

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

February 14, 2017
Manhattan Beach City Hall, City Council Chambers
1400 Highland Avenue
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson May called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Friedman, Gill, Prigozhin, Manna, Chairperson May.

Absent: None

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

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 10, 2017

A motion was made and seconded (Gill /Manna) to approve subject to changes:

Pg 2, 2nd paragraph in the section Presentation by Blanchard Fuentes: 1) 2nd line down, insert "new" after "by 2030 all" and 2) 4th line down, correct "mon" to read "amount"

Pg 3: change the vote 4-1 to read 4-0-0-1 (4 ayes: Gill, Manna, Prigozhin, May, 0 noes, 0 abstain; 1 absent: Dunn)

Pg 4: 1) in Action section, change the vote 4-0 to read 4-0-0-1 (4 ayes: Gill, Manna, Prigozhin, May; 0 noes, 0 abstain, 1 absent: Dunn); 2) General Business: second line strike "handbook" replace with "Work Plan"; 3) Adjournment vote: strike Dunn and replace with May; and 4) after "passed by voice votes" insert 4-0-0-1 (4 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, 1 absent).

Roll Call:

Ayes: Gill, Prigozhin, Manna, Chairperson May

Noes: None

Abstain: Friedman

Absent: None

Chair May introduced new Commissioner Elisse Friedman, who gave a few introductory remarks, noting she is a senior at Mira Costa, a musician who has participated in many ensembles. She has worked with Parks and Recreation Coordinator Deb Hom in selecting music for city events, and is looking forward to college but meanwhile is eager to put her skills to work as a Commissioner.

D. CEREMONIAL

Chair May proceeded to call forward and award certificates of recognition to a number of local artists for their contributions to the City and each made brief comments as follows:

Sam Harang, expressed appreciation and noted he was born and raised in Manhattan Beach, till 2007 and, while working at Beckers Bakery, learned to use a paintbrush. He has done a lot of shows including live art shows in the South Bay, also taught high school in a mural program. He showed a painting that illustrates how important Manhattan Beach is to him.

Two artists, **Frank Matranga**, ceramicist and **John Scott**, graphic artist, were announced by the Chair but were not present.

O.J. Watson, local commercial artist, recently passed away, was represented by his family, including wife Eileen and sons Tom and Will. Eileen noted that O.J. moved from New York City where he was very successful, to Manhattan Beach in 1969, where he was very active in the community. For example, he designed the original flag logo for the City's Hometown Fair, produced the Little League baseball rosters, was involved in various projects for Center School and designed many political campaign materials. The Commission expressed condolences to his family.

Don Spencer, painter and sculpture, showed two pieces of his work including a painting of the former Lar Mar Theater that he had started in 1975 and a sculptural framed figure - both very meaningful to him. He has enjoyed his interactions with people and believes that the community derives a strong positive energy from the ocean. His art training was at Otis Art Institute and UCLA. He is still tremendously enjoying life here in Manhattan Beach.

John Post, photographer, thanked the Commission for this recognition and opportunity to talk about his work. He noted that he has been selling his photography for over 40 years, grew up wanting to be an artist, attended Aviation High School and then went into the army. After his service, he attended El Camino Community College where he took art classes and found he could use a camera as a paintbrush. He left the USA for 3 years, on his return he started seeing beauty in common place scenes that he photographed. He sold his photos for 13 years on the old Manhattan Market porch on Manhattan Beach Boulevard (now Noah's Bagels) and then opened a gallery on Manhattan Avenue where he has been since. He is still shooting pictures and invited all to visit his gallery.

Chantelle Barry, actress and singer/songwriter noted she was born in Australia but has adopted Manhattan Beach as her home. She appreciates the beauty that is here, the people and community and is greatly honored. **Scott Whyte**, actor, musician and songwriter was born and raised in Manhattan Beach, is an actor and musician and started doing films and playing music when young with the support of Archie Sherman. He has been playing in the South Bay (Sharks Cove) for several years and also plays at Concerts in the Park. He is very honored to be recognized for his love of music. Scott and Chantelle performed a song that they wrote together.

Chair May called for a break at 7:00 P.M.

Chair May reconvened the meeting at 7:15 P.M.

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

F. STAFF ITEMS

Cultural Arts Division Update

Cultural Arts Manager Betz stated staff continues to be very busy with its established exhibits schedule. Their third "pop up" exhibit will be at the new skate park ribbon cutting on March 18. That event, sponsored by Industrial Skateboards, is a very full day with something for everyone: from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm there will be skating, followed by the ribbon cutting ceremony. Some pro skaters will be present until 3:30 after which there will be a concert till about 5:30 pm, at

which time, there will be the art exhibit/book signing of the “California Locos” a group that includes well known artists Chaz Bojórquez, Dave Tourjé, Norton Wisdom, John Van Hamersveld and Gary Wong who met in the 1960’s and reflect LA art through surf, skate and barrio cultures. Commissioner Manna stated that he visited the site and is impressed and Manager Betz stated that he is working on getting some permanent art at the site.

Mr. Betz gave a status of other upcoming events, including: the “I Heart MB” exhibit (opening reception February 24) noting they have a large number of entries (39) and things are going very well. Other upcoming events include the Mira Costa High School 17th annual show, and the Shane Guffogg “Dance of Thought” exhibit that will have an opening reception on April 12th. Eilen Stewart noted that Cynda Valle, one of the “Very Cinematic Narrative” exhibit artists is still coming to the Art Center on the weekends (Saturdays till 9 pm and Sundays till 5 pm) and this has been a very positive interactive part of the exhibit.

Mr. Betz also updated that staff is planning the summer concerts and the sailboat sculpture at City Hall is still not quite finished but permits have now been secured.

G. COMMISSION ITEMS

Commissioner Gill reported positively on the Light Gate sunset on January 27. There was a good turnout, cookies were great and the sculpture had been cleaned.

Commissioner Manna commented: 1) At a recent meet and greet hosted by Mayor Pro Tem Howorth he mentioned the need for right-of-way traffic safety enhancements on Manhattan Beach Boulevard adjacent to the Art Center, including red curbing at the driveway apron (would eliminate one parking space) and a crosswalk (mid-block) and these ideas seemed to be positively received. 2) He suggested advertising upcoming City hosted cultural events on the Ipads in the Downtowner EV vehicles.

Elisse Friedman reported that she is assisting the South Bay Film Festival event by starting to pull together some ideas from film and art students and she is also working with the Art Center about the concept of “Poetry Out Loud”.

Chair May reported that she got an ok to hold a North Manhattan Beach Art Walk on Saturday May 13 between 10 and 4 pm tentatively, and a lot of interest has been received from artists. A call for artists will be in the paper and there will be banners advertising. If the event goes well, they may repeat in July, and it is hoped that this event will attract shoppers, noting that a shuttle will be provided by the North End BID.

H. GENERAL BUSINESS - None

I. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:45 P.M., it was moved and seconded (Gill/Manna) and passed unanimously by voice vote to adjourn the meeting to 6:00 P.M. on March 14th in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue.