

MINUTES
WAR MEMORIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Thursday, December 14, 2023

The Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco met in regular session on Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 2:00 p.m., in the Trustees' Board Room, War Memorial Opera House, President Horn presiding.

ROLL CALL

Present: President Horn, Vice President Lui, Trustee Fisher, Trustee Gatti, Trustee Kopp, Trustee Muduroglu, Trustee Newstat, Trustee Pelosi, Trustee Rocco, Trustee Wilsey, and Trustee Wright

Absent: None

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

Board Secretary Cicero made an opening announcement related to remote public comment. She stated that due to the recent passing of San Francisco Board of Supervisors Rule 231020, on October 17, 2023, 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).

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Horn opened the meeting by congratulating the Opera on concluding the winter season, with a performance of *The Elixir of Love* on December 1, 2023. He also remarked that the *Nutcracker* ballet opened on December 13 and runs through December 30. He noted it is Tamara Rojo's first season at the helm as Artistic Director and wished the ballet all the best on the upcoming season. He also acknowledged the work of Trustee and Chief of Protocol Maryam Muduroglu during the recent APEC conference in November, leading to some wonderful press coverage for the City. Trustee Muduroglu thanked everyone for the support and was grateful for the opportunity to serve both the City and the U.S. in such a meaningful way.

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Managing Director Kate Sofis noted that after the Board's action in the October meeting, the Veterans Building now has four display monitors operational in the lobby. She noted that this month they are highlighting veterans' information as well as an exhibit about the anniversary of the UN treaty signing. She also stated that they hosted the final Mayor's monthly Department Head meeting for 2023 in the Wilsey Center for the Opera. She explained that this was purposeful, in order to highlight the lesser-known venues in the buildings. Director Sofis also reported on the significant citywide budget deficit discussed at the Department Head meeting, due to lower tax revenues and a plateaued tourism sector. She explained that every City department is being asked to cut approximately 10% of their current budgets, which is a target of approximately \$660,000-\$990,000 for the War

Memorial. She remarked that she is working with staff to determine areas of potential increased revenue and strategic areas for economization. Trustee Fisher asked about potential economies of scale in areas like box office or stagehands. Director Sofis agreed that there are ways to collaborate with the resident companies in a new way, citing the recent consolidation of perimeter security guards amongst the War Memorial and resident companies. She noted that she views this as the beginning of a new way of working collaboratively with the resident companies. She wrapped up by providing the 2024 War Memorial Board of Trustees meeting schedule.

ASSISTANT MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Approval of Consent Agenda: Assistant Managing Director Levin stated that items submitted on the Consent Agenda included: the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 9, 2023; Rental Requests for December 14, 2023; and the Revenue, Appropriations and Housekeeping Expenditures reports for November 2023.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 23-32

RESOLVED, By the Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco, the minutes of Regular Board Meeting of November 9, 2023; Rental Requests for December 14, 2023; and the Revenue, Appropriations and Housekeeping Expenditures reports for November 2023, are hereby approved.

REGULAR ITEMS

Election of President & Vice President: President Horn opened the floor to nominations for the office of President of the War Memorial Board of Trustees for calendar year 2024.

Trustee Wilsey nominated Thomas E. Horn for the office of President. She expressed her confidence in his critical thinking, leadership qualities, and judgement. Trustee Gatti seconded the nomination. President Horn thanked the Board for their confidence in him.

There being no further nominations, President Horn closed the nominations for President.

After discussion, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. 23-33

RESOLVED, By the Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco that nominations for the office of President of the Board of Trustees for 2024 are hereby closed; and further,

RESOLVED, That the Board unanimously re-elects Thomas E. Horn as President for calendar year 2024.

Vice President Lui thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as Vice President the last two years, as the first Asian-American holding an executive leadership on the Board of Trustees. She then nominated Diane B. Wilsey for the office of Vice President, noting her leadership in the arts. Trustee Pelosi seconded the nomination. Trustee Wilsey thanked Vice President Lui and the Board for their support.

There being no further nominations, President Horn closed the nominations for Vice President.

After discussion, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. 23-34

RESOLVED, By the Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco that nominations for the office of Vice President of the Board of Trustees for 2024 are hereby closed; and further,
RESOLVED, That the Board unanimously elects Diane B. Wilsey as Vice President for calendar year 2024.

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

None.

GOOD AND WELFARE

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jade Quizon from the API Council addressed the Board about increasing the gender diversity and Asian Pacific Islander representation on the Board of Trustees. There being no further public comment, President Horn closed public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Horn adjourned the meeting at 2:31 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Francesca Cicero', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Francesca Cicero
Board Secretary