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NATURE CENTER & REFUGE

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February 3, 2021

Richard Zavala

Director

City of Fort Worth Park & Recreation Department

4200 S. Freeway, Ste. 2200

Fort Worth, Texas 76115

Dear Richard,

On behalf of the Friends of the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge Board of Directors, I am writing to request that the Lotus Marsh Boardwalk at the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge be renamed for Marty Leonard, who has dedicated a substantial portion of her time and energy over the years to conserving nature and the environment, both within Fort Worth and beyond.

Marty is a passionate advocate of water conservation. She successfully ran for the Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD) Board of Directors in 2006 and was recently re-elected to her fourth four-year term. She also serves on the board's Environmental Committee and represents TRWD on the City of Fort Worth's Water Conservation Advisory Committee. Marty's efforts have helped the district's annual conservation budget grow significantly.

For more than two decades, Marty has also been a loyal, impassioned supporter of the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge. In 2004, she founded the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge Conservancy to advocate for improvements outlined in the Nature Center's 2003 Strategic Master Plan. She served as president of the Conservancy until 2011. At that time, the group merged with the Friends of the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge, Inc. She became president-elect of the newly merged organization and was elected president in 2013.

Marty's generous support of conservation efforts has extended to the Great Plains Restoration Council as well in its efforts to conserve 1,000+ contiguous acres of native prairie in southwest Tarrant County.

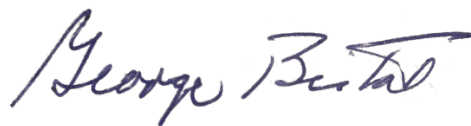
Marty's service on both boards has dramatically raised the profile of the Nature Center within the community, and funding for major improvements has been secured through her efforts, including the establishment of trail amenities for a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department paddling trail, installation of interpretive and directional signage, donation of a mini-bus for outreach programming, and major reconstruction of infrastructure at the

Nature Center's Lotus Marsh Boardwalk and Cross Timbers Trail. Most recently, Marty's generosity and advocacy helped lead to improvements at Greer Island Trail through a \$200,000 Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Recreation grant and construction of the new Lotus Marsh Pavilion located adjacent to the Boardwalk.

Based on Marty's generosity, advocacy, and service, we strongly believe she deserves this honor, and we hope you will agree. If at all possible, we would appreciate receiving notification by April 15, 2021, so we can announce it at our April 29 Fort Worth Wild event honoring Marty.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information on Marty's many accolades.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "George Bristol". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "George" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Bristol".

George Bristol
Chair, Development Committee/Board Member
Friends of the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge Board of Directors
