

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

April 16, 2018

Manhattan Beach Art Center
1560 Manhattan Beach Boulevard
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Gill called the meeting to order at 6:09 PM.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Chase (until 8:00 p.m.), May, Manna, Rubino (arrival 6:13), Chairperson Gill

Absent: Prigozhin

Others present: Cultural Arts Manager Martin Betz, Ceramics Supervisor Eilen Stewart, Program Development staff member Beta Ealy, Public Works Associate Engineer Mamerto Estepa Jr. and City Engineer Prem Kumar, Recording Secretary Rosemary Lackow.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 19, 2018

It was moved and seconded (May/Manna) to approve the March minutes with no changes; the motion carried unanimously (Ayes: Chase, May, Manna, Gill; Absent: Rubino, Prigozhin) with a voice vote.

D. CEREMONIAL – None

E. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-Minute Limit) -

City resident and former Councilman Russ Lesser addressed the Commission and submitted a written proposal that the City consider installing a “love lock structure” in a public place in the City, citing other love lock structures in Europe and in Napa Valley. Chair Gill accepted Mr. Lesser’s proposal on behalf of the Commission and thanked him for his input.

F. STAFF ITEMS

Cultural Arts Division update-Martin Betz

Mr. Betz announced that he will have on the agenda in May, the formation of a subcommittee to process the de-commissioning of the mural on the wall in the City Hall lobby which will follow a process similar to that used for *Light Gate*. He suggested the Commissioners can start to think about who might serve on this committee.

City Wayfinding Program update- Mamerto Estepa Jr

City Engineer Prem updated the Commission on the Wayfinding project, noting that in October the City Council directed that staff proceed to develop a master plan based on a beach classic/distressed wood theme, create a prototype and obtain feedback from various City commissions. The Public Works staff is here tonight with a prototype of a pedestrian direction sign and is seeking its input on sign and design intent.

Associate Engineer Mamerto Estepa led the Commissioners in a discussion and advised that the prototype is the actual size but in other respects is conceptual. The intent of the type of sign prototype being presented is to guide pedestrians. It will be made of scratch resistant aluminum, on a pedestal and located in conspicuous places. He is looking for input from the Commission and will also seek input from the PPIC and the North End BID.

The Commission discussed and provided the following comments:

Commissioner Rubino stated she likes the prototype but wonders if it will work for people with vision issues and suggested that the lettering be somewhat thicker to contrast with the grey; has a concern with the height, i.e. could it be shorter?

Commissioner Manna thinks if it's an info sign, people will naturally walk up to it. He agrees lettering might be a little thicker; noted that the height of the lettering relative to handicapped in wheelchairs should be considered; wondered if a multi-sided version could be used so that each side would direct pedestrians.

Commissioner Chase had a concern that the maps on the sign would contain sufficient information.

Chair Gill inquired as to whether the changes that will need to be made from time to time due to turnover in businesses will be easy to update; suggested that the embedded design (e.g. the sun) be customized with respect to their shape to reflect local places like the pier and expressed concern that in placing the pedestrian signs, obstructions to ocean views should be considered and avoided.

Commission May expressed concern with the overall height, but suggested if it needs to be so tall, perhaps a surfboard shape might work well.

In response to the Commission's comments Mr. Estepa and/or Mr. Prem explained that the overall sign size, lettering is standard height and font size geared for pedestrians and each sign will be tailored to its unique location. The panels in the signs can be moved easily for updating as needed and the design will be as per the direction of the City Council. This particular sign is one of many different types and it is the largest, by far.

Chair Gill invited public comment.

Gary McAulay, MB Historical Society, stated that he thinks the sign is pretty good for its purpose, and personally likes the grey lettering and believes that its height is validated because it has to be seen over peoples heads.

There being no other speakers, Chair Gill closed the public comment.

Chair Gill recapped the Commission's comments and added that although he felt the overall design is simple and nice, he felt there is a lack in a sense of "fun".

In response to an inquiry from Manager Betz, Mr. Estepa stated that integration of technology into the sign program is being explored.

In response to Chair Gill, Manager Betz indicated he has given the City Council an update on all Cultural Arts programs that are underway and staff is awaiting budget approval to see the staffing that will be available.

Chair Gill called for a break at 6:40 to allow the sign prototype to be taken down and the meeting resumed at 6:50.

G. COMMISSION ITEMS

Commissioner Manna acknowledged that he will be out of town at the May meeting which will be Chair Gill and Student representative Chase's last, as their terms are expiring. He commended Chair Gill as doing a great job as Chair and for his six years of service on this Commission. Commissioner Manna also thanked Commissioner Chase for her diligent service as the student representative over the past year.

H. GENERAL BUSINESS

Sculpture Garden competition; jury for finalists –Martin Betz

Cultural Arts Manager Betz gave a brief overview explaining that Commission tonight will be jurying the Sculpture Garden competition and, after viewing the submittals in a Power Point presentation, and briefly discussing each of the entries (over 40 submitted), the judging will proceed with the 5 Commissioners voting on each submittals in three progressive rounds: Round 1: a simple vote on each of the entries, with value being between 1-5, 5 being highest and 1 being the lowest to arrive at a group of semi-finalists; Round 2: Vote again on the semi-finalists to arrive at the top five or so; and Round 3: discuss and determine the top 4 finalists. Manager Betz suggested that the Commission might consider the chosen locations (The Art Center, Civic Center, and Metlox Plaza) in judging the submittals.

Ceramics Supervisor Eilen Stewart led the Commission in first round, using a Power Point displaying each submittal. The Commission voted on each proposal (from 1-5), and subsequently Ms. Stewart tallied all votes for each Round 1. While the tally was being completed, Chair Gill invited public comment; no comments were received.

After Round 1, Manager Betz announced 12 semi-finalists: Amos Robinson, CJ Rench, David Varau, Hilde DeBruyne, Jenna Gibson, John Meyer, Kathy Taslitz, Lance Jost, Matthew Duffy, Matthias Newman, Patricia Vader, and Tim McHargue.

In Round 2, the Commission determined the top 5, including Robinson (kinetic wave), Varnau ("Joie de Vivre" girl), Jost (dragon), Vader (kinetic horse), and McHargue (bubble tubes). After further discussion it was determined that two submittals, the Jost (dragon) and Varnau ("Joie de Vire") would be too small for the venues, and the Commission replaced these with two larger pieces by Duffy (heart) and Gibson (colored balls).

In Round 3, the Commission proceeded to discuss further and determined the top 4 finalists to include: Duffy (heart), Gibson (colored balls), Vader (kinetic horse) and McHargue (bubble tubes). These top 4 would be invited to discuss and present in more detail their submittal to staff. The Commission then named two additional alternates, should staff, after meeting with the top 4 artists, find any of the top four were not feasible, or for some reason could not move forward. The two alternates were, in order: Amos Robinson (kinetic wave) and Hilde DeBruyne (blue butterfly)

I. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:45, P.M, Chair Gill adjourned the meeting to the regular meeting at 6:00 P.M. on May 21, 2018 in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue; and there being no objections, it was so ordered.

Rosemary Lackow
Recording Secretary

James Gill
Commission Chairperson

Martin Betz
Cultural Arts Manager

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