

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

August 9, 2016  
Manhattan Beach City Council Chambers  
1400 Highland Avenue  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson May called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Present: Gill, Prigozhin, Chair May.

Absent: Dunn

Others present: Martin Betz, Cultural Arts Manager, Eilen Stewart, Ceramics Supervisor, Rebecca Diaz, Intern and Rosemary Lackow, Recording Secretary

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 26, 2016 and July 12, 2016**

April 26, 2016:

A motion was made and seconded (Gill/May) to approve subject to the following changes:

Page 3, last paragraph: correct Eilen's last name to read "Stewart"

Page 4: middle large paragraph, line starting "leaves...": insert "temporary" to read "leaves, a temporary plaque....."

Page 5: last paragraph: strike "by" and replave with "be": STEM ~~by~~ be STEAM

Roll Call:

Ayes: Gill, May

Noes: None

Abstain: Manna, Prigozhin

Absent: Dunn

Manager Betz made the following clarifications as requested by the Chair:

Pg. 2, second paragraph: Mr. Betz clarified regarding comments about the staff goal to have programs "that would expose students to art at a professional level" means, in the context of Mira Costa High School, that, because the high school has such a strong art program, the art students are already at a very advanced level and Staff saw that, through implementing the StArt program at Mira Costa there was an opportunity to help students advance to an even higher near professional level of art. Mr. Betz also clarified that when it was proposed that the StArt program use the woodshop space, this was an issue only about use of that space, and was not about making a cut in its graphics program.

Pg. 4, paragraph under bullets, last sentence regarding "looking for alternative spaces for local artists to showcase their work": Manager Betz clarified that, due to limited staff resources, it would be desirable if the local artist group that the Chair is working with would follow through in identifying spaces to showcase local art.

July 12, 2016:

A motion was made and seconded (Gill/Mann) to approve subject to the following changes:

Pg. 1: in approval of the minutes, third line down: add a second "I" to read "Gill"

Pg. 2: first paragraph, second sentence, revise to read: "Chair May stated that John Fitzgerald, who puts on the film festivals in Hermosa Beach has expressed interest in working with her art group and maybe in the future the Manhattan Beach Cultural Arts Commission can collaborate with the City of Hermosa Beach on times."

Pg. 2: third item from the top: strike "Concert" and replace with "Review" to read: "Fab Five ~~Concert~~ Review on August...."

Page 2: eighth item from top: revise the second sentence to read: "A joint meeting is being scheduled ~~for~~ between the City Council and, concurrently with all of the Park and Recreation Department commissions.

Pg. 2: Commission items, second paragraph, first sentence revise to read: Commissioner Manna mentioned that ~~the City is~~ he is aware of some talking about a potential crosswalk going from the MBAC across Manhattan Beach Boulevard.

Pg. 3: 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph from top, second line: add an "s" to meeting: meetings

Roll Call:

Ayes: Gill, Manna, Chair May

Nays: None

Abstain: Prigozhin

Absent: Dunn

Manager Betz made the following clarification requested by the Chair:

Pg. 1, Staff Item number one: regarding lack of email notification regarding the Older Adult Program show: this program is currently hosted, but not run by the City and so, pre-show notification is not currently handled by the City. It is hoped that that City will collaborate more closely for next year's program/exhibit.

**D. CEREMONIAL None**

**E. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-Minute Limit) None**

**F. STAFF ITEMS:**

#### **Update on future work plan**

Cultural Arts Manager Betz explained that this matter is partially a Staff Item and partially a Commission Business item but suggested this be discussed at this time.

Mr. Betz informed the Commission that Staff has drafted a letter to be sent on behalf of the Cultural Arts Commission to the City Council, requesting permission for the Commission to place on its next agenda, discussion of a preliminary Draft Work Plan. Mr. Betz explained, with approval by the Commission tonight, he will submit the letter tomorrow, so that it can be included on the City Council agenda on September 6<sup>th</sup>. With permission from the City Council,

the Cultural Arts Commission would then be able to formally discuss a Draft Work Plan on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Betz read the full letter to the Commission.

It was moved and seconded (Gill/Prigozhin) that staff send the letter as written to the City Council. Brief discussion followed on the pending motion. Manager Betz clarified for Commissioner Gill that the letter is more generally worded because it was being sent concurrently by each of the Department's commissions.

The motion passed with the following hand vote:

Ayes: Gill, Manna, Prigozhin, Chair May

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Dunn

Cultural Arts Manager Betz advised that also in September, Staff is organizing a joint meeting of all three Parks and Recreation Commissions starting with a tour of facilities and then a reception. He will start polling the Commissioners for available dates.

Mr. Betz shared some thoughts about how to manage the Draft Work Plan program once it gets started. One thought is that each Commissioner might "adopt" a work plan item, and/or form a subcommittee with a liaison to staff to get this project on task. Manager Betz clarified for the Commission that upon grant of council approval to start discussion on a work plan, then a list would be compiled as to possible plan programs or projects, and this list would also be submitted for Council for approval to discuss each topic. A time frame will be established, after the basic list of projects is identified. Until the Council authorizes the work plan discussion, the Sculpture Garden and bench programs will be essentially on hold for any substantive discussion.

### **Other Staff Items**

Ceramics Supervisor Eilen Stewart informed the Commission inforthat the base portion of the Asher Kelman sculpture will be delivered this week to its location at City Hall and will soon be installed which includes getting hooked up to an electricity source. Commissioner Gill requested and Staff assured that all of the Cultural Art Commissioners would be invited to the final installation.

Cultural Arts Manager Betz introduced intern Rebecca Diaz, the intern provided through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission. Ms. Diaz stated her goal is to be a digital artist. She will be with the City for ten weeks, until the end of August, at which time she will return to school. She appreciates the opportunity and is learning a lot.

Cultural Arts Manager Betz reminded that the John Van Hammersveld show starts August 25<sup>th</sup> and tomorrow there will be an opening for the frieze installation on the exterior of the Art Center building at 9:00 a.m. Staff shared photos of the frieze installation in process and noted more information is provided in the show catalog.

The Commission briefly discussed the Art Center building appearance and the need to update the building with landscaping, paint, an architectural feature, lighting or signage (as cost effective examples) so it might function more effectively and draw attention as a home base of the City's

art program. It was determined that this topic might be an appropriate Work Plan item. Manager Betz suggested that there are some round public cultural arts oriented buildings in Balboa Park in San Diego that are similar to the Art Center and are good examples of what can be done.

Manager Betz reported briefly on the following additional items:

- There may be an additional screening of Endless Summer in Polliwog Park during the Van Hammersveld show. Staff is working on this with the Downtown Business and Professional Association.
- Staff is actively working with the South Bay Film and Music Festival for next year, and the focus of Manhattan Beach will be on youth including some film training. Staff likely will present this in more detail to the Commission at some point in the future.
- City Parks and Recreation staff has collaborated with Gary McAuley of the Historical Society on a great exhibit covering the history of the Parks and Recreation Department. The exhibit can be viewed at the Historical Society bungalow in Polliwog Park on Saturday and Sunday from noon to 3 pm.

### **Formal recognition of community members working in the arts**

Manager Betz suggested that this topic, raised by Chair May, be discussed under Commission Items.

## **G. COMMISSION ITEMS**

Commissioner Manna noted a couple of ideas: 1) he had a conversation with a person who is with the Malibu Film Society and he suggested this may be a great organization for the city to explore collaborating with, and 2) he had a conversation with Candy Duncan, past Arts Commissioner, who suggested that the City look into installing solar powered lighting the City's outdoor public art installations. Manager Betz suggested that these are concepts that are potential Work Plan items.

Commissioner Prigozhin attended the High School StArt exhibit and complimented staff on a great job with this program, noting that the student art produced was at a very high level.

Chair May raised the following questions, issues or suggestions: 1) noted that the lights (possibly solar) at the Light Gate installation do not seem to be very effective; 2) wondered if the public art programs being initiated downtown with the Downtown Business and Professional Association such as installations or art walks should involve the Cultural Arts Commission? Manager Betz commented that he has not heard from anyone downtown regarding this and he would look into this. 3) suggested and requested feedback on possibly providing formal recognition in the way of a plaque or certificate, ongoing at Cultural Art Commission meetings, for community members for their service or contributions to the arts. Manager Betz stated that this is at the discretion of the Chair and staff would support adding such recognition during the Cermonial portion of the agenda; 4) suggested and requested feedback of the Cultural Arts Commission becoming more involved with the "I heart Manhattan" art contest. Commissioner Gill noted that he thought this was a great program, but suggested that if the Cultural Arts Commission were to take this on, it would need to be included in the Draft Work Plan; 5) requested feedback on a suggestion from the local artist group she supports - that Manhattan Beach have a "Glow" light/art fundraising event as is done in Santa Monica at the Pier, perhaps at Sand Dune Park, if it can be done quietly.

Commissioner Manna wondered if such would be a problem with recreational users of the dune. Commissioner Prigozhin inquired as to whether this is something that can occur on the beach and Manager Betz noted that use of the Beach is regulated by the County and to some degree the Coastal Commission and permits would be required; 6) reported that her art group has been looking at the new Toyota dealership showroom as a venue for displaying art.

Manager Betz noted that many communities that have strong public art programs have assistance from grass roots art groups or foundations. He advised the Commission that many if not all of the suggestions raised tonight would be appropriate to be considered as part of the Commission Work Plan and asked that the Commissioner all between now and September think about which projects should be brought for discussion as part of the Work Plan.

Brief discussion among the Commissioners followed. Commissioner Prigozhin suggested that the City could do a sort of crowdfunding concept, but as a mailout to the community at large to gauge interest in art programs and events and whether there is a willingness to support financially. Commissioner Gill reminded that there is an existing art group that perhaps, with more people involved could be more active in supporting community wide art programs and also reminded that there is a healthy positive balance in the public art fund.

## **H. GENERAL BUSINESS**

For approval of letter from Cultural Arts Commission to the City Council, see “Staff Items”

## **I. ADJOURNMENT:**

It was moved and seconded (Manna/Gill) to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 PM to 6:00 PM on September 13, 2016 in the Council Chambers. The motion passed with the following roll-call vote:

Ayes: Gill, Manna, Prigozhin, Chairperson May  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Dunn