

**DRAFT**

**CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**

**Minutes**

July 13, 2010

Manhattan Beach City Hall

Council Chambers

6:00 p.m.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Cultural Arts Commission (CAC) was called to order at 6:06 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present:

Susan Sweeney, Chair  
Nancy Humbarger, Vice Chair  
Peter De Maria, Commissioner  
Russ Samuels, Commissioner  
Susannah Rosenthal, Commissioner  
Juanita Purner, Cultural Arts Manager

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

None

**IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

None

**V. GENERAL BUSINESS**

**02/0612.25 Sculpture Garden**

Twelve submissions were received from artists who are interested in participating in the second Sculpture Garden installation. These entries were reviewed by the Commission with four artists pending; a studio visit is scheduled for one and the Commission needs confirmation from the others.

The initial review included:

Alison Wright	Bones
Frank Mando	Pele (Fire Goddess)
Melissa Ralston	The Blessing Tree
Robert Verhees	Young Sprout
Maria De Castro	Osprey
Sonia C. Patel	Pearl
Kent Kraber	Dragons (2)
Stephen Fairfield	Tailwalking Suncather and Sandhill Crane/Frog for Dinner

Pending Artists:

Mary Tarango	metal sculptor – title unknown
Tim Doyle	large scale abstract sculptures – title unknown
Alex Weinstein	Untitled (swell series)

## **VI. REPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Manhattan Beach Historical Society**

Parks & Recreation Director Richard Gill, Cultural Arts Manager Juanita Purner and Susan Sweeney, Cultural Arts Chair, met with the Historical Society President Steven Miesenholder on July 7.

This meeting involved a preliminary discussion regarding City Council's Work Plan Item #7 – Recognizing Historical Community Members. “The focus of this item is to create a City program that will recognize community members that have contributed significantly to the development and history of the City of Manhattan Beach. The Manhattan Beach Historical Society keeps many items of historical significance, such as photographs, artifacts and planning documents, at the “Red House” in Polliwog Park. We should use and expand upon this resource in developing this recognition program. As a part of this program, the City Council would like to honor the selected individuals through recognition at City Council meetings (perhaps as a part of the Centennial celebrations) and consider installing benches with plaques commemorating the historical community members along Veterans Parkway. The City Council would like the Cultural Arts Commission to meet with the Historical Society to further develop and refine ideas for this program.”

The Historical Society's membership includes persons involved with the City's initial development, founders of numerous service organizations and business leaders who made tremendous contributions to the City.

Mr. Miesenholder invited Richard Gill, Juanita Purner and Susan Sweeney to return on July 22 to meet the board members to discuss the recognition project.

### **Metlox and Civic Plaza Beautification Tour**

City Council Work Plan Item #14 – Beautify Metlox/Civic Center Plaza and Aviation/Manhattan Beach Blvd. “Staff will work with the Cultural Arts Commission and Public Works to develop ideas to beautify the Metlox and Civic Center Plazas and the rights-of-way along Aviation Boulevard and Manhattan Beach Boulevard using items such as benches, tables, planters and bike racks with artistic elements and will provide recommendations to the City Council for consideration.”

The Cultural Arts Commission and staff toured the Metlox complex on July 13 prior to their scheduled meeting in response to work plan item #14. The Commission is eager to establish a plan for this beautification project. Before any priorities could be set, a meeting with Public Works would determine whether the Commission preliminary suggestions are feasible and what kind of a budget is needed.

The Commission toured the three areas designated by item #14: The Metlox Plaza, 13<sup>th</sup> Street area and Civic Plaza and their preliminary findings were:

#### 13<sup>th</sup> Street Corner:

- Landscaping needs to be replaced to discourage use as play area
- The seating at 13<sup>th</sup> Street includes stationary wooden benches; additional tables and shade devices should encourage use by the public
- The Train that is in use on Tuesdays during the Farmers Market begins its route on the west side of the Shade Hotel and travels through the central plaza passing between the restaurants looping around the water fountain, kiln and table and chair area. It would be

helpful to know if the train featured on Tuesdays will remain year round as it may figure into the final plans for improvements.

Metlox Plaza:

- The area near the kiln has a number of tables and chairs; perhaps more could be added as well as umbrellas or free standing canvas shades (i.e., scrim are available in geometric shapes)
- The central fountain could have a shade device installed in one section
- Install tall ceramic planters at key sites with the plaza (similar to planters on west side of Shade Hotel)
- The addition of wall art and/or color to the walls surrounding the plaza would brighten the space
- The installation of hanging flower baskets livens up the area as well

Civic Center Plaza:

- The Civic Plaza has nooks where lightweight tables and chairs could be added

The Cultural Arts Commission will continue to discuss these initial findings during their next regularly schedule meeting and then forward a recommendation to the City Council.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m. The next Cultural Arts Commission Special meeting is scheduled for July 19, 2010.