

MINUTES
WAR MEMORIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VETERANS BUILDING PROJECT COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, August 14, 2014

The Veterans Building Project Committee of the Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco met at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 14, 2014, in the Trustees' Board Room, War Memorial Opera House, Chair Horn presiding.

ROLL CALL

Present: Trustee Horn, Chair, Trustee Bechtle, Trustee Davis and Trustee Shultz

Absent: Trustee Pelosi

Staff Present: Elizabeth Murray, Managing Director

Consideration and approval of paint samples for re-painting of the Veterans Building Green Room:

Chair Horn stated that the item before the committee today is the consideration and approval of paint samples as well as gilding and shading for the refurbishment of the Veterans Building Green Room. He stated that in preparation for this meeting, he asked staff to research War Memorial records to better understand the historical evolution of the Green Room. Staff finds that the name "Green Room" started to be used sometime between 1933 and 1942. The room first opened for veterans use on March 9, 1933, and was called the "Library and Lounge" in minutes of the War Memorial Board of Trustees. Then there is no reference to the room in War Memorial Board of Trustees minutes until February 1942, when there is discussion in the minutes about lack of black-out shades for the Green Room. Subsequently, the minutes of the December 10, 1942 meeting of the Board of Trustees record the Trustees approving a resolution concurring with American Legion War Memorial Commission to close the Green Room due to American Legion War Memorial Commission's difficulty in procuring supervisors and the then present lack of use of the room. It is clear that the room has been called the Green Room since at least 1942 (approximately 75 years)—and probably before then— and certainly well before the room was transferred to War Memorial jurisdiction in 1977, when we started renting it to the public.

Chair Horn reported that visits to the Green Room have been on the regular bi-weekly Veterans Building construction tours. He said that since recently receiving the \$500,000 donation from the San Francisco Performing Arts Center Foundation for repainting of the Green Room, the project team has become more focused on painting plans. The City and War Memorial engaged John Canning, who did the paint and color analysis during the War Memorial Opera House project, to prepare a similar study for the Green Room. Chair Horn stated that Trustees have received a copy of John Canning's report.

Chair Horn stated that as the study indicates, the Green Room has been repainted and refinished since the building was built. Mr. Canning was able to remove the combination of newer paint, glazing and grime to reveal the original color, a subtle green with a hint of blue (called "sea foam" by Mr. Canning). He also cleaned and removed newer paint, glaze and dirt from the gilded moldings to reveal the original "dutch metal" bronze gilding.

Chair Horn reported that after completing his study and report, Mr. Canning prepared painting samples in the Green Room consistent with the original painting plans of architect Arthur Brown, Jr. These samples show the original "sea foam" green on wall surfaces with shading where the wall surfaces meet the gilded moldings. Mr. Canning has also created two samples of the gilded molding for the Trustees to view.

Chair Horn introduced Tara Lamont, Department of Public Works Project Manager for the Veterans Building Project, and Stephen Thompson, painting subcontractor for the Veterans Building Project, who accompanied the Trustees on a visit to the Green Room to view painting samples.

After a site-visit to the Green Room, the committee returned to the board room. Following discussion, and on motion of Trustee Shultz, seconded by Trustee Bechtle, the committee unanimously approved a recommendation to the full Board of Trustees to approve the Veterans Building Green Room painting sample, including the “sea foam” green paint color and glazed shading, with the brightness of gilding to be slightly dulled and with rottenstone added to gilded areas out of hands reach.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair Horn adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Jennifer E. Norris
Executive Secretary