

MINUTES
WAR MEMORIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, May 9, 2019

The Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco met in regular session at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 9, 2019, in the Trustees' Board Room, War Memorial Opera House, President Bechtle presiding.

ROLL CALL

Present: President Bechtle, Vice President Walker (departed 2:20p.m.), Trustee Horn, Trustee Levin, Trustee Lui, Trustee Moscone, Trustee Myatt, Trustee Pelosi, Trustee Shultz and Trustee Wilsey

Absent: Trustee Davis

Staff Present: Elizabeth Murray, Managing Director

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Bechtle called for approval of the minutes of the April 10, 2019 Selection Committee meeting. On motion of Trustee Moscone and seconded by Trustee Lui, the minutes were unanimously approved.

President Bechtle called for approval of the minutes of the April 11, 2019 Budget and Finance Committee meeting. On motion of Trustee Lui and seconded by Trustee Moscone, the minutes were unanimously approved.

President Bechtle called for approval of the minutes of the April 11, 2019 regular meeting of the Board. On motion of Trustee Wilsey and seconded by Trustee Shultz, the minutes were unanimously approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Conclusion of Ballet Season: President Bechtle stated that the San Francisco Ballet will conclude its 2019 repertory season on May 12. On behalf of the Board, President Bechtle extended congratulations to the Ballet on an exciting and successful season.

President Bechtle said that on behalf of the Board of Trustees, she would like to express thanks, congratulations and best wishes to Glenn McCoy, Executive Director of the San Francisco Ballet, who will retire on June 30 after 34 years with the Ballet. She stated that we have all been fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with someone as talented and successful as Glenn McCoy, and we extend to him our very best wishes on the occasion of his retirement.

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Rental Requests: Ms. Murray stated that rental requests mailed to Trustees include requests from each of the San Francisco Symphony and San Francisco Opera to erect tents in the Davies Hall and War Memorial parking areas for their 2019 fall gala opening nights. Ms. Murray stated that the remaining rental requests are routine and requested approval. On motion of Trustee Pelosi, seconded by Trustee Wilsey, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. 19-16

RESOLVED, By the Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco that the May 9, 2019 rental requests are hereby approved.

Director's Report:

Swords to Plowshares occupancy of Veterans Building space: Ms. Murray stated that Swords to Plowshares completed its tenant improvement project in Veterans Building suites 310 and 313, and that Swords to Plowshares will move into the Veterans Building over this weekend begin operations in the building on Monday May 13.

Davies Symphony Hall Phase 1 Lobby Furniture Replacement: Ms. Murray stated that the Symphony's Phase 1 Lobby Furniture Replacement project was completed in April, with installation of new furnishings on every lobby level. This includes new and varied bench seating, and tables and chairs throughout the lobbies as previously approved by the Board.

Cancellation of Ethnic Dance Festival's Opera House usage in July 2019: Ms. Murray stated that the Board of Directors of World Arts West provided notice in late April that due to funding issues, they will not be using the Opera House in July 2019 for the Ethnic Dance Festival and will relocate this year's festival to Zellerbach Hall in Berkeley. She said that the Ethnic Dance Festival consisting of four performances has taken place in the Opera House during the last two years.

Civic Center Community Benefit District: Ms. Murray stated that at last month's meeting, the Trustees approved the War Memorial's submitting an affirmative petition for the proposed renewal of the Civic Center Community Benefit District for the parcels of real property under the Trustees' jurisdiction. In late April, it was announced that the adjusted tabulation of petitions resulted in affirmative votes from property owners representing 38.07% of total assessments to be paid, exceeding the required threshold of 30% needed for the City to conduct further hearings and then conduct a ballot phase. Ms. Murray stated that the Board of Supervisors will have a hearings on May 13 and July 16 to consider the proposed district renewal.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Revenue, Appropriations and Housekeeping Expenditures Reports for April 2019: Ms. Murray stated that Revenue, Appropriations and Housekeeping Expenditures reports for April 2019 have been distributed to Trustees, and she requested approval of April 2019 housekeeping expenditures as submitted. On motion of Trustee Pelosi, seconded by Trustee Wilsey, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. 19-17

RESOLVED, By the Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco that Purchase Order Nos. PO295486 through PO305600 are hereby approved.

REGULAR ITEMS

Opera Request to install a bas relief of former Opera General Director Pamela Rosenberg in the Opera House: President Bechtle stated that Trustees received a letter from the San Francisco Opera requesting to install a bas relief of former Opera General Director Pamela Rosenberg in the Opera House main lobby. President Bechtle referred this matter to the Board's Building Committee.

Symphony request to replace a concert sponsor sign with a digital sign: President Bechtle said that Trustees have received a letter from the San Francisco Symphony requesting to replace one of the current concert sponsor signs in Davies Symphony Hall with a free-standing digital sign. She noted that the Symphony included with their letter a photo of the current concert sign as well as a photo rendering of the proposed free-standing digital sign.

President Bechtle asked Andrew Dubowski from the Symphony to comment on the signage proposal. Mr. Dubowski showed large size pictures of the current and proposed signage and explained that the proposed free standing digital sign will announce the same information as the current signage without any video. Following discussion and on motion of Trustee Pelosi, seconded by Trustee Lui, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. 19-18

RESOLVED, By the Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco that it hereby approves the San Francisco Symphony's request to replace one of the current concert sponsor signs in Davies Symphony Hall with a free-standing digital sign.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Trustee Levin asked that today's Board meeting be adjourned in honor of Memorial Day and in remembering those that the day honors.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

President Bechtle called for any general public comment. There being none, President Bechtle closed public comment.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT/HIRING OF MANAGING DIRECTOR

President Bechtle announced that as noticed on today's agenda, the Board of Trustees will hold a closed session pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957(b)(1) and San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.10(b) to consider appointment of department head of the War Memorial and Performing Arts Center department.

President Bechtle stated that before going into closed session, the board will take public comment on all matters pertaining to the closed session. President Bechtle called for any public comment relating to any aspect of this agenda item, including whether the board should disclose any or all of its closed session discussion. There being no public comment, President Bechtle closed public comment.

CLOSED SESSION

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

President Bechtle reconvened the meeting in open session and called for a motion on whether to disclose any or all of its discussions during the closed session. A motion was made by Trustee Myatt not to disclose closed session discussion. The motion was seconded by Trustee Horn and unanimously adopted.

President Bechtle reported that during closed session, the War Memorial Board of Trustees by unanimous vote of the nine Trustees present approved the appointment of John Caldon to the position of Managing Director of the War Memorial and Performing Arts Center to succeed Elizabeth Murray upon her retirement. She stated that this action was based on the recommendation of the board's Selection Committee which voted unanimously in favor of recommending to the full Board the appointment of John Caldon.

President Bechtle, on behalf of the Trustees, extended congratulations to John Caldon on his appointment and extended thanks to Trustee Horn and the Selection Committee for its deliberate work leading up to this action.

President introduced John Caldon and asked if he would like to make any remarks. John Caldon expressed his deep gratitude to the Board for its confidence in him and stated his excitement about working with the War Memorial Trustees, staff, arts groups and Veteran organizations.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Bechtle adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m. in honor of Memorial Day and in memory of those for whom this day commemorates.

Elizabeth Murray
Managing Director

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