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NEWS RELEASE

President Biden Designates Houston Parks Board President and CEO Beth White as Chair of the National Capital Planning Commission

HOUSTON – [Houston Parks Board President](#) and CEO Beth White has been designated by President Biden as Chair of the [National Capital Planning Commission](#) (NCPC). White was initially appointed to NCPC as the at-large Presidential Commissioner starting in January 2012 and was reappointed for another six-year term in 2016. Most recently, White served as the Commission’s Vice-Chair.

“I’m honored to chair the National Capital Planning Commission and work with my fellow commissioners to build and sustain a livable, resilient capital region and advance the Biden Administration’s critical priorities around sustainability, equity, and innovation,” White said.

Established by Congress in 1924, NCPC is the federal government’s central planning agency for the National Capital Region. Through planning, policymaking, and project review, NCPC protects and advances the federal government’s interest in the region’s development. The Commission provides overall planning guidance for federal land and buildings in the region by reviewing the design of federal and certain local projects, overseeing long-range planning for future development, and monitoring capital investment by federal agencies.

Prior to joining Houston Parks Board in 2016, White served as the director of the Chicago Region Office of The Trust for Public Land, where she spearheaded development of The 606 public park and played a critical role in establishing Hackmatack Wildlife Refuge; managing director of communications and policy for the Chicago Housing Authority; chief of staff for the Chicago Transit Authority’s Chicago Transit Board; and assistant commissioner for the City of Chicago’s Department of Planning and Development, where she oversaw the CitySpace plan and the Empowerment Zone program. Her work has received national and regional recognition, including 10 awards for The 606, and most recently the Houston Business Journal’s 2021 Most Admired CEO award.

In addition, White was the founding executive director of Friends of the Chicago River, and serves on the Advisory Board for Urban Land Institute Houston. She also serves on the steering committee of the High Line Network, of which Houston Parks Board’s Bayou Greenways initiative is a member. She served on the board of NeighborSpace, Lambda Alpha, and was the chair of the Lakewood Balmoral National Historic District Committee. White received a B.A. in Communications Studies from Northwestern University and a M.A. in Urban Studies from Loyola University.

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Houston Parks Board creates, improves, protects, and advocates for parks for everyone. 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 green space 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 green space and supports park projects large and small. For more information on Bayou Greenways and Beyond the Bayous, visit houstonparksboard.org.