

Parks & Natural Areas Subcommittee

Agenda

Monday,
13th, 2015

1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

H-GAC, Conference Room A

July

1. Welcome & Introductions

Glenn Laird, Subcommittee Chair

2. PNA Awards

A. 2015 Proposed Judging Criteria and Weights

Changes to the Judging Criteria and Weights have been proposed. The subcommittee will discuss at the meeting.

B. PNA Awards Judges

The subcommittee will propose ideas for people who may be judges for the awards ceremony. Five total judges are required and must represent the following:

- Academic
- Environment/Water Quality Expert
- Past Winner
- Private Consultant
- Wild Card

3. Nature & Eclectic Outdoors (NEO)

A. Jennifer Boley, NEO

Jennifer Boley, Executive Director of NEO, will brief PNA on NEO's efforts to introduce all people – regardless of age or ability -- to the many benefits of discovering the outdoors in and around the Houston area. For more information about NEO, please visit their website at:

<http://neoproject.org/>

4. San Jacinto Watershed Greenprinting Project

A. Justin Bower, H-GAC

Justin Bower, a Senior Environmental Planner with H-GAC, will discuss a current Greenprint effort by the Trust For Public Land, designed to identify and prioritize areas in the West Fork San Jacinto River watershed that are crucial for water quality and water-based recreation. He will also talk about other related water quality efforts, including the Lake Conroe and West Fork San Jacinto Watershed Protection Plans.

5. Johnson Development: Camp Strake Redevelopment, Grand Central Park

A. Eric Leshinsky, Asakura Robinson

Eric Leshinsky, a Senior Associate Designer with Asakura Robinson, will present how the design team for the planned Grand Central Park mixed-use development near Conroe is working to develop a landscape vision for the project that integrates conservation with urbanism. As part of this, he will share Asakura Robinson's methodology for studying the natural context of the site at both local and

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regional scales to help ensure that the development reflects its unique location along the San Jacinto River.

B. Jennifer Lorenz, Bayou Land Conservancy

Jennifer Lorenz is a multi-generation native Texan with deep roots in Houston. She has been the Exec. Director for Bayou Land Conservancy for the past 16 years and has helped steer the organization to become the largest regional conservation easement holder in the state of Texas. In Dec. of 2013, she was named “Houstonian of the Year” by the Houston Chronicle for her efforts in spearheading the saving of the Deer Park Prairie.

Overseeing 57 conservation easements and one fee acquisition BLC protects more than 12,000 acres of permanently preserved land. The former Camp Strake property is a project that Bayou Land Conservancy is thrilled to be a part of some of its preservation as it has frontage on both Lake Creek and the west fork of the San Jacinto: primary watershed focus areas for BLC that feed Lake Houston.

5. Round Robin Discussion

The Round Robin discussion is the time for subcommittee members and meeting participants to discuss their current projects, upcoming events, and other issues related to Parks and Natural Areas. Future meeting topics and site visits will be discussed as well.

6. Next Meetings

- The next meeting will be September 14th.

7. Adjourn

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