



**Directors**

July 30, 2014

Thomas G. Bacon  
*Chairman*

Nina O'Leary Zilkha  
*President*  
Jill Jewett  
*Vice President*

Dina Alsowayel  
Don Stephen Aron  
Maire A. Baldwin  
Ellanor Allday Camberg  
Alberto P. Cardenas  
W. Charles "Chuck" Carlberg  
Diana Espitia  
David D. Fitch  
Thomas W. Flaherty  
Karen Garcia  
Cullen Geiselman  
Steven J. Gibson  
Jim Green  
Benito Guerrier  
Mindy Hildebrand  
David Kinder  
Vivian R. King  
Ann Lents  
Alex Martinez  
S. Reed Morian  
John Will Odam  
Precious Williams Owodunni  
Andrew P. Price  
Michael Skelly  
Carter Stern  
Herman L. Stude  
Barron Wallace  
Don Woo

Joe Turner  
*Ex-Officio*

Roksan Okan-Vick, FAIA  
*Executive Director*

Ms. Joanne Crull  
President, Friends of MacGregor Park  
3934 Fernwood  
Houston, Texas 77021

Re: National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program

Dear Ms. Crull,

The Houston Park Board is delighted to provide a support letter for the Friends of MacGregor Park's request to the National Park Service for Conservation Assistance Program funding to help develop a master plan for MacGregor Park. We are excited about the positive impacts potential improvements to MacGregor Park will have on the surrounding community, as well as the users of the Brays Bayou Greenway.

One of our primary missions is to create opportunities for equitably distributed parkland in the greater Houston area. As early as 1912, the bayou system was envisioned as the backbone of an equitable, accessible park system in Houston. Almost 100 years later, the Bayou Greenways initiative is a long-range project to achieve that vision. By acquiring and improving land adjacent to ten major bayous in the greater Houston area, we will establish an interconnected system of parks and trails linking people, places and green space, while enhancing air and water quality, reducing flooding, and stimulating economic development.

Brays Bayou is the first Bayou Greenway the Houston Parks Board has undertaken and we are working steadily toward completion. Once complete, the planned 31 mile greenway will connect business centers, some of Houston largest parks (MacGregor Park, Mason Park and Hermann Park) diverse residential communities, educational facilities (University of Houston, Texas Southern University and Rice University) and significant cultural areas, such as the East End and Harrisburg.

Because it will continue to bring more opportunities for active recreation, natural respite and quality of life to the region, we are enthusiastically supportive of the Friends of MacGregor Park's plans to make improvements to MacGregor Park.

Sincerely,

Roksan Okan-Vick, FAIA  
Executive Director