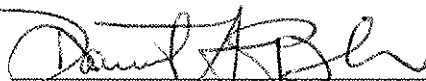
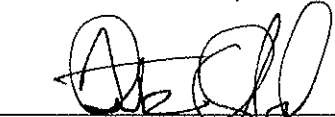


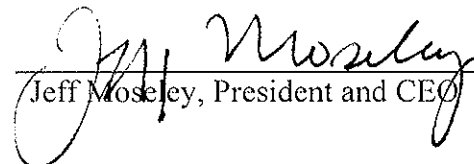
**Resolution of the Board of Directors
in Support of the Houston Botanic Garden's Project to Develop
and Build a World Class Botanic Garden on a Site in Houston's
Cullinan Park at Oyster Creek, Located Adjacent to the City of Sugar
Land in Fort Bend County**

The Greater Houston Partnership supports Houston Botanic Garden's project to develop and build a world class botanic garden on a site in Houston's Cullinan Park at Oyster Creek, located adjacent to the City of Sugar Land in Fort Bend County

- Subject to Houston City Council approval, the Houston Parks & Recreation Department will make Tract 3 (177 acres) of Cullinan Park at Oyster Creek available to the Houston Botanic Garden as the site for this botanic garden project.
- The Houston Botanic Garden, a Texas nonprofit corporation, will raise \$50 to \$90 million over the duration of this project for the purpose of designing, planning and constructing a world class botanic garden of the scale and quality as exist in most of the great cities of the world – the Chicago Botanic Garden being a prime example.
- The Sugar Land area of Fort Bend County has one of the fastest growing populations in the country and is near the center of the greater Houston region. The Chicago Botanic Garden draws in excess of 700,000 visitors annually and is one of the main tourist destinations in the Chicago region. It is expected that a Houston Botanic Garden would create a similar draw of visitors and economic benefit for the greater Houston region, as well as for the City of Sugar Land and Fort Bend County.


Daniel G. Bellow, Chairman


Patrick Oxford, Secretary


Jeff Moseley, President and CEO

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 4, 2009

TO: Greater Houston Partnership Board of Directors

FROM: Bob Nicholas, Chairman
Quality of Life Advisory Committee

SUBJECT: Resolution of the Board of Directors in Support of the Houston Botanic Garden's Project to Develop and Build a World Class Botanic Garden on a Site in Houston's Cullinan Park at Oyster Creek, located Adjacent to the City of Sugar Land in Fort Bend County

RECOMMENDATION

The Greater Houston Partnership supports Houston Botanic Garden's project to develop and build a world class botanic garden on a site in Houston's Cullinan Park at Oyster Creek, located adjacent to the City of Sugar Land in Fort Bend County

BACKGROUND

The Houston Botanic Garden (HBG) was founded in 2002 as a Texas nonprofit corporation with a 501(c)(3) tax exemption to develop in the Houston region a major botanic garden of the scale and quality that exist in most of the great cities of the world – the Chicago Botanic Garden being a prime example. Houston is the fourth largest city in the USA and the only major metropolitan area without a premier garden. Premier gardens offer the community many things: important and interesting plant collections, a public window into the plant sciences and what they do for humanity, environmental messages about the role of plants and ecological systems, and, as important, a place of peace and serenity in the midst of too busy lives. Premier gardens do this by offering stunning indoor and outdoor horticultural displays, programs and educational opportunities for all ages covering disciplines ranging from horticulture to the environment and conservation to art and culturally related topics. Many also conduct research of various kinds.

FISCAL IMPACT

Based on various methods to project attendance, an estimated 518,000 annual visitors are expected at the Houston Botanic Garden, with an annual economic impact between \$7.5 and \$15 million. Most importantly, the real value of a botanic garden is not in its economic impact, but in its overall contribution to the quality of life.

OPPOSITION

No known opposition

RESOURCES REQUIRED

None