

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

August 19, 2019
City Hall – City Council Chambers
1400 Highland Avenue
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Rubino called the meeting to order at 6:24 PM.

B. PLEDGE TO FLAG

C. ROLL CALL

Present: Manna, May, Ryan, Taner, Chair Rubino

Absent: Bennett, Ryan

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

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - July 15, 2019

It was moved and seconded (Manna/May) that the July 15, 2019 minutes be approved, no changes. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

E. CEREMONIAL - None

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3-Minute Limit)

Jim Murray, MFA, City resident and artist, gave an overview on the “Visitation/Art in Art Spaces” contemporary arts survey class he offers through the Parks and Recreation Department. The class is held on Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 pm and exposes class members to contemporary art issues and concepts through a weekly visitation to various galleries and venues, generally throughout the greater Los Angeles area. Carpools are encouraged and can be arranged. More info and to register: visit City website Parks and Recreation page. In the Activities search field, type “Art in Art Spaces”.

G. GENERAL BUSINESS

Discussion of workplan items - Cultural Arts Manager Betz led discussion on the following for considering on a future agenda:

- **Renaming of Sculpture Garden Program:** Manager Betz acknowledged that a suggestion made by **Commissioner Taner** to consider renaming this program has yet to be agendized. Subject was discussed and it was determined that this item would be placed on the September meeting agenda. All suggestions for a new name are to be sent to Mr. Betz by September 10th; he will email a reminder in advance. Mr. Betz also noted that, along with changing the name, it may be a good time to also consider whether the program might be expanded to cover more than sculpture.
- **Art Center Signage:** Manager Betz suggested and it was agreed that consideration of possible “stop-gap” improvements for signage at the Art Center will be placed on the September meeting agenda.

H. STAFF ITEMS

Cultural Arts Division updates - Cultural Arts Manager Betz reported on the following:

- Sculpture Garden installations: One sculpture is installed, the Vader “Circles” pad has been installed in Polliwog Park; “Dragon Tale” has been removed and a replacement will be installed within two

weeks; Staff is working with the artist to remove the “[Puff of Wind” sailboat at Civic Center; and generally in the spring, there will be a “flowering” of public sculpture around the city. In ensuing discussion: Commissioner Taner suggested that the City sponsor an unveiling for the Vader piece which could also serve to inform the community about the City’s art program. With Arts Manager Betz’s input, it was decided that an unveiling type event should wait until all sculptures are installed. Commissioner Manna also suggested that an “Art Map” showing the sculpture locations be developed once all pieces are installed. It was agreed that the suggestions by Commissioners Orhan and Manna be placed on the next agenda in September. Commissioner Orhan will take the lead and develop a concept for the type of event he envisions.

- Murals in Manhattan Beach: the project, covering murals through a publicly funded program, is coming together; contracts are still pending. Mr. Betz explained that it has been a continuing challenge to process contracts for the arts projects but staff’s goal is to develop a master contract. Mr. Betz also informed that the artist Bo Bridges has pulled out of the program for his two sites and there has been some discussion of not having any murals in the parking garage at City Hall since parking during the work week is predominantly city employees. Commissioner Taner endorsed the idea of numbering the murals.
- Light Gate glass replacement: Staff is still looking for a contractor who can comply with City insurance requirements.
- Community Grants: program will roll out in October. There has been some discussion regarding establishing an arts lifetime achievement award, but, although there is Council approval, staff recommends that the first year/cycle be completed first since this is a new program. A challenge is how to disburse the \$50,000 funds among three categories of grantees. The application will be simple and user-friendly; staff will vet the submittals first, and after review by the APCC, the Commission will review and be involved in the recommendations to City Council.
- Public Art Assessment: estimated will come before the Commission in November.
- Historical Society Art Exhibit: currently the A.C. Conner small scale exhibit is displayed in the Parks and Rec Director’s office. The current bathroom remodeling has presented a challenge in addition to change in a key staff position.

City Council updates – Mr. Betz reported:

- Catalina Classic commemorative sculpture: The project has approval of the City Council; Staff has recently had an important meeting; discussion is continuing as to what the sculpture will look like; there are some design issues with the ramping and stairs. The City has less control in that it is on beach land not owned by the City and Coastal Commission is involved; generally the feeling is this will result in a marked improvement to the targeted area.

I. COMMISSION ITEMS

Commissioner Manna reported on exhibits he has visited at the Hammer Museum, the Getty Center (Gordon Parks: the Flavio da Silva photo essay on favelas, Book of Beasts: Bestiary in the Medieval World, lecture “Laughing Rembrandt), and at the Skirball (Rudi Gernreich). All were very good. He also noted the Laguna Sawdust Festival is happening.

Commissioner Taner brought up two suggestions: 1) the small vacant building on west side of Highland, formerly a bank, directly across from City Hall, has been purchased by investors and is available “for lease”. The rental space includes a nice roof deck. Is it viable as an adjunct City Hall space, e.g. an art gallery that might help “kick start” the City’s public art programs? Could the CAC discuss and present ideas to the City Council? The Commission briefly discussed and agreed to place this item on the September agenda. 2) The Los Angeles County Art and Culture Commission has recently received deep funding as of public arts initiatives for the Los Angeles County Art and Culture Department, and he believes that it would be

appropriate for Chair Rubino to send a letter of congratulations to the Executive Director, Kristin Sakoda, on behalf of the Manhattan Beach Cultural Arts Commission along with an invite to visit the City and meet with staff and officials, as appropriate. It was agreed that Chair Rubino will write a letter.

Chair Rubino reported on a performance art piece at MOCA “In Just a Blink of an Eye” by the Chinese artist Xu Zhen; she felt it was very lovely. The Chair also inquired as to whether the flyers for classes are provided at the Art Center; Arts Supervisor Stewart noted that the classes are run by independent contractors and they are responsible for advertising the classes, but staff does provide support and very often flyers are provided at the Center.

J. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:49 P.M, **Chair Rubino** moved adjournment, to the regular meeting of September 16, 2019 at 6:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue.