

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

May 20, 2019
City Hall – City Council Chambers
1400 Highland Avenue
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

A. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Rubino called the meeting to order at 6:11 PM.

B. PLEDGE TO FLAG

C. ROLL CALL

Present: Matsumoto, May, Taner, Vice-Chair Rubino

Absent: Ryan, Chairperson Manna

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

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - April 15, 2019

Vice-Chair Rubino called for changes to the minutes. Commissioner May asked that under Commission Items, 3rd paragraph, the first sentence be revised to read “Commissioner May noted she was looking around the City website for a way to repost an upcoming local art sale and it seemed that the website was out of date.” There being no other changes, Vice-Chair Rubino moved approval, and it was so ordered.

E. CEREMONIAL - Recognition of Outgoing Commissioner Grayson Matsumoto

Vice-Chair Rubino congratulated Commissioner Grayson Matsumoto on completing her one-year term as student representative on the Cultural Arts Commission and on behalf of staff and the Commission, Cultural Arts Manager Betz presented a certificate of appreciation to Commissioner Matsumoto.

At 6:17 pm Vice-Chair Rubino called for a break to enjoy refreshments in Commissioner Matsumoto’s honor. At 6:30 pm Vice-Chair Rubino called the meeting back to order.

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-Minute Limit) – None

G. GENERAL BUSINESS

Selection of 2019/2020 Commssion Chair and Vice-Chair

Vice-Chair Rubino announced this item and called for nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair, noting that reorganization is based on seniority. It was moved and seconded (May/Taner) that Vice-Chair Rubino assume the position of Chair, and Commissioner Ryan, that of Vice-Chair, effective in June.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Matsumoto, May, Taner, Vice-Chair Rubino

Noes: None

Absent: Ryan, Chairperson Manna

Abstain: None

Discussion of Commission Workplan

Cultural Arts Manager Betz noted that on June 3rd the Commission will be meeting with the City Council to discuss next year’s Workplan. Mr. Betz outlined what to expect at the joint meeting and reminded that only one major new project (Art in the Park) is being suggested to be added to the Workplan. He emphasized that this meeting is the opportunity for the Commission to receive guidance from the Council.

Vice-Chair Rubino will be presenting updates to the Council, and each of the Councilmembers will have an opportunity to ask questions. Manager Betz expects that the concept for improvements to the Art Center will be mentioned to the Council with the explanation of what the Commission wants to do and that in the next year, a reasonable goal would be to develop an RFQ. Vice-Chair Rubino noted that the Commissioners should expect to be asked to provide brief self introductions. Manager Betz stated that he will meet with Vice-Chair Rubino in advance and put together a summary of she will cover, and distribute to the Commissioners.

H. STAFF ITEMS

Cultural Arts Division Update – The following updates were provided by Staff (Betz/Stewart)

Art Exhibits: Cultural Arts Supervisor Eilen Stewart thanked the Commissioners for attended the opening of “Morphologizing” and proceeded to present slides of the opening event. She reported that about 250 people, representing a wide cross-section attended and public comments were very positive. After Morphologizing, which closes June 23, the “Discover Manhattan Beach”, the community exhibit will open July 12, with the same format as last year whereby some individual exhibits will be combined (in keeping with the limit of 4 main exhibits per year). In September, there will be a “Time 4 Art” (Homeira Goldstein curated) exhibit which will round out the year’s exhibits.

The Commission briefly discussed the exhibits. **Commissioner Taner** observed that the quality of exhibits keeps improving and he feels it is important for the City Council to have a presence - ideally they would be at the openings; he also believes recognition of City officials could be incorporated into the openings. The openings would also be a good opportunity for the Commission to be introduced and perhaps a prize can be awarded to a prominent member of the community who has served arts/culture in the community (A “Cultural Arts Commission Prize”, e.g.).

Manager Betz noted that he likes the idea as a Commission driven initiative; he further noted that at the next exhibit, “Discover Manhattan Beach” opening, there will be a stage so there is an opportunity to introduce the Commissioners with some remarks. **Cultural Arts Supervisor Stewart** noted that there is somewhat of a precedence, recalling that under **Commission May’s** time as Chair, several prominent local artists were formally recognized by the Commission for their contributions. **Commissioner Taner** noted that he wasn’t aware of that recognition, and believes that this should be continued.

Commissioner May expressed her concern that there is a disconnect with local artists (e.g. older adults, students) in that they feel they are being cut off from exhibiting at the Art Center. Manager Betz commented that the local community including older adults are now being folded into the community wide exhibit.

After some discussion, **Vice-Chair Rubino** suggested that the issues and suggestions by both Commissioners May and Taner can be put on an agenda at the June meeting for open discussion. That meeting will precede the “Discover Manhattan Beach” community opening which is in July. Towards this end, she suggested that Commissioner Taner and May formulate simple proposals. Vice-Chair Rubino will meet with Manager Betz to clarify how these proposals can be formulated for presenting at the June meeting.

Discussion reverted to the Morphologizing exhibit. Cultural Arts Supervisor Stewart emphasized that a number of the featured artists are from or have roots in Manhattan Beach.

Sculpture Garden: Manager Betz reported that staff has reviewed all contracts, artists are starting to receive stipends, foundations for pieces are being installed, and arrangements to remove the sail boat are in process. **Commissioner Taner** inquired about a prior suggestion that a new program name (to replace “Sculpture Garden”) be developed and whether this will be discussed at the Workplan meeting. **Manager Betz** noted that this is something that he feels should be incorporated into a larger overview of the program. Potentially

this issue could still be added to the Workplan joint meeting, if the staff reports have not yet been finalized - he will check into this.

City Hall Lobby Improvement: The four artists chosen by the APCC will be considered by the City Council on June 18th. Staff will have websites of those artists available at that time if the Council expresses an interest. **Commissioner Taner** stated for the record, the reason he was absent at the April 24th Cultural Arts meeting was that his wife had submitted a proposal. He has no problem with the chosen semi-finalists but wanted to point out that the minutes record (Cultural Arts Commission meeting March 18 – Page 2, Staff update) appears to have some contradictions in how the selection process occurred in the number of submittals that will be considered for the finalists. Manager Betz responded that he can look into this, but the process followed was that established by the City Council for handling Requests For Qualifications (RFQs).

City-wide murals: This project is going to the City Council for final approval at their June 18th meeting. Several artists are from Manhattan Beach. As soon as the City Council approves, the project will be implemented. The murals will not all be installed at the same time as each requires a staff member to supervise.

Utility boxes: This project is still under City legal review. A vendor who will work with each of the artists has been chosen but an agreement is pending. Staff anticipates this project will start around July or August.

Catalina Classic sculpture: Staff is waiting for an MOU from the project proponent and agreements also to be processed.

Lightgate: the new glass has been received; now waiting for contractor to install.

Strand bench repairs: A bench that was damaged by a skateboarder is in the process of being repaired. Another bench, at 20th Street has also been damaged and is being repaired.

Polliwog Park Historical House: Kimberly is working hard on this; approval just received for install of phone and computers; hopefully this will be ready by summer.

Summer Concerts: Mr. Betz went over a long list of bands that will be playing at the summer concerts. He noted that the “Salute to the Troops” will be more along the lines of a USO type performance which will be a change.

Youth Band and Art Fair - featuring both art and music will be held at the Art Center parking lot in July as part of the community exhibit. This will involve visual arts as well as a show involving 13 local youth bands. Responding to a question from **Commissioner Taner**, Mr. Betz noted that he will look into whether there will be arrangements for parking for city officials at the shows and whether the Commission can be included on a parking permit list.

City Council Updates - see discussion of Workplan meeting (G) and Cultural Arts Division Updates (H).

I. COMMISSION ITEMS

Commissioner Matsumoto thanked her fellow Commissioners for valuing her opinions as a student and stated that she really enjoyed her time on the Commission. Manager Betz complimented Commissioner Grayson in that her input was insightful and very helpful and he encouraged her to continue being engaged in her community. Vice-Chair Rubino wished her the very best and urged that she keep in touch as she moves on past high school.

Commissioner Taner mentioned that he and other Commissioners recently attended a fantastic Volunteers recognition dinner hosted by the City Council at the Comedy and Magic Club, and that he appreciated this gesture including the prizes. **Vice-Chair Rubino** echoed Commission Taner's comments and extended thanks to the City Council on behalf of the Commission.

Commissioner May commented that she found it difficult to locate the Art in Public Places program on the City website, but when she found it, she had concern that the website description of the Harold Roach sculpture on 15th Street makes it seem as if this piece is a duplicate piece of art, not unique. She believes that this is inaccurate.

Vice-Chair Rubino reminded all that the next meeting will be June 3 at 6:00 pm, in the Council Chambers, which is the joint Workplan meeting with the City Council.

J. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:35 P.M, **Vice-Chair Rubino** moved adjournment, to the regular meeting of June 17th at 6:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue.