

MINUTES
WAR MEMORIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 9, 2026

The Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco met in regular session on Thursday, July 9, 2026, at 2:00 p.m., in the Trustees' Board Room, War Memorial Opera House, Vice President Horn presiding.

ROLL CALL

Present: Vice President Horn, Trustee Gatti, Trustee Kopp, Trustee Makras, Trustee Muduroglu, Trustee Newstat, Trustee Wright

Absent: Trustee Wilsey, Trustee Lam, Trustee Pelosi, Trustee Rocco

Staff Present: Kate Sofis, Managing Director; Rob Levin, Assistant Managing Director; Celestine Ratsch-Rivera, Interim Board Secretary

Board Secretary Ratsch-Rivera made an opening announcement related to remote public comment. She stated that 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.

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).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Trustee Gatti, seconded by Trustee Muduroglu, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. 26-18

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approves the minutes of the June 11, 2026, meeting as amended. The resolution was unanimously adopted.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Vice President Horn congratulated the Opera on its summer season, highlighted the June 26 Pride performance, and noted the Symphony's continued summer programming including film presentations. He also shared updates on Café Valor's expanded Friday hours and successful patron experiences.

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Managing Director Sofis reported on the renewal of the Treeline contract for the patron screening services. Our current agreement with Treeline expires at the end of August and is one of the few contracts that we use the procurement basis of the City's contracting department. Our contract will be discussed in the upcoming Civil Service Commission hearing scheduled for July 20. After multiple conversations with SEIU, the union representing our public safety workers, they have agreed not to oppose continuing our Treeline agreement.

ASSISTANT MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Assistant Managing Director Levin provided updates on the July 4th Veterans event, which was successful even though they had lower-than-expected turnout. Regarding the trash receptable prototype project, Trustee Gatti has designed a prototype and is looking for a vendor to build it. Assistant Managing Director Levin also reported on Café Valor's upcoming expansion to five days a week, to be implemented after they train the second barista.

BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT

No updates.

REGULAR ITEMS

Fee Waiver Request from American Legion War Memorial Commission.

The Board Vice President postponed this agenda item to a future Board meeting, pending the requestor providing a complete packet to the staff that fully meets ALWMC and Trustee policy for such waivers. Staff agreed to defer the final settlement of the event – which is scheduled to be held August 1st – until after the September Board of Trustees meeting.

During public comment, Merc Martinelli from the American Legion expressed his hope that the Trustee's would ultimately support this fee waiver request.

New Staff Introductions.

The Board welcomed Director of Public Safety Rakeem Taylor and incoming Board Secretary Theresa Von Klug.

Budget Update from the Board of Supervisors phase.

The Department's FY27 budget successfully passed through the Board of Supervisor Budget Phase with only a minor reduction to the Materials and Supplies budget and a very small increase in salary attrition savings. Staff is also pleased to report that our request for access to appropriate legacy capital project funds, which can be used to support new repair and maintenance projects at Davies and the Opera House, was accepted in its entirety.

Current Capital Projects Presentation.

Superintendent Kevin Kelly provided detailed updates on the Mansard Roof replacement and Elevator Modernization projects.

Cancelling August WMBT Meeting

Trustees expressed support for cancelling the August meeting due to recurring quorum challenges. Since the August Trustee meeting is cancelled the settlement for the American Legion event on August 1st, will be held until the staff can review the whole packet of information on the fee waiver request and if complete, will bring to the September Trustee meeting for discussion.

GOOD AND WELFARE

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

There being no public comment, Vice President Horn closed public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:39 p.m.

Celestine Ratsch-Rivera, Acting Board Secretary