

**MINUTES**  
**WAR MEMORIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**Thursday, June 9, 2022**

The Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco met in regular session on Thursday, June 9, 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 Muduroglu, and Trustee Wilsey  
Absent: Trustee Gatti, Trustee Kopp, Trustee Pelosi, and Trustee Wright  
Staff Present: John Caldon, Managing Director, and Rob Levin, Executive Secretary

The meeting did not have a quorum, so no actions were undertaken by the Board at this meeting.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Passing of Trustee Gina Moscone:** President Horn opened the meeting with a somber announcement regarding the passing of Trustee Gina Moscone. He reported that Trustee Moscone was appointed to the War Memorial Board in 1980 by then-Mayor Dianne Feinstein. He noted that Trustee Moscone served on every committee of the Board, as well as the Boards of the San Francisco Performing Arts Center Foundation and the San Francisco Art Institute. He remarked that she was reliable, dependable, conscientious, and did her homework.

President Horn noted that Trustee Moscone and he had become close after Mayor George R. Moscone's death, attending performances of the Ballet, Opera, and Symphony together, as well as staying up late to sing showtunes. He expressed that personally he was going to miss her. President Horn requested that the meeting be adjourned in her honor.

**SF Opera Summer Season:** President Horn then reported that the San Francisco Opera kicked off its summer season with an incredible production of "Don Giovanni," the conclusion of its ambitious and inventive Mozart-Da Ponte trilogy. He remarked that he is also looking forward to "Dream of the Red Chamber" and Music Director Eun Sun Kim conducting a Verdi concert. He wished the Opera a fabulous summer season.

**Behested Payments Legislation:** President Horn stated that in the recent June 2022 election, San Francisco voters passed Proposition E, which involves behested payments. He noted that because the measure created new rules regarding fundraising efforts, he has asked the City Attorney to attend the July Board meeting to brief the Trustees on what the new legislation entails.

**MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Staffing:** Director Caldon was happy to report that a new Assistant Managing Director had been hired, as well as new stationary engineers and security guards. The hiring focus will now move to vacant administrative positions. He stated that this means the department is getting back to being almost fully staffed, which is welcome after two years of operating understaffed. Director Caldon thanked the HR team for their efforts.

**Automated Rigging System:** Director Caldon reported that he is working with the Opera and the Ballet on an issue related to the automated rigging system on the Opera House stage. He explained that it is a mechanically-driven system installed over the last 10-15 years that flies scenery in and out and controls the main drape.

Director Caldon reported that the system is starting to fail, and due to the pressing nature of the issue, he has been in talks with the resident companies regarding replacement and will keep the Board apprised of any developments. He also noted that a full assessment is needed to clearly understand the scope of the problem.

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**Summer Work in the Opera House:** Executive Secretary Levin reported back to the Board on scheduled repairs and maintenance that would be completed during the summer. He noted there was still a short list of items to finish before the Opera House Seating Replacement project is officially completed, including a fix to the aisle lighting, which will be completed in July. Executive Secretary Levin also thanked the Board for trusting him with his new position and he said he looks forward to working with all the Trustees in the future.

### **COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Presentors Liaison Committee:** President Horn noted that prior to today's meeting, Global Gourmet Catering, the War Memorial's exclusive concessionaire, submitted a request to Trustees to extend the Original Term of their Agreement. He noted Global Gourmet's agreement includes an Original Term lasting 5-years from August 1, 2018 to July 31, 2023. He then asked Chair Wilsey to brief the Board members on what occurred during the Committee meeting held earlier today.

Chair Wilsey explained that due to the COVID pandemic, War Memorial venues were closed to concessions service for 18-months during the Original Term of Global Gourmet's Agreement. She stated that Global Gourmet requested to extend the Original Term of its Agreement by 18-months so it may benefit from a full 5-years of revenue-earning potential, as guaranteed under the Agreement. She then reported that the Presentors Liaison Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the full Board approving Global Gourmet's request to extend the original term of its Agreement by 18-months, with the amended Original Term to expire on January 31, 2025.

Due to the lack of quorum, no action was undertaken, and the item was held over to a future meeting.

### **REGULAR ITEMS**

**Assistant Managing Director/Executive Secretary Hiring:** President Horn reported that at the May Board meeting, Trustees voted unanimously in closed session to offer the position of Assistant Managing Director/Executive Secretary to Rob Levin. President Horn noted that at that meeting, the selection could not be publicly announced as Mr. Levin first needed to complete some administrative matters.

President Horn then happily announced that Rob Levin officially became the Assistant Managing Director/Executive Secretary of the War Memorial effective May 28, 2022. He congratulated Mr. Levin on behalf of the Trustees. A member of the public, associated with the Shen Yun production, also congratulated Mr. Levin on his appointment and expressed his enjoyment working with Mr. Levin in previous years.

### **GOOD AND WELFARE**

There being no good and welfare, President Horn closed good and welfare.

**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](mailto: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.

Abe Thompson, presenter of Shen Yun, extended his thanks to Managing Director Caldon and Assistant Managing Director Levin for their assistance in bringing Shen Yun to the theater safely for performers, audiences, and staff. He praised their outstanding job in helping the production deal with the COVID surge in January 2022. Mr. Thompson also mentioned how much he enjoyed the wider seats in the Opera House and how forward-thinking it was to complete that project while the space was closed. Mr. Thompson remarked that he looked forward to a long partnership with the War Memorial Opera House and thanked the Board.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Horn adjourned the meeting at 2:17 p.m. in memory of Trustee Gina Moscone.



Rob Levin  
Executive Secretary