

***Gavin Newsom, Mayor***  
**Recreation and Park Commission**  
Minutes: August 17, 2006

**President Gloria Bonilla** called the regular meeting of the Recreation and Park Commission to order on Thursday, August 17, 2006, at 2:07 p.m.

**ROLL CALL** — Present

Gloria Bonilla, President	David Lee	Larry Martin
Tom Harrison	Meagan Levitan	John Murray

**HAYES GREEN** *(The following is a verbatim excerpt of the full minutes.)*

The Recreation and Park Commission received a petition from representatives of the Patricia Walkup Memorial Committee, the Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association, and numerous letters of support from agencies, organizations and individuals, recommending that Hayes Green be named in honor of former Hayes Valley resident Patricia Walkup. Ms. Walkup, who passed away earlier this year, was a community activist and San Francisco resident for more than 30 years. She played a significant role in the creation of the park at Hayes Green.

Hayes Green was constructed on property that was formerly part of the Central Freeway after it was damaged in the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. The freeway was replaced by a six-lane, tree-lined boulevard on Octavia Street that includes the half-acre mini-park site. The park, which includes benches picnic tables, playground equipment, public art, lawn and extensive landscaping, was completed and opened to the public in November 2005.

Ms. Walkup was instrumental in advocacy planning for the development of the park for over a decade. She worked closely on the Octavia Boulevard project with many governmental agencies. She helped organize signature campaigns and she closely followed the project as the plan was implemented. This work included shepherding the project through three ballot measures in 1997, 1998 and 1999.

Besides advocating on behalf of the creation of the Octavia Boulevard Project and Hayes Green, she also worked on other causes including the development of affordable housing, sustainable transportation network, safe neighborhood street and increased open space, and park and recreation areas. She was a tireless and selfless community activist who in the 1980s began doing volunteer work with people in the Tenderloin who had drug, crime, prostitution and other social issues. Born in Kilgore, Texas, Ms. Walkup had been in ill health for several months before her death at 59.

Esther Marks stated that the staff report described Ms. Walkup's accomplishments and that it would mean a great deal to everyone to have this park named Patricia's Green in Hayes Valley. Lynne Creighton stated that she worked with Patricia on the Octavia Boulevard – taking down the freeway and that without Patricia this would not have happened. Ms. Creighton stated that Patricia was the one who kept everyone going on this project. Paul Olsen stated Patricia was the epitome of the caring neighbor but her neighborhood didn't stop a block or two from her home, it didn't stop at all. He urged the Commission to name the park in Patricia's honor. Ron Miguel spoke of his work with Patricia, her vision for the City and his support for the naming of this park. Katherine Roberts stated that she was at the committee meeting as was former Supervisor Sue Bierman who spoke eloquently in favor of renaming the park for Patricia. She felt that if the Commission did rename the park after Patricia they would also be honoring Sue Bierman. Adam Millard-Ball urged the Commission to rename the park after Patricia. Jason Henderson stated that he chose to live in the Hayes Valley because of people like Patricia Walkup. He spoke briefly on the Hayes Green and on Patricia's fight for the City to be livable for all walks of life not just upscale. Robin Levitt reiterated how remarkable Patricia was. He stated that had it not been for her leadership and her selfless, tireless work, there would be a freeway there today. He believed that naming the park Patricia's Green would not only honor her but would also serve as a symbol and inspiration for future San

Franciscans. Russell Pritchard stated that he was one of many people who worked very hard from the beginning to get the central freeway demolished. To that point there were many people involved in this fight to get the freeway torn down. He stated that he in no way wished to detract from what Patricia did, but he wished the park to remain Hayes Green to reflect all of those who worked so hard to have the freeway removed. He suggested that the name be Hayes Green with a plaque underneath dedicating the park in honor of Patricia Walkup. Katie O'Brien stated that she was in support of the naming. Patricia was instrumental in making the Hayes Green what it is today. She believed that it is important to recognize individuals who are personally involved in an effort such as this.

On motion by **Commissioner Levitan** and duly seconded, the following resolution was adopted:

**RES. NO. 0608-006**

**RESOLVED**, That this Commission does name Hayes Green as "Patricia's Green in Hayes Valley".

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