

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

January 14, 2014

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

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:04PM

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Chairperson James Gill, Commissioners

Russ Samuels, Peter De Maria and Loli Ramezani

Absent: Vice Chairperson Nancy Dunn

Others Present: Recreation Services Manager Gina Allen

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None

D. CEREMONIAL

None

E. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

F. CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER REPORT

Recreation Services Manager Gina Allen reported there will be first stage interviews for the Cultural Arts Manager on February 11, 2014 with the second interviews held two weeks later.

Ms. Allen stated that there will be interviews for the Cultural Arts Recreation Supervisor position on January 24, 2014 and that there are strong candidates for that position.

Ms. Allen stated that there was a planning meeting with the city staff, county staff and the Light Gate artists regarding the timeline, logistics, responsibilities and placement of the Centennial Art Project. Consultant Rebecca Ansert attended the meeting and took notes on the discussion. Ms. Ansert will present those notes at a future Commission meeting. Chairperson Gill asked if Rebecca Ansert will be working on the project through completion. Ms. Allen confirmed that Ms. Ansert will be involved through completion and that the project is going well.

Commissioner Ramezani asked if there was staff available to transcribe past minutes. Ms. Allen stated arrangements were being made for the transcription of past minutes. The Parks and Recreation department is seeking a contractor to record future minutes.

G. CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner De Maria stated the new semester at CSULB will be kicking off in one week and he will be teaching two senior studios that includes product design, architecture and urban planning. He invited the members of the Commission to participate.

Commissioner Ramezani stated that she added her name to the Arts Manhattan contact list and there will be an art fair in Palm Springs on President's Day weekend, February 15th -16th, 2014.

H. GENERAL BUSINESS

13/0208.1 Sculpture Garden Annual Exhibition

Ms. Allen stated that a total of 12 artists submitted 19 sculptural pieces for review for five available spots in the Sculpture Garden. The five pieces selected by the Cultural Arts Commission will be presented to the City Council on February 18, 2014. Ms. Allen will send an updated timeline to the Commissioners.

Chairperson Gill opened the floor to public comment.

Resident Ms. Moreno stated her favorites: "Kelp Forest", "There Now", "Surf Perch" and "Swell".

Resident Ms. Shafer stated that the diversity of pieces would appeal to a wide audience.

Chairperson Gill closed public comment.

The Commission selected the following five to present to the City Council:

1. Kelp Forest
2. There Now
3. Chairman of the Board
4. Totem
5. Swell Model

Chairperson Gill made a motion to recommend to the City Council the five pieces chosen, and that they be approved for inclusion in the 2014 Sculpture Garden Annual Exhibition. Commissioner Ramezani seconded the motion.

Ayes: Commissioners Gill, Samuels, Ramezani, De Maria

Noes: None

Absent: Commissioner Dunn

Abstain: None

The motion carried.

13/0208.02 Strand Stair Case Project

Chairperson Gill stated that on December 8, 2013, there was a meeting with Public Works Director Tony Olmos and Parks & Recreation Director Mark Leyman where it was determined that five different staircase designs would be presented to City Council.

Chairperson Gill stated that this project does not qualify for Federal funding and that he would speak with Councilman Powell and Councilman Lesser about the use of the Public Art Trust Funds to help finance the project.

Chairperson Gill stated that they are on a strict time schedule with a Community meeting scheduled to discuss different ideas for the project for the end of January. He also stated that in previous City Council meetings residents did not want to see dramatic changes implemented for the staircase.

Chairperson Gill opened the floor for Public Comment. Seeing none, public comment was closed.

13/1112.2 Miguel Angel Velazquez Mural

Chairperson Gill stated there are no updates for this project because it has not yet gone before the City Council.

Ms. Allen stated that this project will be presented to City Council on February 18, 2014. The dates for the public viewing of the mural have been adjusted to March 11, 2014 through May 13, 2014, with discussion at the May 13, 2014 Commission meeting. The report and discussion will go to the City Council June 3, 2014.

Commissioner Ramezani asked if public reaction would be discussed, and if it would then be the responsibility of the Commission to propose the disposition of the mural to City Council in the case of no public feedback. Ms. Allen stated that the public would be invited to the May 13, 2014 Commission meeting to discuss their reaction and comments regarding the mural.

Chairperson Gill asked that a poster with the history of the Mural be produced with an email address for public comments. Commissioner Samuels stated that the poster should state that all are welcome to attend the May 13th Cultural Arts Commission meeting.

Chairperson Gill opened the floor for Public Comment. Seeing none, public comment was closed.

13/0813.4 Strand Bench Program

Ms. Allen reported that all four artists chosen for the program will present their designs and mock ups to City Council on February 18, 2014.

Chairperson Gill asked if the Parks and Recreation department was going to hire someone to assist with recreating the Cultural Arts Master Plan and decommissioning process, or should the Commission wait until a Cultural Arts Manager is hired to perform this action. Ms. Allen stated that the Commission will ask City Council if the Department could contract out for those services which require a very specialized skill. It would benefit the City to hire an expert to

complete the Cultural Arts Master Plan rather than making this a responsibility for the new Cultural Arts Manager, who will have many projects on which to focus.

Chairperson Gill asked if there would be a preview of the Strand Bench Program presentation for City Council. Ms. Allen responded that there would be and that mock ups would be provided.

The Commission discussed the approved wording for the Strand Bench Program and the appropriate process for declining a proposal if the bench did not meet the Program standards.

I. COMMISSION ITEMS

The Commission discussed obtaining City Council approval to discuss a process for approving one-time art projects and how these projects should be presented to the City Council. This process should be included in the Cultural Arts Master Plan.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Gill made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Ramezani seconded the motion.

Ayes: Commissioners Gill, Samuels, Ramezani, De Maria

Noes: None

Absent: Commissioner Dunn

Abstain: None

The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm