

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

October 15, 2018

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

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Manna called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Matsumoto, May, Rubino, Ryan, Taner, Chairperson Manna

Absent: none

Others present: Ceramics Supervisor Eilen Stewart, Recording Secretary Rosemary Lackow

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES -

Staff advised that the draft minutes from the September 24, 2018 meeting will be submitted at the November meeting.

D. CEREMONIAL - None

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

F. STAFF ITEMS

At the suggestion of Manager Betz, it was unanimously agreed to add the following item.

- a. Presentation by South Bay Boardriders Club on Catalina Classic Statue Concept.

Ed McKeegan, board member, South Bay Boardriders Club (SBBRC), introduced committee members Tom Horton (President), and architect Michael Lee, who provided an update regarding this proposal. Tom Horton spoke to the Club's history and beginning in Manhattan Beach, and its premier event, the "Catalina Classic" which starts in Catalina and ends at the City Pier. The installation will honor the 3 top winners in the past and, going forward and showcasing the event through the project will be a great honor for the City.

Mr. Lee reviewed proposals, noting the focus is on the pier. The currently preferred location is down the bike path from the one first preferred but still near the Pier. It offers a lot more room, looks out to Catalina, is not cluttered, and can accommodate two statues and a small amphitheater. It will not affect parking. A third location was also identified and he went over that as well. Each location has pros and cons, but the preferred has the least cons, most pros. Each location can accommodate two paddlers either prone or standing; the thinking now is to have both a female and male figure, one prone and one standing. There will also be a compass rose (symbolic of the race start), bench, and as stated, a small amphitheater.

Mr. Lee responded to questions from the Commission as follows: 1: **(Ryan)** the project will be privately funded; the statues will be bronze; the compass rose will be colored concrete; names of three winners will

be etched in the concrete; palm trees will frame the sculptures. 2: **(Rubino)** clarifying what is being asked of the City: SBBRC is asking for permission to use the location and for Public Works to construct some minor infrastructure, but the funding including the statues would come from private sources. It is hoped that by funding this privately the process can be simplified. Supervisor Stewart noted that the construction would be reviewed by the city and permits would be required; 3: **(Taner)** It was discussed that, if privately funded, then advisory input as opposed to approving authority, is appropriate from the Commission. It also would be appropriate that the final design, before finalized be brought back to the Commission for final input. Commissioner Taner stated he felt that the project should have both a female and male figure, and questioned if a youth figure should also be represented. It was clarified that the statues will feature only adults because the Classic event, which is being commemorated, involves only adults. 4: **(Manna)** It was commented that perhaps this location might be considered as “cluttered”, and questioned whether a kneeling statue might invite climbing; 5: **(May)** It was clarified that since the project is not to be publicly funded, it would not require Commission approval. 6: **(Rubino)** It was clarified that the sculpture will be a gift to the City. The expectation for tonight is for the Commission to vote to recommend that the City Council support the proposal. 7: **(Manna)** It was concluded that, unlike the Love Sculpture, this installation is unique to the City.

Chair Manna called for a motion; it was subsequently moved (Rubino) that the CAC support one of the three presented locations.

Discussion on the motion followed. It was clarified and agreed: the project has been reviewed with input by the Historical Society; while the Commission does not have approving authority, it is appropriate that it provide input before being finalized; the standing paddlers are based on real local paddlers who served as models and the kneeling paddler is based on a sketch by a local artist.

Commissioner Rubino amended the motion (that): the Cultural Arts Commission support one of the three presented locations, contingent on the Cultural Arts Commission seeing the final rendering prior to its final approval. The amended motion was seconded by Commissioner Ryan.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Matsumoto, May, Rubino, Ryan, Taner, Chair Manna.
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Brief discussion followed. Commissioner Rubino suggested that the sculpture be moved a little farther away from the steps so it can be seen more from the beach perspective; Mr. Lee concurred.

b. Cultural Arts Division Update: Supervisor Stewart

- Staffing: Virginia Muzingo, present tonight, is a new part time employee, comes from the City of Torrance and will work at the Art Center, Lorenzo Baker, also coming on board, will work with Cultural Arts Manager Betz on Commission projects, and Beta Ealy, already on staff, will continue working at the Art Center.
- Exhibits: Terra Firma, which was well received, attended (250 at opening) and publicized, is now down and the Homeira Goldstein produced “Time 4 Art” exhibit “Mimesis” by Carla Ciparelli will be

installed; the opening reception will be October 26. Will involve projections on the wall with a few prints to create environments.

- Art in the Park: Manager Betz will be giving a memo to the City Council, and Chair Manna reported he is working with the Councilmembers individually, explaining the project; the project will be going to the City Council at their November 4 meeting.
- Utility box wraps: deadline for submissions is October 12, and about 70, many good, submissions have been received. Will be using the same kind of metric as with the Sculpture Garden.

c. City Council updates (see above, and for Sculpture Garden – see General Business Item)

G. COMMISSION ITEMS (This item taken after General Business)

- a. Brewery Art Walk - Commissioners Manna, May and Rubino reported on the Brewery Art Walk in DTLA which they attended yesterday. The Chair visited both studios of artists Cyndee Valle and Bill Sandell. In Ms. Valle's studio there was a piece dedicated to the City. Commissioner Rubino noted there seemed to be more digital art which was great.
- b. Chair Manna highly recommended a tour of the Frederick Weisman museum, noting this collection, in a private home is extremely impressive and valuable (tours can be arranged online).

H. GENERAL BUSINESS

- a. 18.1015.01 Sculpture Garden 2018-2019 - revisit submissions.

Staff gave a brief presentation, noting that City Council spent some time looking at the submissions and original recommendations and, after deciding which pieces they liked (i.e. with whimsy, movement and color), they asked that the Commission again review a shortened list and make a final recommendation for five artists and two alternates, plus two additional locations for the art.

Art Supervisor Eilen Stewart proceeded with the list of eleven artists, going over their bodies of work. Staff will compile the votes and determine the top five. Each piece will have a maximum score of 30 points, including 15 (artistic merit: is it inspiring?), 10 (relationship to Manhattan Beach), and 5 (readiness to do the project: does the proposal reflect ability to do it?). Before voting, the commission reviewed slides of each artist's work.

While votes were being tabulated, the Commission discussed two new proposed locations for the Sculpture Garden: Aviation and Nelson (Waterwise Park) and a small landscaped area in the greenbelt near intersection of Valley/Ardmore and 1st Street. The Commission was positive about both locations in that there will be high visibility for both (especially Aviation), with the caveat that the Traffic Engineer review for safety.

Chair Manna called for the motion.

Action – Sculpture Garden Locations

It was moved and seconded (Ryan, Rubino) that the Commission approve the two locations - Aviation Waterwise Garden @ Nelson and Valley/Ardmore at First Street, as presented.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: May, Matsumoto, Ryan, Rubino, Taner, Chair Manna.

Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

A short break was called at 8:00 pm while staff was counting sculpture garden artist votes.

The Commission reconvened at 8:05 pm.

While staff finished counting, the Commission turned to Item **18/1015.02** pertaining to mural locations.

18/1015.02 Murals in Manhattan Beach locations in City Facilities.

On behalf of the Art in Public Places Committee, Commissioner Taner reviewed six proposed mural locations: 1) Parking garage, Civic Center (3 possible loations); 2) Elevator (above ground structure) in Civic Center parking lot; 3) Joslyn Center front, east facing wall; 4) Metlox Plaza south of fountain, the south facing wall; 5) Pay 'N Play Racquetball building, Marine Avenue Park; and 6) (newly added): the Skate Spot wall, Marine Avenue Park.

Discussion followed including pros and cons, constraints (e.g. parking garage lighting, low visibility) and opportunities. **Commissioner Taner** pointed out that Instagram can have a big influence in attracting attention to more obscure places. **Commissioner Matsumoto** felt that the garage location was too dark and would likely not attract Instagram photos. **Chair Manna** stated concern about safety for the garage ramp location and was very positive about the wall in Marine Park behind the skate board ramps, noting it would be ideal for a skateboarding themed mural which could involve the skateboarders. There was agreement that the Civic Center garage locations should not be eliminated, rather caution should be taken for reasons discussed. Staff added that the ramp wall location is positive in that it is very accessible for the artist.

Supervisor Stewart informed of next steps: upon approval of the locations, staff will pair artists from the RFQ roster with the locations, bring this back to the Commission, after they are approved by the Commission, the selected artists will submit specific proposals for the locations which will be brought back to the Commission.

Chair Manna called for a motion.

Action – Mural locations

It was moved/seconded (Rubino/Matsumoto) that the Commission accept the proposed Mural Project locations as suggested by the Art in Public Places Committee.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: May, Matsumoto, Ryan, Rubino, Taner, Chair Manna.
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

The Sculpture Garden item (18/1015.01) resumed at 8:15 pm, the vote tally being completed. Supervisor Stewart announced the final top five: C.J. Rench and John Meyer (tie, 153 pts); Rick Randall and Peter

Mitten (tie, 133 pts) and Patrica Vader (119 pts). The alternates for backup are Kathy Taslitz (114 pts) and Gale McCall (112 pts). All of the remaining artists had fewer than 112 points.

Ms. Stewart confirmed with the Commissioners that this vote represents their intent, and then advised of the next steps: staff will work with the artists to decide on specific pieces, based on discussion tonight (likes/dislikes). For example, with Randall there was a comment to not have a pinwheel and with Vader, the preference is for the dog.

Chair Manna called for a motion:

Action – Sculpture Garden Artists

It was moved and seconded (Ryan/Rubino) that the Commission refer the list of five selected Sculpture Garden artists plus two alternates, to City Council for their approval.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: May, Matsumoto, Ryan, Rubino, Taner, Chair Manna.
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

I. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:35, P.M, Chair Manna adjourned the meeting to the regular meeting of November 19, 2018 at 6:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue; and there being no objections, it was so ordered.