

**MINUTES**  
**WAR MEMORIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**Thursday, December 13, 2018**

The Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco met in regular session at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 13, 2018, in the Trustees' Board Room, War Memorial Opera House, President Bechtle presiding.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: President Bechtle, Vice President Walker, Trustee Davis, Trustee Horn, Trustee Levin, Trustee Lui, Trustee Pelosi, Trustee Shultz and Trustee Wilsey

Absent: Trustee Moscone and Trustee Myatt

Staff Present: Elizabeth Murray, Managing Director

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

President Bechtle called for approval of the minutes of the November 8, 2018 Veterans Committee meeting. On motion of Trustee Shultz and seconded by Trustee Lui, the minutes were unanimously approved.

President Bechtle called for approval of the minutes of the November 8, 2018 regular meeting of the Board. On motion of Trustee Wilsey and seconded by Trustee Horn, the minutes were unanimously approved.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Passing of former Trustee Ray Taliaferro:** President Bechtle said she is sorry to report on the passing of former War Memorial Trustee Ray Taliaferro in November. Ray was a KGO talk radio host for 34 years from 1977 to 2011; he served on the San Francisco Arts Commission for 16 years; and served on the War Memorial Board of Trustees from 1993 to 1999. President Bechtle stated that the Board sends its sympathies and condolences to Ray Taliaferro's family.

**San Francisco Symphony – New Music Director:** President Bechtle reported that on December 5, the San Francisco Symphony announced that Finnish conductor and composer Esa-Pekka Salonen has been named the next music director of the San Francisco Symphony. He will succeed Michael Tilson Thomas at the conclusion of the 2019-20 season, when Thomas steps down after 25 years. President Bechtle stated that this appointment opens a new chapter for the San Francisco Symphony and is certainly expected to be both inspiring and dynamic. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, President Bechtle extended a welcome to new San Francisco Symphony Music Director Esa-Pekka Salonen as well as the Board's full support.

**Resolution thanking Sam Gaye on the occasion of his retirement:** President Bechtle stated that Trustees have received today a proposed resolution thanking and commending Sam Gaye on the occasion of his retirement from the War Memorial following his 32 years of service as a Building and Grounds Patrol Officer. On motion of Vice President Walker and seconded by Trustee Horn, the following resolution thanking and commending Sam Gaye was unanimously adopted:

**RESOLUTION NO. 18-47**

*Whereas,* **SAM GAYE** will retire on December 28, 2018, following 32 years of distinguished service at the San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center; and

- Whereas,* Sam Gaye began his career at the Performing Arts Center in 1986 as a Building and Grounds Patrol Officer and during his 32-year tenure, Sam has provided security services at each of the Center's buildings, the War Memorial Opera House, War Memorial Veterans Building, Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall and Zellerbach Rehearsal Hall; and
- Whereas,* For 32 years, Sam Gaye has greeted and helped thousands of artists, performers, veterans, staff and guests at the Performing Arts Center, calmly and efficiently handling and resolving hundreds of questions and requests; and
- Whereas,* The War Memorial, San Francisco Opera, San Francisco Ballet, San Francisco Symphony and veterans' organizations have benefitted from Sam Gaye's reliable and dedicated service, and we will miss his pleasant nature and good humor; now Therefore Be It
- RESOLVED,* By the Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco to hereby thank and commend **SAM GAYE** for his 32 years of outstanding service to the San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center, and for his dedicated service to the cultural community of San Francisco, and extend to him heartfelt best wishes on the occasion of his retirement.

**Resolution thanking Erik Nilsen on the occasion of his retirement:** President Bechtle stated that Trustees have received today a proposed resolution thanking and commending Erik Nilsen on the occasion of his retirement from the War Memorial following his 38 years of service as the House Manager of the Herbst Theatre. On motion of Vice President Walker and seconded by Trustee Horn the following resolution thanking and commending Erik Nilsen was adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. 18-48

- Whereas,* **ERIK NILSEN** will retire on December 31, 2018, following 38 years of distinguished service at the San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center; and
- Whereas,* Erik Nilsen began his ushering career at the Center in 1980 with the opening of Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall on September 16, 1980, continuing work at Davies Symphony Hall as an usher and in the box office until 1982; and
- Whereas,* In 1982, Erik Nilsen accepted the position as House Manager of the Herbst Theatre as well as supervising event staffing for the Veterans Building Green Room; and
- Whereas,* As activities in the Herbst Theatre and Green Room dramatically increased in the 1980s, Erik was assigned exclusively to the Herbst Theatre where for the past 30 years he has created an exceptional ushering staff, insuring the comfort and enjoyment of the approximately 140,000 patrons who visit the theatre each year; and
- Whereas,* Erik Nilsen's skillful and dedicated efforts have contributed to the War Memorial's mission of providing safe, first-class facilities to promote cultural, educational and entertainment opportunities to residents of and visitors to San Francisco; and
- Whereas,* For 38 years, patrons, guests and staff of Herbst Theatre have been the grateful beneficiaries of Erik Nilsen's extraordinary high standards, perpetual good humor, and warm and caring manner; now Therefore Be It
- RESOLVED,* By the Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco to hereby thank and commend **ERIK NILSEN** for his 38 years of outstanding service to the San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center, and for his dedicated service to the cultural community of San Francisco, and extend to him heartfelt best wishes on the occasion of his retirement.

### MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**Rental Requests:** Ms. Murray stated that rental requests mailed to Trustees are routine and requested their approval. On motion of Trustee Pelosi, seconded by Trustee Lui, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

#### RESOLUTION NO. 18-49

RESOLVED, By the Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco that the December 13, 2018 rental requests are hereby approved.

### SECRETARY'S REPORT

**Revenue, Appropriations and Housekeeping Expenditures Reports for November 2018:** Ms. Murray stated that Revenue, Appropriations and Housekeeping Expenditures reports for November 2018 have been distributed to Trustees, and she requested approval of November 2018 housekeeping expenditures as submitted. On motion of Trustee Shultz, seconded by Trustee Wilsey, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

#### RESOLUTION NO. 18-50

RESOLVED, By the Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco that Purchase Order Nos. PO243328 through PO254092 are hereby approved.

### REGULAR ITEMS

**War Memorial Departmental Budget for Fiscal Years 2019-20 and 2020-21:** President Bechtle stated that City department budget requests for the next two fiscal years must be submitted to the Controller and Mayor on February 20, 2018. To meet this deadline, the Board must consider and approve the War Memorial's proposed budgets for Fiscal Years 2019-20 and 2020-21 at the February meeting. President Bechtle referred this matter to the Budget and Finance Committee and asked the Committee to meet to consider and adopt recommendations in advance of the Board's February meeting.

**Election of Officers for Calendar Year 2019:** President Bechtle opened the floor to nominations for the offices of President and Vice President of the War Memorial Board of Trustees for calendar year 2019.

Trustee Horn nominated Nancy H. Bechtle for a second term in the office of President and Vaughn R. Walker for a second term in the office of Vice President of the War Memorial Board of Trustees for 2019. In nominating Trustees Bechtle and Walker, Trustee Horn spoke about President Bechtle's leadership during the past year particularly in the selection process for the War Memorial's food and beverage provider and spoke of the judicial eye that Vice President Walker brings to the details of the War Memorial's activities. Trustee Horn stated that the War Memorial is very fortunate to have two leaders who are so devoted to the War Memorial and Performing Arts Center. The nominations were seconded by Trustee Pelosi, and the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

#### RESOLUTION NO. 16-51

RESOLVED, By the Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco that nominations for the offices of President and Vice President of the Board of Trustees for 2019 are hereby closed; and further,

RESOLVED, That the Board unanimously elects Nancy H. Bechtle as its President and Vaughn R. Walker as its Vice President for calendar year 2019.

President Bechtle and Vice President Walker thanked the Trustees and stated that it has been an honor to serve and have a leadership position on the War Memorial Board of Trustees.

**GOOD AND WELFARE**

President Bechtle stated that Belva Davis was recently honored by California Governor Brown and his wife for a very special Spirit of California Award in Sacramento. Trustee Davis was one of eight honorees inducted into the California Hall of Fame in 2018. The War Memorial Board of Trustees congratulated Trustee Davis.

Trustee Levin said that California Governor Brown also honored Mayor Edwin Lee and put his name in the California Hall of Fame. Trustee Levin stated that yesterday was the first anniversary of Mayor Lee's passing and asked that today's meeting of the War Memorial Board of Trustees be adjourned in memory of San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee.

Trustee Shultz commented on the successful and well-attended World War I Armistice Centennial reception held in the Green Room on November 11, 2018. She acknowledged and thanked Trustee Myatt for his organizing and implementing the World War I Armistice Centennial exhibits and events.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Paul Cox, Chair of the American Legion War Memorial Commission, said he appreciates the War Memorial Board of Trustees' support in facilitating Swords to Plowshares' move into the Veterans Building.

Abe Thompson said he wanted to recognize Wallace Levin and thank him for his efforts in organizing the Veterans Day parade.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Bechtle adjourned the meeting in memory of San Francisco Mayor Edwin Lee at 2:20 p.m.



Jennifer E. Norris  
Executive Secretary