENERAL BUSINESS - None

H. STAFF ITEMS

- a. Cultural Arts Division updates
- b. City Council updates

Cultural Arts Manager Betz proceeded to first update on existing programs and activities and then secondly, he invited the Commission to start a discussion on new projects to be included on the 2019-2020 Work Plan which will be submitted to the Council this June.

Current Projects/Workplan Update

Exhibitions:

- “TWO by Two” (Amell/ Chaidez): the opening had 200 in attendance, with positive reactions and media coverage. Other related events include a Spring Solstice party this Sunday and on April 13th, a clothing dye workshop (requires registration). The exhibit closes April 14.
- “Morphologizing” opens May 3, runs to June 16 and will focus on exploring pottery – its forms, technologies and materials, and how these tell something about the cultures in which pottery is produced. Work displayed will be from prominent artists whose work shows the influence of pottery and staff is working on borrowing from some private collections.
- “Discover Manhattan Beach” opens July 12 (July = Parks and Rec Month), runs to September 29, following a similar format as last year, incorporating several smaller events into one

long exhibit. The exhibit, pulling together art from the entire Manhattan Beach community will have two components - an online digital Instagram contest and a physical art component. Last year's exhibit won an award for successfully engaging the community. **Commissioner Taner** asked if staff would consider holding this event during the school year; **Supervisor Stewart** explained that July was chosen because it is "Parks and Rec Month", noting also that it runs till late September which captures the start of the school year. The time frame also catches students during a time when they are **not** otherwise extremely busy with a huge amount of school demands and projects. **Manager Betz** explained that there will be more programming with the schools in the future as new school initiatives are being developed.

- "A.C. Conner" (a City founder and an amazing artist) in January, 2020 will feature Conner's paintings within an historic context (the City owns 9 paintings, his family - 35).

Other Work Plan Projects:

- City Hall lobby art project: 100+ submissions have been received and are being vetted. In March the APPC (Art in Public Places Committee) will convene to review qualifying submissions (about 50 expected); those will be brought to the CAC, which will vet and reduce the list to about 25 candidates which will be forwarded to the City Council.
- Utility boxes: Cultural Arts staff is now waiting on city legal review of contracts. As soon as that is ready, the program will be ready to roll out. A question arose as to whether there will be any visual competition from nearby solar trash cans which have images on them. Staff will check, but does not anticipate a problem because those have photographic images.
- City murals: City Council will review in June and may add more locations. Meanwhile, staff is working with the artists on the artwork. It is hoped that there will be time to inform the Commission more before June; installation is anticipated in 2020.
- Grant program: request for proposals will be out in October, Commission review in November, Commission recommendations forwarded to City Council in December and awards expected in January, 2020.
- Sculpture Garden: final contracts are out to the artists; staff is working with Public Works; installations will commence in next couple of months, starting with Civic Center Plaza. **Manager Betz** confirmed that the pot/pole near the Public Safety Facility will be removed. **Commissioner Taner** suggested that because the sculptures have become more scattered in the City, the program be renamed, suggesting "City Parks Sculptures" or something similarly broad. As it is now, "garden" is misleading as it sounds like all the sculptures are in one "garden" location. **Mr. Betz** agreed and suggested that the commissioners suggest new name ideas at the next meeting; meanwhile he will mention to Director Leyman.
- City Archives: new hire Kimberly Osiro is managing. Currently phone lines, computers, etc are being installed in portable buildings at Polliwog Park. The Historical Society will remain in the little red house and a 1927 real estate office will be brought onto the site. The goal eventually is to have a permanent exhibit and research room but this will be determined in a future phase. The current phase will be a 2-3 year effort.

The Commission briefly discussed; **Chair Manna** suggested that a permanent exhibit might include a short video that gives an overview of the City's history. **Manager Betz** noted that such will be discussed in the next phase, but agreed such would help citizens to center on the community. **Commissioner Rubino** suggested that school programming include student visits to both the Art Center and Historical Society as these venues are in close proximity.

Gary McAulay, Historical Society President, noted that the Society has had limited programs with grade schoolers due to logistic challenges - the bottom line is: it's a school decision.

- Paddleboard Statue project: has been conceptually approved by the City Council, and the architectural plans are being developed.
- Summer concerts: have been programmed; more will be reported in the coming meetings.

Ideas For 2019-2020 Work Plan

Cultural Arts Manager Betz noted that, given the staff workload, it would be appropriate to come up with 2-3 new projects. Noting that a new City Council will be sworn in April 2; it was agreed that, the Commission (through Chair Manna) should thank outgoing councilmembers and welcome new councilmembers. The terms of the Current Commission were discussed and it was determined that Commissioner May's term extends to 2020 but at the end of this May, the terms for Chair Manna and student rep Matsumoto will expire; **Chair Manna** stated he would confirm.

Discussion focused on ideas for new Work Plan projects. After discussion, it was agreed that the following three projects should be tentatively considered for the next Plan:

- 1) Improvements to Art Center, to beautify and enhance its visibility to Manhattan Beach Boulevard; such may include but not necessarily be limited to: signage, landscaping or other embellishments to the building exterior. It was suggested that meanwhile, a sign be installed in the median on the boulevard as this is a relatively small expenditure and is within the authority of the City Council.
- 2) "Art in the Park" project as discussed prior by the CAC but possibly adding a teen music component.
- 3) Renaming of the Sculpture Garden program to more accurately reflect sculpture locations, as previously discussed.

In discussing item no. 1, it was suggested that a changeable copy sign might be able to be expedited. Commissioner Ryan stated that she would rather see more time taken to result in a more quality sign. Chair Manna stated that he would like to see a proposal for a work of art that also works as a sign.

I. COMMISSION ITEMS

Commissioner Rubino welcomed Arts Supervisor Stewart back and congratulated her on the birth of her daughter and noted she herself became a grandmother on February 14th.

Chair Manna invited all to attend, Sunday March 24, from 2-4 pm at the Joslyn Center, a free viewing of a documentary film "Lives Well Lived" presented by the Rotary Club/Beach Cities Health District. The film looks at a number of successful older adults 75-100 +- years in age.

J. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:33 P.M, Chair Manna moved adjournment, to the regular meeting of April 15th at 6:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue.