

MINUTES
WAR MEMORIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Thursday, August 14, 2025

The Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco met in regular session on Thursday, August 14, 2025, at 2:02 p.m., in the Trustees' Board Room, War Memorial Opera House, Vice President Horn presiding.

ROLL CALL

Present: Vice President Horn, Trustee Gatti, Trustee Kopp, Trustee Lam, Trustee Makras, Trustee Muduroglu, Trustee Newstat, and Trustee Pelosi

Absent: President Wilsey, Trustee Rocco, and Trustee Wright

Staff Present: Kate Sofis, Managing Director; Rob Levin, Assistant Managing Director; and Francesca Cicero, Board Secretary

Board Secretary Cicero made an opening announcement related to remote public comment. She stated that remote public comment, except as necessary for disability accommodations, has been discontinued. She noted that members of the public are invited to observe the meeting in-person or online, but only members of the public attending the meeting in-person will have an opportunity to provide public comment. She stated that no one online will be permitted to unmute themselves or present at the Board Meeting.

Requests for accommodation for remote public comment should be made at least 48 hours prior to the meeting, by email or voicemail (WarMemorialBoard@sfgov.org or 415-554-6377).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

After requesting the addition of some minor grammatical changes, on motion of Trustee Gatti, seconded by Trustee Newstat, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. 25-19

RESOLVED, By the Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco, the minutes of the Veterans Committee and Regular meetings of July 10, 2025, as amended, are hereby approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Vice President Horn had no updates for the President's Report.

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Managing Director Kate Sofis reported that the San Francisco Opera settled their labor dispute with their orchestra and signed a two-year contract. She also updated the Board on the replacement of the cooling towers in Davies Symphony Hall and the chillers in the Opera House to be more energy efficient. She also reported that the front-of-house elevator modernization in Davies will be operational for the upcoming season.

ASSISTANT MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Assistant Managing Director Rob Levin reported on the new patron screening system which will be launched for the fall seasons of the Symphony and Opera. He also noted that the system will be implemented in the Veterans

Building at the end of the year. There was a discussion of the entry points covered by the new patron screening systems. Director Levin also noted that the War Memorial was coordinating with the resident companies to proactively reach out to patrons to alert them to the new procedures. Director Sofis also noted that the systems comply with San Francisco's ordinance and do not save any images.

BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT

Board Secretary Cicero reminded the Board of their Department of Human Resources trainings due by the end of the year.

REGULAR ITEMS

Consideration and Possible Action to Ratify American Legion War Memorial Commission Green Room & Herbst Theatre Fee Waiver Request Policy and Procedures of July 1, 2025.: Vice President Horn stated that at last month's Veterans Committee meeting they discussed potential policies and procedures for granting fee waivers for veterans' use of the Herbst Theatre and the Green Room. He noted over the course of two meetings, the Board received valuable feedback from many veterans and members of the public.

Vice President Horn noted that staff was asked to research the authority of the American Legion War Memorial Commission to set policy for veterans matters at the War Memorial. A report on the history of American Legion War Memorial Commission that confirms that it operates independently from both the City and the Board of Trustees and that it is the sole body authorized to set policy for the posts and other veterans organizations at the War Memorial was included in the supporting documents.

Vice President Horn also noted staff was asked to confirm with the City Attorney the fee waiver policy voted on and passed by the American Legion War Memorial Commission on July 1, 2025, was compliant with both City law and consistent with the War Memorial Trust. He explained this was confirmed and the Board was now being asked to consider ratifying the policy passed by the American Legion War Memorial Commission.

Public comment was given by Jeff Shiebels who stated that the policy omitted military relatives. Mario Benefield asked the Board to reconsider so the ALWMC could have more time to revise the policy. CJ Reeves urged the Board to ratify the procedures passed at the July 1, 2025 meeting. Stefanos Zygomalas commented on the exclusion of veterans' families from the policy.

Following discussion, on motion of Trustee Kopp, seconded by Trustee Gatti, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. 25-20

RESOLVED, By the Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco, the American Legion War Memorial Commission Green Room & Herbst Theatre Fee Waiver Request Policy and Procedures passed on July 1, 2025, as submitted, are hereby ratified.

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

None.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Vice President Horn thanked the Board for being available for the August Board meeting. There being no additional good and welfare, Vice President Horn closed good and welfare.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Vice President Horn adjourned the meeting at 2:34 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'fG' with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Francesca Cicero
Board Secretary