

1 [Honoring Warren Hellman - Renaming Speedway Meadow as Hellman Meadow]

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3 **Resolution honoring Warren Hellman and supporting the decision to rename Golden**  
4 **Gate Park’s Speedway Meadow as Hellman Meadow.**

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6 WHEREAS, San Francisco’s renown as a great city derives from the extraordinary,  
7 ordinary individuals who devote their talent, treasure or entrepreneurial skill to the overall  
8 benefit of all who call her home; and

9 WHEREAS, Among those who have enriched San Francisco and her citizenry are a  
10 rare few whose contributions extend across educational, cultural, recreational development  
11 and enrichment and include government solvency and civic harmony; and

12 WHEREAS, Such contributions to our civic well-being are often hampered by vigorous  
13 debate, cynicism, and derision and so require purposefulness, fortitude and an unflinching sense  
14 of humor to carry on; and

15 WHEREAS, Many have turned away from the contention, forsaking the opportunity to  
16 improve the City and abandoning their best intentions, it is only fitting that we recognize  
17 Warren Hellman as a man who chooses to stay in the fight through many of San Francisco’s  
18 most difficult and enduring challenges; and

19 WHEREAS, There was a time when our public schools were in decline, Warren, a  
20 Lowell High School graduate, refused to turn his back on 56,000 city kids and led the decade-  
21 long drive to reform management, reinvest in the facilities and reward school success; today,  
22 San Francisco schools are better than they’ve been in decades; and

23 WHEREAS, There was a time when our public parks were neglected and considered  
24 unsafe, Warren championed efforts to restore the park system and empower neighbors to

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1 steward their open spaces; today, San Francisco parks are used more, accessible to more  
2 people and in better shape than they've been in decades; and

3 WHEREAS, There was a time when the California Academy of Sciences and the  
4 DeYoung Museum contemplated leaving Golden Gate Park, Warren saw the bigger picture  
5 and improved the Park and supported reimagining of the museums and their surroundings;  
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7 WHEREAS, Warren and his family have fostered the well-being of thousands at the  
8 San Francisco Free Clinic who would otherwise lack care; and

9 WHEREAS, Warren's dedication to the UC system that educated him and his devotion  
10 to progress through curiosity, science and scholarship has resulted unique and game-  
11 changing research through the Hellman Fellows and the work at UCSF's Memory and Aging  
12 Center; and

13 WHEREAS, Warren refused to accept that San Francisco was a city like any other and  
14 forged a coalition of business, labor, non-profits and city officials to reform the City's pension  
15 structure, delving in to the accounting and the politics with complete commitment; teaching us  
16 all that even the most difficult problems can be resolved if we act together; and

17 WHEREAS, Warren saw each of these efforts to fruition, he also gathered new friends  
18 along the way; he is a runner who found new friends on bicycles, a businessman who built  
19 new alliances with labor, a modern dance fan who paired athletes with dancers; and

20 WHEREAS Warren's annual Hardly Strictly Bluegrass festival in Golden Gate Park, a  
21 free party for a few hundred thousand of his closest friends, brings the musical low down to  
22 his high brow hometown, featuring world-class musicians playing for several "summer"  
23 October days in the greatest park in the world; and

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1           WHEREAS, Many people would have delighted in these accomplishments and proudly  
2 retired, Warren learned how to play the banjo, formed a band and became a touring musician  
3 recently featured on A Prairie Home Companion; and

4           WHEREAS, Warren Hellman embodies his own standard to “give where you live,” let  
5 our city now recognize this one of a kind public servant whose ability to muster public will and  
6 participation in seemingly impossible civic ventures remains unparalleled in our history; now,  
7 therefore, be it

8           RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, in recognition of Warren  
9 Hellman’s leadership in education, cultural and lively arts, and economic prosperity for all, and  
10 for his great taste in music, supports the decision to rename Golden Gate Park’s Speedway  
11 Meadow as Hellman Meadow and encourages the Recreation and Parks Commission to take  
12 that action.

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