

MINUTES
WAR MEMORIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, May 12, 2022

The Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco met in regular session on Thursday, May 12, 2022, at 2:00 p.m., in the Trustees' Board Room, War Memorial Opera House, President Horn presiding. As authorized by California Government Code Section 54953(e) and Mayor Breed's 45th Supplement to her February 25, 2020 emergency proclamation, some members of the public also attended this meeting remotely.

ROLL CALL

Present: President Horn, Vice President Lui, Trustee Fisher, Trustee Gatti, Trustee Kopp, Trustee Muduroglu, Trustee Myatt, Trustee Pelosi, Trustee Wilsey

Absent: Trustee Moscone and Trustee Wright

Staff Present: John Caldon, Managing Director

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Appointment of New Trustees: President Horn welcomed two new Trustees, Sakurako Fisher, former President of the San Francisco Symphony, and Maryam Muduroglu, current President of the San Francisco Opera Guild, to the Board. Trustee Fisher expressed her gratitude to the Board and stated that she looks forward to being able to contribute in a meaningful way. Trustee Muduroglu expressed her excitement about experiencing a "behind-the-scenes" tour with Director Caldon and President Horn a few weeks ago and said she looks forward to learning from the Board. Vice President Lui joined President Horn in his remarks and extended a warm welcome to the two new Trustees of the Board.

Helgi Tomasson Retirement: President Horn remarked that on Sunday, the San Francisco Ballet marked the end of its 2022 season with Swan Lake and the culmination of Helgi Tomasson's remarkable 37-year tenure as Artistic Director and Principal Choreographer. He extended gratitude on behalf of the Trustees for Mr. Tomasson's career, which transformed the Ballet and inspired generations of dancers.

Committee Assignments: President Horn announced that with the addition of the two new Trustees, new Committee assignments would be circulated to the Board.

Good and Welfare: With no objection from Trustees, President Horn called the Good and Welfare agenda item at the beginning of the meeting.

Trustee Myatt offered his resignation to the Board of Trustees due to his relocation outside of the City and County of San Francisco. Trustee Myatt fondly recounted his time on the Board with pride, beginning in 2006, and thanked all the Trustees with whom he served. He expressed thanks to Elizabeth Murray and John Caldon for their leadership, especially with how staff was utilized during the pandemic. He noted some of the accomplishments that he was most proud of whilst serving on the Board: the design, fundraising, construction, and dedication of the Veterans Monument in the Memorial Court in October 2014; and the renovation and seismic upgrades of the Veterans Building, which was the culmination of 22 years of work by Trustees and staff, in particular President Tom Horn. Trustee Myatt also discussed how remarkable it was that the Board covered the cost of expenses for the American Legion War Memorial Commission during the COVID-19 pandemic induced closures of the Herbst Theatre. He also expressed gratitude for how the Board handled itself during the lawsuit filed against it by the American Legion War Memorial Commission and remarked at the good relationship the Board has with the Commission now. Trustee Myatt thanked the Board for all the great times he has had taking care of the marvelous War Memorial complex.

President Horn expressed his gratitude to Trustee Myatt for his support and leadership over the years and emphasized the importance of having veteran representation on the Board. Trustee Kopp also thanked Trustee Myatt for his work on the Board of Trustees, as well as his work with the Marines Memorial Club, the Korean War Memorial Foundation, and the WWI Commemoration Committee in the Veterans Building. Trustee Gatti expressed his respect for the dignity and integrity with which Trustee Myatt maintained his position on the Board.

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Approval of Consent Agenda: Director Caldon stated that items submitted on the Consent Agenda included: the minutes of the March 10, 2022 Regular Meeting of the Board; Rental Requests for April 14, 2022 and May 12, 2022; March and April 2022 Housekeeping Expenditure Reports, and the Resolution Adopting Findings to Allow Teleconferenced Meetings Under California Government Code.

On motion of Trustee Wilsey, seconded by Trustee Gatti, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. 22-08

RESOLVED, By the Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco that the minutes of the March 10, 2022 Regular Meeting of the Board; Rental Requests for April 14, 2022 and May 12, 2022; March and April 2022 Housekeeping Expenditure Reports, and the Resolution Adopting Findings to Allow Teleconferenced Meetings Under California Government Code are hereby approved.

Capital Upgrades: Director Caldon then reported that the Capital Planning Department has agreed to allocate to the War Memorial an additional \$2.2 million for the modernization of Davies Symphony Hall elevators. He stated that the department now has adequate funding to modernize both of the remaining passenger elevators. Director Caldon stated that the work will take approximately two years to complete. He also reported that the Capital Planning Committee is providing initial funding of \$5 million towards the \$12 million cost of the Opera House mansard roof. He noted that Vice President Lui directed him to have DPW conduct an assessment to determine the current condition of the roof and to provide an updated estimate on repair costs. President Horn thanked Vice President Lui for her dogged determination regarding this project.

Staffing: Director Caldon then reported that staffing levels have been low for the last two years due to the hiring freeze instituted at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. He noted that the department recently hired additional security guards, is in the process of hiring more engineers, and with the approval of the Board, the new Assistant Managing Director. Director Caldon stated that by the end of this fiscal year, the department should be back to being almost fully staffed. He expressed his thanks to the staff for everyone “doing two jobs” over the past two years and looks forward to being close to fully staffed soon.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Special Hiring Committee: President Horn then reported that the work of the Special Hiring Committee has been accomplished, and the Committee will present its recommendation for a new Assistant Managing Director/Executive Secretary to the Board. He noted that the San Francisco Administrative Code and the Brown Act allow for this discussion and the vote to appoint the new Assistant Managing Director/Executive Secretary to be held in closed session. He stated that if the Board of Trustees votes to convene in closed session, all members of the public and staff will be excused from the meeting room and as is the prerogative of the Board, President Horn requested that staff members John Caldon and Francesca Cicero remain with Trustees in closed session in order to facilitate the meeting.

On motion of Vice President Lui, seconded by Trustee Wilsey, the Board voted unanimously to enter closed session to consider and potentially appoint a new Assistant Managing Director/Executive Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the War Memorial and Performing Arts Center.

The Board of Trustees then moved into closed session for that discussion.

After reconvening in open session, the Board unanimously approved a motion by Vice President Lui and seconded by Trustee Wilsey to not disclose matters discussed in closed session. President Horn reported that although the Trustees would not be disclosing the discussions held in closed session, the Trustees did vote to make an offer of appointment to a candidate and that their appointment will become effective upon completion of the candidate's background check and their acceptance of the offer. He noted that a public announcement naming the candidate would be made following those actions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment is an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the Trustees on items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board, but not on the agenda.

President Horn stated that during COVID-19 health emergency while Trustees are meeting remotely, members of the public may address the Board by emailing their public comment to WarMemorialBoard@sfgov.org or by leaving public comment as a voicemail at 415-554-6377 in advance of Board meetings. President Horn also invited the public to leave additional public comment until 12:00 p.m. on War Memorial Board meeting day. Trustees encourage the public to provide their comments and feedback by email or voicemail. It should be noted that no public comment was received either prior to the meeting or in the subsequent week.

There being no public comment, President Horn closed public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Horn adjourned the meeting at 2:53 p.m.



John Caldon
Managing Director