



Edwin M. Lee, Mayor  
Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager

**Date:** May 21, 2015

**To:** Recreation and Park Commission  
Capital Committee

**Through:** Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager  
Dennis Kern, Director of Operations  
Ana Alvarez, Parks and Open Space Superintendent

**From:** Lisa Wayne

**Subject:** Concept Plan Approval and Open Space Fund Undesignated Contingency Reserve Allocation - Walter Haas Park Connector Trail

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### **Agenda Wording**

Discussion and possible action to approve the Concept Plan and allocate up to \$147,000.00 from the Commissioner's portion of the Open Space Fund Undesignated Contingency Reserve for the Walter Haas Park Connector Trail at Beacon Street.

### **Background**

The north facing slope of Walter Haas Park contains a wooded open space above Beacon Street and across from the Billy Goat Hill Natural Area. The open space also contains a 500 foot long unsanctioned visitor built trail that connects the two parklands as well as the neighborhood to Walter Haas Park.

A community meeting was held on December 10, 2014 at the Upper Noe Recreation Center to discuss possible plans for the open space. At the meeting, which was attended by over 32 people, participants discussed three possible alternatives for the site including 1) no connection i.e., eliminating the current trail, 2) trail connection i.e., an earthen trail with entry stairs at the top and bottom and 3) a stairway straight up the center of the site. The community discussed the pros and cons of the three alternatives and then voted on their top two choices. While complete consensus was not achieved, the trail option with steps (Alternative 2) received the preponderance of support and was identified as a foundation from which to develop a conceptual plan. Meeting participants also requested that the following items be addressed as plans were refined: reduce impacts to the site, create buffers for the immediate neighbors, make the site more welcoming and address erosion issues. Following the meeting, San Francisco Recreation and Park Department staff met twice on site with the immediate neighbors to set effective buffers and find the best locations for the entrances and pathways. These modifications as well as additional erosion control and welcoming site features have been incorporated into the Concept Plan.



The proposed Walter Haas Park Connector Trail conceptual plan includes the installation of a 680 linear foot trail comprised of approximately 560 feet of earthen trail and 120 feet of box steps. This design maximizes the length of earthen trail while respecting buffer between the trail and neighboring properties. Along the length of the trail, five hazardous trees would be removed and three trees would be pruned for trail safety. A modest amount of split rail fencing would be installed to guide trail users to the trail entry and reduce short cutting. The existing unsanctioned trail route would be removed and screening vegetation would be planted.

Commissioners Buell and Bonilla requested that this agenda item be put forth to the Commission for funding from the Open Space Fund Undesignated Contingency Reserve.

### **Environmental Evaluation**

A Categorical Exemption was issued by the Planning Department.

### **Staff Recommendation:**

RESOLVED that this Commission approves the Concept Plan and the allocation of up to \$147,000.00 from the Open Space Fund Undesignated Contingency Reserve for the construction of the Walter Haas Park Connector Trail at Beacon Street.

### **Supported By:**

Fred LaCosse  
Jane Lidz  
Catherine Feist  
Lawrence Gallagher  
Brenda McCarthy  
Casper de Clercq  
Steve Karthan  
Jana Munyon  
Kate Haug  
David Erlich  
Friends of Walter Haas Park  
Supervisor Scott Wiener

### **Opposed By:**

Emile Lacampange  
Buck Tergis  
Lisa Ghobi

### **Attachments:**

Proposed Conceptual Plan  
Email communications  
Categorical Exemption