

FILE NO. 021260

RESOLUTION NO.

1 [~~Work Group~~ Citizens Advisory Committee for Natural Areas Program.]

2

3 **Resolution establishing a Board of Supervisors ~~Work Group~~ Citizens Advisory**  
4 **Committee for the Recreation and Park Natural Areas Program.**

5

6 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors recognizes the need and the responsibility for  
7 public input and public discussion regarding the use of City resources; and

8 WHEREAS, The City's parkland and open space are among the most precious and  
9 most valued of City resources, intended for the use of all San Franciscans and not to be  
10 alienated or divested from them, or to be changed in use or access without full public  
11 disclosure, comment, and process; and

12 WHEREAS, The Recreation and Park Department has not fulfilled its responsibilities to  
13 ensure public and open process with regard to the Natural Areas Program, as was required in  
14 the Recreation and Park Department's own documentation in both 1995 and 1997; and

15 WHEREAS, Legitimate concerns regarding access to and use of open space were  
16 raised at the Board of Supervisors Neighborhood Services and Recreation Committee  
17 Hearing on the Natural Areas Program, held July 11, 2002; and

18 WHEREAS, The activities of the Recreation and Park Department Natural Areas  
19 Program have exceeded the permitted mandate even of the Recreation and Park Department  
20 itself, and have ignored both public process and public policy with, for example, the cutting  
21 down of mature and healthy trees in San Francisco City parks and open spaces without  
22 notice to citizens, proper process, or opportunity for response; and

23 WHEREAS, The Natural Areas Program is being expanded to include more staff and  
24 more activities through Open Space funding paid for by the people of the City and County of  
25 San Francisco; and

1           WHEREAS, The concept and extent of Natural Areas are being expanded in  
2 Recreation and Park documentation, definitions and actions to include corridors, buffer  
3 zones, “naturalistic” areas, and areas which have the potential to be restored or to provide  
4 habitat; and

5           WHEREAS, At the August 6, 2002 meeting of the Rules and Audits Committee, strong  
6 public support was shown for the creation of a Board of Supervisors Work Group that would  
7 include groups excluded from the Recreation and Park Department’s Green Ribbon Panel;  
8 and

9           WHEREAS, The Rules and Audits Committee has sought a compromise solution that  
10 would result in a single, balanced committee under the Board with greater scope and duration  
11 than the Work Group or the Green Ribbon Panel; and

12           WHEREAS, the Recreation and Park Department expressed its willingness to disband  
13 the Green Ribbon Panel and to have a Board Advisory Committee to oversee the Natural  
14 Areas Program and planning process; now, therefore, be it

15           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors establish forthwith a ~~Work Group~~ for the  
16 Recreation and Park Natural Areas Program, Natural Areas Program Citizens Advisory  
17 Committee (NAPCAC) to report and make recommendations directly to the Board of  
18 Supervisors; and, be it

19           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the General Manager of the Recreation and Park  
20 Department has agreed to disband the Green Ribbon Panel and have its duties assumed by  
21 NAPCAC within its broader mandate; and, be it

22           FURTHER RESOLVED, That ~~the Work Group~~ NAPCAC shall include among its  
23 members representatives of communities living in the areas already or slated to be  
24 designated as Natural Areas, as well as representatives of relevant scientific, ecological and  
25 recreational interests; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Recreation and Park Department shall assist the  
2 ~~Work Group~~ NAPCAC with input from its staff as required by the Committee, including giving  
3 notice of meetings, providing meeting space, and publishing minutes; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Recreation and Park Department shall assist the  
5 ~~Work Group~~ NAPCAC by providing to each member a copy of the “Significant Natural  
6 Resource Areas Management Plan,” prepared by EIP Associates; and, be it

7 ~~FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors Work Group for the~~  
8 ~~Recreation and Park Natural Areas Program shall consist of one representative designated~~  
9 ~~by each of the following groups and organizations:~~

- 10 ~~San Francisco Parks Coalition~~
- 11 ~~San Francisco Tree Council~~
- 12 ~~California Native Plant Society~~
- 13 ~~Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods~~
- 14 ~~Glen Canyon Park Neighborhood Coalition~~
- 15 ~~Bernal Hill Neighborhood Coalition~~
- 16 ~~McLaren Park Habitat Restoration Group~~
- 17 ~~Bayview Hill Neighborhood Association~~
- 18 ~~Golden Gate Heights Neighborhood Association~~
- 19 ~~Tank Hill Neighbors~~
- 20 ~~Twin Peaks Improvement Association~~
- 21 ~~Green Friends~~
- 22 ~~Sierra Club~~
- 23 ~~SPCA~~
- 24 ~~Exploratorium; and, be it~~

1            FURTHER RESOLVED, That NAPCAC shall have 22 members, consisting of eleven  
2 (11) members chosen by San Francisco Recreation and Park Department and one  
3 representative designated by each of the following eleven (11) groups and organizations  
4 which have demonstrated a stakeholder interest in the Natural Areas Program:

5            San Francisco Tree Council

6            SF/SPCA

7            Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods

8            Bayview Hill Neighborhood Association

9            Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Advisory Committee

10           Glen Canyon Park Neighborhood Coalition

11           San Francisco Dog Owners Group

12           Bernal Hill Neighborhood Coalition

13           McLaren Park Habitat Restoration Group

14           Tank Hill Neighbors

15           CITYDOGS of San Francisco

16           Replacements, if needed, to RPD's appointees shall be chosen by RPD, and replacements  
17 to the above non-RPD list shall be chosen by the non-RPD appointing group or organization;  
18 and, be it

19           ~~FURTHER RESOLVED, That the President of the Board of Supervisors shall have the~~  
20 ~~authority to expand the membership of the Work Group by up to two additional members,~~  
21 ~~each representing one additional organization; and, be it~~

22           ~~FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Work Group~~ NAPCAC ~~shall be subject to the~~  
23 ~~Sunshine Ordinance; and, be it~~

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the mandate of ~~the Board of Supervisors Work Group for~~  
2 ~~the Recreation and Park Natural Areas Program~~ NAPCAC shall include, but not be limited to,  
3 consideration and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on the following:

4 Effective means of eliciting public input from neighborhood groups and individuals  
5 regarding appropriate use of City parkland and open space;

6 Recognition and documentation of community needs, concerns and preferences  
7 regarding use of City parkland and open space;

8 Approaches to the creation, maintenance and prioritization of Natural Areas;

9 Examination of present Natural Areas Program activities;

10 Examination of the content and intent of the "Significant Natural Resource Areas  
11 Management Plan," prepared by EIP Associates, and of the consequences of carrying  
12 out the recommendations therein;

13 Possible and actual costs of the Natural Areas Program, thus far and over time,  
14 particularly in relation to the many other recreational responsibilities of the Recreation  
15 and Park Department;

16 Examination of the requirements for CEQA in relation to the implementation of Natural  
17 Area Program projects, and the consequences and appropriateness of permitting  
18 exemptions to CEQA requirements in any given case; and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That NAPCAC shall be an Advisory Committee to the Board  
20 of Supervisors; and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That ~~the Board of Supervisors Work Group for the Natural~~  
22 ~~Areas Program~~ NAPCAC shall report its findings, concerns and recommendations in writing to  
23 the Board, serially or in total, as and when it deems appropriate and necessary; and, be it

1           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the timetable for bringing the Natural Areas Management  
2 Plan forward for Public Comment would be extended to a minimum of one year from the first  
3 meeting of NAPCAC instead of the currently scheduled six months; and, be it

4           FURTHER RESOLVED, That until the Natural Areas Management Plan is completed  
5 and approved by the Board of Supervisors, the Natural Areas Program may continue to  
6 preserve and maintain genuine remnants of San Francisco's native flora and fauna so long as  
7 those activities do not include:

8           Removal of healthy trees that pose no safety hazard

9           Trail closures, or restrictions on access and recreation

10          Trapping and removal of wild or feral animals currently inhabiting parks and lakes

11          Expansion of activities into areas that no longer support predominantly native flora and  
12 fauna; and, be it

13          FURTHER RESOLVED, That if the Board of Supervisors determines that NAPCAC is  
14 not fulfilling its purpose of providing balanced oversight and neighborhood involvement in  
15 the Natural Areas Program and planning process, it shall be the policy of the Board to  
16 disband NAPCAC and consider the establishment of a Board of Supervisors Work Group,  
17 as presented in File No. 021260. and, be it

18          ~~FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Work Group shall sunset two years from the date of~~  
19 ~~its creation, unless otherwise amended.~~