

MINUTES
WAR MEMORIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Thursday, September 12, 2019

The Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco met in a regular session at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 12, 2019, in the Trustees' Board Room, War Memorial Opera House, President Bechtle presiding.

ROLL CALL

Present: President Bechtle, Vice President Horn, Trustee Davis, Trustee Levin, Trustee Moscone, Trustee Myatt, and Trustee Wilsey

Absent: Trustee Gatti, Trustee Lui, Trustee Pelosi, and Trustee Shultz

Staff Present: John Caldon, Managing Director, and Jennifer Norris, Assistant Managing Director

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Bechtle called for approval of the minutes of the August 8, 2019 regular meeting of the Board. On motion of Trustee Wilsey and seconded by Trustee Moscone, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Public Comment: Michael Petrelis stated that he wanted to remind the War Memorial of Board of Trustees that the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force has determined there is wide latitude for general public comment related to the members of a body hearing public comment, particularly when the body is subsidized by the City and County of San Francisco.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Symphony and Opera Openings: President Bechtle stated that the San Francisco Symphony and San Francisco Opera opened their 2019-20 seasons last week with fantastic performances and gala festivities. On behalf of the Board, President Bechtle extended congratulations to the Symphony and Opera on their opening nights, and extended best wishes for successful seasons.

Public Comment: Michael Petrelis stated he was responsible for the interruption to the stage presentation that preceded the San Francisco Opera's opening night performance in the War Memorial Opera House on Friday, September 6, 2019. He further stated he felt he had been courteous to stage his disruption before the performance of the opera had begun, as the disruption took place during the pre-opera speeches, rather than during the opera itself. Mr Petrelis offered additional public comment regarding subject matters outside the jurisdiction of the War Memorial Board of Trustees.

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Rental Requests: Mr. Caldon stated that rental requests mailed to Trustees are routine and requested their approval. On motion of Vice President Horn and seconded by Trustee Wilsey the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. 19-31

RESOLVED, By the Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco that the September 12, 2019 rental requests are hereby approved.

Director's Report:

Replacement of Pittosporum Trees at the War Memorial Opera House and Veterans Building: Mr. Caldon stated that in May 2017 a consulting arborist evaluated the health, structural defects, and useful life expectancy of the War Memorial's pittosporum trees, also known as Victorian Box trees, which are located at the northeast and southeast corners of the War Memorial Opera House and Veterans Building along Van Ness Avenue. Mr. Caldon reported the consultant found that with the exception of three trees, the grove is declining with thinning canopies and yellowing foliage, and that this indicates their health is failing and they are reaching the end of their useful lives. Mr. Caldon stated that with ongoing decline, the trees will lose their aesthetic value and present hazards from falling branches, and that because the trees have grown so closely to each other, replacing individual trees is not feasible. Mr. Caldon informed the Board that the consulting arborist made clear that if the War Memorial is to replace one tree, it will need to replace them all. Mr. Caldon stated that this matter will need to be referred to the Building Committee at a later date.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Revenue, Appropriations and Housekeeping Expenditures Reports for August 2019: Ms. Norris stated that Revenue, Appropriations and Housekeeping Expenditures reports for August 2019 had been distributed to Trustees, and she requested approval of the August 2019 housekeeping expenditures as submitted. On motion of Vice President Horn, seconded by Trustee Moscone, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. 19-32

RESOLVED, By the Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco that Purchase Order Nos. PO341924 through PO351563 are hereby approved.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Trustee Myatt stated that Fleet Week will take place from October 7 through October 14, 2019, and that there will be an "Honor the Fallen" concert at SFJAZZ Center on October 9, 2019. Trustee Myatt extended an invitation to all Trustees to attend the concert.

Trustee Levin stated that he had the opportunity to visit the recently renovated Swords to Plowshares office in the Veterans Building, and that the new office space is beautiful. He encouraged all Trustees to visit the office. Trustee Levin also informed the Board that Swords to Plowshares will be hosting a conference with the San Francisco VA Health Care System, and the San Francisco Department of Aging and Adult Services. Trustee Levin informed the Board that the conference was intended to train those who help veterans. Trustee Levin further shared his perspective that allowing Swords to Plowshares to occupy space in the Veterans Building was a great step taken by the Board.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

President Bechtle called for any general public comment on items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board, but which did not appear on the agenda.

Michael Petrelis expressed his gratitude to the Board for providing a podium for use by those making public comment. Mr. Petrelis offered additional public comment regarding subject matters outside the jurisdiction of the War Memorial Board of Trustees.

ADJOURNMENT

President Bechtle closed public comment. There being no further business to come before the Board, President Bechtle adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.



Jennifer Norris
Executive Secretary/Assistant Managing Director