

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

May 15, 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 6:01 PM.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Friedman, Manna (6:29), Prigozhin, Chairperson May.

Absent: Gill

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

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 11, 2017

There being no changes to the minutes, Chair May ordered approval, it was so ordered, all present approving by voice vote with exception of Commissioner Friedman, who abstained.

D. CEREMONIAL – Recognition of outgoing Commissioner Friedman

It was noted that Commissioner Friedman's last meeting will be in June and so it was decided to postpone recognition until the next meeting.

Noting that this was the last meeting for which Commissioner May will be acting as Chair, Cultural Arts Manager Betz made brief remarks and presented to Commissioner Jacquelyne May a certificate of recognition for her service; he noted his appreciation for her enthusiasm. A group picture was taken with the Commission and staff.

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

F. STAFF ITEMS

Cultural Arts Division Update

Manager Betz briefly summarized upcoming Art Center exhibits through summer:

- StART High School exhibit: opens Friday, May 19, 6-9 pm. An email will be sent to the Commission. This is a culmination of the Mira Costa students' work over the past school year.
- Shane Guffogg exhibit: closing Sunday June 11, 3-5 pm, will be more of an artist's talk.
- South Bay Film & Music Festival – Youth Showcase: Opening 6-8 pm, June 22, till July 1.
- Cross Town Traffic, a pop up show/fundraiser, auctioning +- 100 art works of local artists. June 17, 5-10 pm; in collaboration with South Bay Contemporary SoLA Gallery.
- Older Adults Art Show - July 7-9th, opening reception July 7 from 6-8 pm.
- June Edmonds, Pamela Hudson-Smith, Nicollette Komanos; July 14 – Sept. 10. Opening Friday July 14, 6-9 p.m.

Other events: Concerts in the Park starts July 2 and two Films in the Library this summer.

G. COMMISSION ITEMS

Chair May distributed flyers for the North Manhattan Beach Art Walk, June 10, Saturday, 10 am – 4 pm. Commissioner Friedman mentioned that there were some high school student groups that were interested in playing music at the event. Chair May noted there may be a City permit required, and suggested that she contact Linda Robb in Parks and Recreation.

H. GENERAL BUSINESS -

Sculpture Garden

Cultural Arts Manager Betz noted that staff is starting to gear up for a 2-year Sculpture Garden program as has been proposed in the Work Plan. Although the Plan is not yet approved by the City Council, staff is getting things started due to time needed for production. Mr. Betz laid out a tentative 2017/2018 schedule, pending approval of the Work Plan as follows:

- September 18, 2017: put out RFP, using an all electronic program for the RFP and submission process (no mockettes required)
- November 2017, submittals due from artists
- February 2018: bring to Cultural Arts Commission for recommendation
- March 2018: bring to City Council for approval of selections
- April 2, 2018: notify artists
- April 16, 2018: advise CAC of accepted artists
- October 1-5, 2018: installation (opening reception 10/15/18)
- September 2019: start next cycle

Mr. Betz added that Staff plans to work closely with other city departments for building permits and maintenance issues, and reiterated that this plan is dependent on approval by the City Council.

Commissioner Prigozhin noted that he has been brainstorming ideas for future Sculpture Garden exhibits. He suggested as an option to the traditional sculpture or the light sculptures previously discussed, an “augmented reality” based type of exhibit where digital data is gathered by a drone and then integrated with the physical environment and the “sculptures” are viewed by the public using a link on a smart phone, tablet or low cost 3D viewer. Some benefits are: the installation has no physical impact because the exhibit pieces are digitally created; the technology is readily available, cost is not high and submittals can be sent from anywhere. An artist’s submission would be a 3D digital model that can be uploaded. He will provide more information to Mr. Betz.

Selection of 2017/2018 Cultural Arts Commission Chairperson

Manager Betz noted that the Chair position goes to Commissioner Gill who, though absent tonight has agreed to serve. Chair May confirmed that Commissioner Progozhin is set to be the Vice-Chair.

Chair May called for the vote to appoint Commissioner James Gill to be the new Chair and Commissioner Prigozhin to be Vice Chair.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Friedman, Manna, Progozhin, Chairperson May

Noes: None

Abstain: None
Absent: Gill

Mr. Betz stated there will be two new commissioners at the next meeting - one will replace the seat that Elisse Friedman temporarily filled, and the other is a new, sixth seat for a student member. Commissioner Manna questioned whether there has been any discussion for a dedicated senior citizen (55 or older) seat as has been done for Parks and Recreation. Mr. Betz noted he was not aware of any such direction. Commissioner Prigozhin asked and there was some discussion as to whether, with six commissioners all would have a full vote, which could result, theoretically in a tie decision.

I. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:37 P.M, it was moved and seconded (Friedman/May) and passed by voice vote 4-0-0 (4 ayes, 0 absent, 0 abstain) to adjourn the meeting to 6:00 P.M. on June 19th in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue.