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HOUSTON PARKS BOARD ANNOUNCES LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

HOUSTON – June 25, 2015 – Houston Parks Board announced today a nationwide search for new leadership. Roksan Okan-Vick has resigned as Executive Director effective August 15, 2015, though she will continue to provide guidance during the transition. Roksan has led the organization since 2004 and is credited with creating more than 850 acres of new and equitably distributed parkland in the Houston area; building numerous park amenities in neighborhood and community parks throughout Houston, including the Lee & Joe Jamail Skatepark and the Houston Sports Park; and leading and implementing the \$220 million Bayou Greenways 2020 Project.

“Roksan boldly led the organization for more than a decade, and her visionary thinking, dedication and focus have resulted in incredible parks and greenways in Houston,” said Tom Bacon, chairman of the Houston Parks Board’s manager board. “Roksan played a pivotal role in bringing to life a 100-year-old idea that is now the Bayou Greenways 2020 project. We are sorry to see Roksan leave, but Houston is very lucky that she plans to stay focused on new project development in our city in the future.”

“For the past 11 years Roksan has been a champion for parks and a valued partner for our department,” said Joe Turner, Director of the Houston Parks and Recreation Department. “I could not ask for a better ally in turning Houston green because her understanding comes not only from her love of parks and greenspaces, but also from her previous experience as Director of this department. I will miss our monthly meetings to discuss plans for parkland acquisitions and improvements. I thank her for her hard work and dedication to Houston’s parkland.”

“My goal for the past 11 years has been to elevate the Houston Parks Board to one of the leading, premier, non-profit green organizations in Houston,” said Okan-Vick. “I am gratified that today the organization has an outstanding team dedicated to continuing the legacy of creating parkland for Houston. As I look ahead, my plan is to continue working on projects that further elevate the quality of place in Houston. Opportunities abound to do just that. Where else but Houston!”

The Houston Parks Board, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, was created in 1976 to create, improve, protect and advocate for parkland for Houston. The search for a new Executive Director for the Houston Parks Board is being undertaken by Stephen D. Newton of Russell Reynolds and Associates.

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