

MINUTES
WAR MEMORIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES
PRESENTORS LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING
WAR MEMORIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING
Thursday, April 10, 2014

The Presentors Liaison Committee of the Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco met at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 10, 2014, in the Trustees' Board Room, War Memorial Opera House, Chair Bechtle presiding.

ROLL CALL

Present: Trustee Bechtle, Chair, Trustee Horn, Trustee Lui, Trustee Shultz, Trustee Wilsey, President Myatt, *Ex officio*, and Vice President Bashford, *Ex officio*

Absent: None

Staff Present: Elizabeth Murray, Managing Director
Jennifer Norris, Assistant Managing Director

CALENDARED ITEMS

Chair Bechtle stated there was one item on today's agenda for the Presentors Liaison Committee's consideration and adoption of recommendations.

Patina Restaurant Group proposed designs for capital investment upgrades to the Opera House Lower Lounge Café and Opera House Dress Circle Lobby.

Chair Bechtle reminded the Committee that the War Memorial's concessions agreement with Patina Restaurant Group provides that Patina will expend amounts for improvements to food and beverage premises during the term of the agreement. The total investment required of Patina over the 9-year agreement is \$700,000, of which \$366,521 has been expended. She reported that all investment improvements and investment expenditures must be approved in advance by the War Memorial Board of Trustees.

Chair Bechtle reported that in January of this year, the Presentors Liaison Committee reviewed Patina's preliminary proposal to expend approximately \$280,000 on various food and beverage improvements at the Opera House and Davies Symphony Hall. Following the Committee's recommendation, the full Board approved Patina's request to expend up to \$35,000 in capital investment funds for design services for the proposed capital upgrades.

Chair Bechtle stated that the Presentors Liaison Committee met on March 26, 2014, and reviewed specific design elements being proposed by Patina for the Opera House Lower Lounge Café and Dress Circle Lobbies. At the conclusion of that meeting, Patina was asked to return to the Committee with modified proposals reflecting the committee's preferences. She noted that while it was generally agreed that lighting upgrades would improve the aesthetic of the Café, it is a separate project requiring a separate funding source outside of Patina's investment funds.

Opera House Lower Lounge Café:

Chair Bechtle recognized Mr. Reza Samadi, Patina's Director of Operations for Museums and Performing Arts Center, and Ms. Heather Ashton, Patina's designer, to present revised proposals for the Opera House Lower Lounge Cafe. The following design elements were presented and commented upon by the committee:

Patina Design Element	Committee Comments
Carpeting over quarry tile at the north Café entrance	Committee concurs, subject to approval of actual carpet style/pattern and carpet attachment plan
Renovate existing wood dividers	Committee concurs; explore making dividers taller
Tie-back drapery at Café entrance	Committee concurs, subject to approval of drapery fabric
Replace existing 28” square table tops with 36” square table tops for dining area; existing 28” square table tops repurposed to bar area	Committee concurs; suggests using round rather than square tables
Tabletop lamps for dining area tables	Committee concurs with a low table top lamp
New stackable dining area chairs	Committee concurs, subject to approval of fabric and wood finish
New high-backed banquette seating	Committee concurs, subject to approval of style and fabric
Floor lamps	Committee concurs
Bar area bar stools and bar lounge chairs	Committee prefers upholstered, swivel seat (for bar stools), subject to approval of fabric
Bar shelving – glass shelving with brass hardware	Committee concurs; David Gockley suggests uprights under shelves
Bar sconce light shades	Committee concurs
Replace existing restroom partitions with drapery	Committee concurs, subject to approval of drapery fabric
Color palette	Committee prefers warmer red tones
Paint ceiling, walls and accent molding	Committee concurs, subject to color approval

During discussion, Vice President Bashford stated that the committee should not move forward on Lower Lounge redecoration plans until a plan is in place for lighting upgrades. Ms. Murray stated that in order to implement lighting upgrades, it would first be necessary to engage a lighting consultant to prepare lighting upgrade designs, then identify funding to implement lighting upgrades, and finally schedule upgrade construction that would most certainly involve removal of the Lower Lounge ceiling. This process could not be completed by the summer of 2014 which is when Patina proposes to implement its redecoration. Ms. Murray estimated the cost of engaging a lighting consultant for the Lower Lounge at \$22,000; and based on previous lighting projects, she said actual lighting upgrades would probably cost a minimum of \$250,000. Ms. Murray recommended that Patina’s redecoration plans not be tied to lighting upgrades, noting that the redecoration will itself greatly enhance the visitor experience in the Lower Lounge.

San Francisco Opera General Director David Gockely restated his preference for use of the Opera/Ballet facility fee, which has been approved by the Trustees for replacement of Opera House auditorium seating, for Lower Lounge lighting upgrades. San Francisco Ballet Executive Director Glenn McCoy stated the Ballet’s position that the seating project was a higher priority than the Lower Lounge lighting.

Trustee Horn stated he feels it is important to move forward with Patina's improvements for completion in time for the 2014 Opera Fall Season and to simultaneously study lighting upgrade options for future implementation. Following further discussion, and on motion of Trustee Horn, seconded by Trustee Shultz, the following recommendation was adopted with Vice President Bashford voting nay:

RECOMMENDED, By the Presentors Liaison Committee of the War Memorial Board of Trustees that Patina Restaurant Group's design concepts for the Opera House Lower Lounge Café be approved subject to subsequent consideration and approval of specific furnishings, fabrics and materials; and further that War Memorial directs staff to engage the services of an architectural lighting consultant at a cost not to exceed \$22,000 to develop proposals and a budget to improve the lighting in the Lower Lounge Café.

Due to time constraints, Chair Bechtle asked that the meeting be continued to the call of the chair. She stated that a further committee meeting would be scheduled to consider Patina's design proposals for the Opera House Dress Circle lobby.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Bechtle adjourned the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

Jennifer E. Norris
Executive Secretary