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PRESS RELEASE

Houston Parks Board Announces Dr. Cullen K. Geiselman Muse as New Board Chair

New Board Chair will continue to strengthen HPB's position as a leader in parks and greenspace

HOUSTON – August 2, 2024 – Houston Parks Board (HPB) announces that Dr. Cullen K. Geiselman Muse has been appointed Chair of the HPB Board of Directors, effective July 1, 2024. Geiselman Muse brings a wealth of knowledge to her role as Board Chair. A bat biologist, conservationist, and philanthropist, her considerable board service and notable experience in the not-for-profit space provide her with an invaluable perspective as HPB's next leader.

"I'm excited to start the next chapter of my service with Houston Parks Board," said Geiselman Muse, Board Chair, Houston Parks Board. "With an ambitious 5-year strategic plan and two important projects of MacGregor Park and Hill at Sims underway, our organization is primed to continue increasing equitable park and greenspace access across the Greater Houston area via the backbone of the Bayou Greenways trail system. I'm grateful for the foundation laid by my predecessor and look forward to collaborating with our many partners to further our exciting momentum."

As Board Chair, Geiselman Muse will lead the 36-member Board of Directors and the strategic execution of HPB's mission to expand, improve, and protect parks and greenspace in the Houston region, working towards its vision of an interconnected network of parks, trails, and greenspace for a more resilient and equitable Houston region.

Since Geiselman Muse joined the HPB Board of Directors in 2014, she has been integral to the development of HPB-led initiatives, including HPB's strategic plan that will guide the organization through 2028. During her term, Geiselman Muse will prioritize the implementation of this plan, building upon the foundation of the Bayou Greenways trail system. Geiselman Muse will drive key initiatives and priorities, including the continued expansion of the Bayou Greenways system, investment in neighborhood parks, development and enhancement of regional parks like Hill at Sims and MacGregor Park, and building sustainable support for parks and HPB.

"Geiselman Muse has been a conservation advocate and articulate HPB spokesperson for years, and we are eager to see her expand her role and presence within HPB," said Beth White, President and CEO, Houston Parks Board. "Her vision, tenacity, and energy for this work will bring us closer to the more resilient and equitable Houston we envision through our transformative work."

Geiselman Muse is a graduate of Duke University, where she received a B.A. degree in Environmental Science and Policy, and Columbia University, where she received her doctorate in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. While at Columbia University, Geiselman Muse coauthored three publications on bats and their behaviors. She currently chairs the Board of The Cullen Trust for Health Care and has vast board experience, having served as Chair of the Board of Bat Conservation International and the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center and on the Boards of the Houston Advanced Research Center, Blaffer Art Museum at University of Houston, the Rainforest Trust, Turtle Conservancy, and the Houston Zoo.

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Houston Parks Board expands, improves, and protects parks and greenspace in the Houston region. Since 1976, the 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization has utilized public-private partnerships and its extensive philanthropic, government, and community relationships to provide equitable access to quality parks and greenspace to the Greater Houston region. In addition to leading the transformational Bayou Greenways initiative, Houston Parks Board cares for more than 2,600 acres of greenspace and supports park projects large and small. For more information, visit houstonparksboard.org.