



Agenda Item #: \_\_\_\_\_

# Staff Report

## City of Manhattan Beach

**TO:** Honorable Mayor Aldinger and Members of the City Council

**THROUGH:** Geoff Dolan, City Manager

**FROM:** Richard Gill, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Juanita Purner, Cultural Arts Manager

**DATE:** January 8, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Discussion regarding the Strand Alcove Bench Donor Guidelines

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the City Council discuss and approve the Strand Alcove/Bench Donor Guidelines.

**FISCAL IMPLICATION:**

There are no fiscal implications on the general fund associated with the recommended action. The program will be supported through donors interested in participating in the program.

**BACKGROUND:**

During the **June 19, 2007** Council meeting, Council approved the purchase of the six artistic benches for \$75,000 (the final design selected and five additional benches of the same design) from artist Stacy Dukes and requested staff to develop guidelines for future Strand Alcove bench donors. The initial bench is completed and is being stored until the alcove flooring is installed later this month. The site designated for the first bench is the first alcove south of the Manhattan Beach pier; the locations for the other five benches are pending. The five benches are being manufactured in the Granite Company's Seattle facility.

**DISCUSSION:**

Attached is a draft of the Strand Alcove/Bench Donor Guidelines for Council's approval. This document will be made available to future donors. One of the important aspects contained in these guidelines is the process for prospective donors:

**A. Select from Pre-approved Designs**

Our intent over time is to develop pre-qualified artists and benches such as the City's approved design and others. Potential donors can review pre-approved Bench/Alcove designs from pre-qualified artists. These designs will be available to donors in a CD or in a booklet format.

**B. Donor's Design Option**

The donor is permitted to submit an artist's rendering and model to the Cultural Arts

Commission for review. If approved, the artist's proposal will be sent to City Council for approval. Design submissions to the Commission are viewed twice annually; in February and July.

It should be noted the donor in either option enters into a contractual agreement with the City of Manhattan Beach which will relinquish all rights of the bench to the City.

A second area of importance is the **Artists and Donor Recognition**: Recognition of the artist and donor for each Bench/Alcove area may be placed in a discreet location and the size of the letters will be no larger than one inch high. Wording as follows: *Donated by: Rodney Benson – Artist: Joe Johnson.*

**CONCLUSION:**

The Commission wanted to provide the City Council with a range of options for filling out the available Strand Alcove/Bench sites. Staff and the Commission believe that the donor guidelines will insure the placement of future benches that are beautiful in design yet incorporate discreet donor recognition.

Staff recommends that City Council review the attached document and direct staff with possible revisions.

**Attachments:**

- A. Strand Alcove/Bench Donor Guidelines