

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

March 11, 2014

Manhattan Beach City Council Chambers

1400 Highland Avenue

Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:01PM

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Chairperson James Gill, Vice Chairperson Nancy Dunn,
Commissioners Russ Samuels, Loli Ramezani

Absent: Commissioner Peter De Maria

Others Present: Parks and Recreation Director Mark Leyman,
Recreation Supervisor Deborah Hom, Recording Secretary Linda Robb

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None

D. CEREMONIAL

None

E. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

F. CULTURAL ARTS MANAGER REPORT

Sculpture Garden

Parks and Recreation Director Mark Leyman reported that the Sculpture Garden agreements had been reviewed and approved by the City Attorney and the project timeline had been updated. Staff did not foresee any installation difficulties. The new timeline was distributed for review.

Chairperson Gill mentioned that he would like to invite City Councilmembers and the Press to the Sculpture Garden opening reception.

Strand Staircase Project

The City Council approved a wall design for the Strand Staircase Project. The City Council also approved the use of the Public Art Trust Fund for the project's wall design. The fund's remaining balance of approximately \$92,000 has been allocated to this project.

Some Commissioners acknowledged that they had recommended using funds from the Trust Fund but did not realize that the entire balance would be used for this project. Commissioner Dunn asked if the Commission could ask City Council if any of those

funds could be left in the Trust Fund. Commissioner Samuels did not want to re-approach the City Council as the Commission pushed hard for the project and did recommend use of the funds.

Chairperson Gill asked staff to report on what funds may be due and incoming to the Public Art Trust Fund. Staff will re-examine and report at next meeting.

Commissioner Ramezani understood that the artwork for the staircase was to be partially covered by the Public Art Trust Fund but never heard the exact amount. She asked if it could be protocol in the future to notify the Commission first. Director Leyman replied that the fund allocation was a City Council action and future funds could be requested by the Commission moving forward.

Light Gate

Preliminary drawings of the footing, concrete detail, and lighting plan from the artists to the City should be in soon. Once the final design is approved by the City, artists can proceed with engineering. Engineered drawings are due to the City in early April. The Building and Safety review will take approximately three weeks. Once the plans are approved by the City's Building and Safety, they will be submitted to the County Library project team at the end of April.

Chairperson Gill asked if the engineers for the public library had seen the design for Light Gate. Director Leyman said that they had and that the City and County are working collaboratively on the project.

Chairperson Gill inquired about the art piece by Lita Albuquerque, scheduled to be installed inside the library. Commissioner Samuels gave a brief description of the new proposed design.

Strand Bench Program

Three designs have been submitted to Public Works and Engineering for review and evaluation based on City Council recommendation. The designs will be examined by Public Works engineers for structural integrity, design, durability, maintenance and liability. Director Leyman reported that the City Council recommended that this be done for each design as part of the approval process. Once approved by Public Works and Engineering, the designs will need to return to the City Council for their review and approval.

Chairperson Gill asked if all new designs should go through Public Works first before being proposed to the Commission. Director Leyman said this will be the review process moving forward before the design comes to the Commission.

Commissioner Dunn asked Director Leyman if it was possible to have the designs reviewed before reaching City Council. Chairperson Gill asked if the new Cultural Arts Manager could be responsible for developing the process. Director Leyman stated that this would be one of the new Cultural Arts Manager's responsibilities.

Chairperson Gill inquired about the status of the unveiling of the Miguel Angel Velasquez Mural. Director Leyman stated that the recommendations of the Commission are still being discussed administratively.

Commissioner Ramezani inquired about the Public Art Master Plan. Director Leyman stated he would like to wait for the new Cultural Arts Manager to come on board and meet with the Commission first prior to moving forward with the Master Plan.

G. CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Dunn announced that the Natural History Museum has an interesting event called First Friday with music and bands, and that she would be attending.

Chairperson Gill announced that the Neptunian Woman's Club held their annual Youth Art contest and that the artwork may still be on display at the Neptunian Woman's Clubhouse.

H. GENERAL BUSINESS:

13-0813.1 Ansel Adams:

Commissioner Dunn reported that a tentative date of September 12th through October 9th was set, however with the depletion of the Public Art Trust Fund, she was not sure if there were now enough funds. Since this is a marquee name and could bring increased awareness for the Cultural Arts Center, she thought it would be better if it was a larger event. A report was requested from Director Leyman on what funds may be coming into the Public Art Trust Fund that may be used for the exhibition. Director Leyman said he could have an update for the next meeting. Recreation Supervisor Deborah Hom said she would like to use the Concerts in the Park to market the exhibition, however the exhibition should be postponed if there are not sufficient funds.

Chairperson Gill stated that this will need to be on next month's agenda to have any chance of making the September date.

Commissioner Ramezani stated that it would be a good exercise to work backwards and create a timeline to know the scope of the project and the resources that are necessary. Commissioner Ramezani asked who would take the lead if the funds were available. It was agreed that this would be Commissioner Dunn's project with staff support. It will be decided next month whether or not this will happen this year.

Chairperson Gill suggested developing two options, one with a conservative budget and the other with a generous budget.

Supervisor Hom asked if this was the top priority of the Commission.

The Commissioners answered that the Public Art Master Plan is the highest priority.

Commissioner De Maria is creating manuals for the Sculpture Garden and Strand Alcove Bench Program, therefore avoiding the re-creation of this process next year. The manuals are time sensitive priorities because he will be leaving the Commission in June.

D. ADJOURNMENT

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

Ayes: Chairperson Gill, Commissioners Dunn, Ramezani and Samuels

Noes: None

Absent: Commissioner De Maria

Abstain: None

The motion passes.

The meeting adjourned at 6:54 PM.

Linda Robb
Recording Secretary

James Gill
Commission Chairperson