

1 [Landmarking of the Grid of Pollared in the Music Concourse Bowl, Golden Gate Park.]

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3 **Resolution urging the Planning Commission, the Planning Department and the**  
4 **Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board to landmark the Music Concourse and to**  
5 **include in the landmarking ordinance language protecting the historic grid of pollarded**  
6 **trees, and urging the Recreation and Park Commission, the Department of Recreation**  
7 **and Park, the Golden Gate Park Concourse Authority and Music Concourse Community**  
8 **Partnership to protect the integrity of existing trees during construction.**

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10 WHEREAS, The Music Concourse, the Music Concourse Bowl and the grid of  
11 pollarded trees collectively comprise the cultural heart of Golden Gate Park; and

12 WHEREAS, The grid of pollarded trees and its foliar canopy has been a defining  
13 feature of the Music Concourse Bowl since September 9<sup>th</sup>, 1900, when the new bandshell was  
14 dedicated; and

15 WHEREAS, The grid of trees has faced both the threat of outright removal and danger  
16 of damage from new construction--within the last three years alone, there have been three  
17 proposals to remove the historic trees; and

18 WHEREAS, Current construction plans for the renovation of the Music Concourse Bowl  
19 (the Surface Improvements Project) contain elements that can result in the loss of many of the  
20 historic trees; and

21 WHEREAS, Under current practice, landmark status for the Music Concourse or the  
22 Bowl alone will not protect the trees in a cultural landscape without stronger language; and

23 WHEREAS, Tree removals and appeals are currently under the sole purview of the  
24 Recreation and Park Department with no recourse to appeal outside the department; now,  
25 therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the Department of  
2 Planning and Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board to, with respect to the matter of the  
3 pollarded tree grid in the Music Concourse, include language in appropriate landmarking  
4 legislation that would protect the tree grid as follows:

- 5 1) Institute a public review process before any tree can be removed,
- 6 2) Replace gaps in the tree grid in a timely manner,
- 7 3) Plant new trees of a large enough size that they can quickly take their place in the  
8 design of the grid,
- 9 4) Prune all new trees so that they will grow in to match the height and shape of the  
10 existing pollarded trees,
- 11 5) Plant trees that are of a pre-approved species to reproduce the look, shape, size,  
12 and texture of the existing trees,
- 13 6) Have all other major tree work approved by an International Society of Arboriculture  
14 -certified arborist,
- 15 7) Institute policies and procedures so that temporary events do not damage the trees  
16 and
- 17 8) Institute a public review process for new construction plans, for both historical  
18 appropriateness and tree preservation elements; and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors finds that the pollarded grid of  
20 trees has been an integral part of San Franciscans' experience of Golden Gate Park for over  
21 100 years and supports enhanced landmarking of the Music Concourse Bown with effective  
22 language to protect the trees, to ensure that our heritage is preserved for future generations;  
23 and be it

24 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Department of  
25 Recreation and Park, the Recreation and Park Commission, the Golden Gate Park Concourse

1 Authority and Music Concourse Community Partnership to protect the integrity of existing  
2 trees during construction and to replant the entire grid of trees.

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