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friends of  
**Mandell Park**

May 2006

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of Mandell Park:

I hope you have had an opportunity to visit Mandell Park and The Meredith Gardens recently. The volunteer gardeners and the team for lawn maintenance have continued to make improvements to the grounds and the garden. Most of the cane that was separating the two halves of the park has been removed under the guidance of Jackie Hurst. Several new garden and/or flower beds have been built. The City of Houston has trimmed the dead from the trees and kept the Richmond portion of the park mowed.

Other good news is that our year-end Annual Giving Campaign raised sufficient capital for the Friends of Mandell Park to be able to maintain the same level of support we have provided over the last year and to hopefully accomplish the goals the Board has set for 2006.

### LONG TERM (MISSION GOALS)

- Determine method for design phase
- Develop master plan



*Mandell Park's Spring Showcase — Meredith Gardens in full bloom in March.*

### FUND RAISING

- Submit five grant proposals
- Raise \$50,000
- Conduct Annual Friends Drive
- Hold "Day in the Park" event

### ADMINISTRATIVE

- Conduct year-end review
- Increase participation of board members
- Provide for credit card acceptance
- Conduct board review
- Hold annual meeting

### COMMUNICATIONS

- Create 12 published articles or presentations
- Launch website
- Host two events in the park

### MAINTENANCE

- Schedule semi-annual work days
- Increase lighting in park
- Install water fountain
- Create additional signage/park definition

### VOLUNTEERS

- Increase number of gardeners
- Expand volunteer participation

As you can see, some of these goals will be difficult. Some have already been accomplished, but many are still in the early stages of being completed. We welcome ideas and volunteers to help accomplish these goals to allow us to move forward to reach our vision for Mandell Park.

We are planning a reception this summer for park contributors and all interested people to update our progress, answer questions and solicit ideas and suggestions for our future efforts. Invitations will be mailed in July as soon as the details are finalized.

Sincerely yours,

Stanley (Skip) Almony  
President, Friends of Mandell Park

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## Volunteer Profile: Jackie Hurst

A MANDELL PARK  
LABORER OF LOVE

Last Saturday morning I caught up with Jackie while she was mowing the Bonnie Brae portion around Meredith Gardens and asked her how many hours she gives each week. “Oh, about seven, but more like 11 with the mowing which averages about every other week.” If Jackie started volunteering in 1993, a conservative estimate would be over 5600 volunteer hours!

Jackie, a Castle Court resident since 1990, was one of the original gardeners who decided to turn the vacant lot into something all could enjoy. Her background in horticulture and landscape design was instrumental in implementing the organic garden. She traces her organic gardening roots back to her grandmother, Hazel Moore, a former Bellaire resident.

“When I was eight years old, I would help my grandmother take her



cooking scraps to the garden. She only planted flowers, but when I moved to East Texas I planted vegetables too. From the beginning, I learned to garden without chemicals.”

Jackie is a realtor specializing in residential sales and property management, but is quick to point out her passion is gardening, especially in Mandell Park. “It’s my catharsis. I can get rid of all the daily stress, and besides

it’s a good reason to get outside!”

If you stop by the park on any Wednesday or Saturday morning, I’m sure you will find Jackie doing what she likes best. Don’t hesitate to interrupt her. Jackie is so friendly and enthusiastic, she will be happy to give you a personal tour of Meredith Gardens. We owe a debt of gratitude to Jackie and all the other dedicated volunteers.

— Lynn Kelly, contributor

## Call for Volunteers!

### MANDELL PARK MAINTENANCE UPDATE

Friends of Mandell Park has officially taken over the maintenance of the Bonnie Brae side of Mandell Park from Castle Court Neighborhood Association. As before, volunteers are needed to mow, edge, and string trim the park about every two weeks. Even if you would like to help out just one day, that would be a great help to the small band of regulars. Questions? Please call Jackie Hurst at 713-385-5921.

Unfortunately the equipment building was broken into in March and some of the equipment stolen. Donations can be specified to go directly to the replacement of the garden equipment. PO Box 66551, Houston, TX, 77266-0551.

## MetroRail on Richmond

One of the current issues facing the Friends of Mandell Park is the possibility that Metro will build a light rail line on Richmond Avenue along the north side of Mandell Park. The position taken by the Board of Directors of Friends of Mandell Park is to support rail on Richmond Avenue in the area of the park.

It is also our position that having a station located in the 1400-1500 block of Richmond would be very beneficial to not only Mandell Park, but also to the Menil Collection Museum, the University of St. Thomas and local businesses.

We also believe the rail system can and should be built with concern for the aesthetics of Richmond, and that every effort should be made to preserve the trees and plants in the esplanades and along the sidewalks, and to make the sidewalks more walker-friendly.

We recognize that there are many differing views about this subject. Our belief is that by providing our input and by respecting the ideas put forward by all stakeholders, Metro will be able to develop a rail plan that will meet the needs of its riders, maintain the viability of local businesses, enhance the beauty of the areas it services and increase the livability of those living near the train.



## CONTRIBUTORS

*The Board of Directors would like to thank the following for their contributions to our efforts since the start of Friends of Mandell Park in 2004. Every donation helps as we strive to achieve our vision. The corporate contributors are listed in bold. Please remember these businesses when you are looking for products or services.*

### **\$300 OR MORE in cash or in kind**

Skip & Jonni Almoney  
Donna & Michael Farr  
Mack & CeCe Fowler  
Lynn & Ty Kelly

### **The Menil Collection Museum**

### **\$150 – \$299 in cash or in kind**

Gene Creely  
Sharon Engelstein  
Terry Hershey

### **H.E.B. Grocery Inc.**

Adra Hooks  
Lettalou Whittington

### **\$50 – \$149 in cash or in kind**

Karim A Alkadhi and Anne Bragdon  
David R Bires  
Mary Boroughs  
Charlotte Card & Doug Childers  
Lee & Kristy Collins  
Rey & Lorelei de la Reza  
Parmita & Winston Derden

Shelley A. Ellison

### **El Pueblito Cafe**

Sharon Engelstein & Aaron Parazette  
Walter M Foody  
Marie and Lewis Frey  
Susan L. Green  
Bill & Lucila Haase  
Billy & Jeanene Hanna  
Douglas & Athena Haugh  
Larry Henderson  
Jackie Hurst  
Ron & Ia Ingebritson  
Wendy Kelsey  
Tana & Peter Key  
Greg Leroy  
Paul & Bette Lester  
Nita & Joe Lindley  
Michael J. Morgan  
Marjorie Nicol & Matthias Heinkenschloss  
Virginia R Neath  
Stacy & Susan Night  
Tom Norris  
Roksan Okan-Vick

Lisa & Dennis Petito  
Charles Remsen & Dace Reinholds  
Mary Jane & Joe Rosenbaum

### **Anya Tish Gallery**

Jan Simpson  
Fred Simpson  
Vanessa Stabler & Todd Graham  
Margery Sterling  
Richard Stout  
Mary Tarpey & Will Volding  
Max & Carolyn Watson  
Lawrence & Loretta Williams  
Pinar O. Yilmaz  
Jerry Zamzon

### **UP TO \$49 in cash or in kind**

Art & Entertainment Architecture Inc  
(Kirk Ferris)  
Judy M. Boyce  
Caroline S. Callery  
Virginia Drapela  
Anne Green  
Jim Henley  
James Hopkins  
Eva Kendall  
Hal Pokorny  
Earl E. Shelp

*Friends of Mandell Park is a 501 (c) (3) corporation, and contributions to it are tax deductible to the extent allowed by Federal Law. Unless otherwise stated, no good or services, in whole or in part, were provided for your contribution. You should keep this receipt as substantiation of your tax-deduction, since your canceled check by itself may not be sufficient.*



## **What's up with the elephants?**

One of the most frequently asked questions about Mandell Park is "Why are there white elephants?" No, the circus did not leave them.

The boring truth is the City Parks & Recreation Department had the concrete elephants in storage, and placed them on the east border of the park to prevent random parking.

Not to worry, Dumbo and friends are NOT part of the master plan.



PO Box 66551  
Houston, Texas 77266-0551

**MASTER PLAN  
COMING SOON**



Mandell Park is located  
at the corner of Mandell and  
Richmond in the Museum District.

There is no better time to join Friends of Mandell Park. We hope to have a schematic plan and architect by the end of the summer. If you would like to be part of the design phase, please sign up today!

**FRIENDS OF  
MANDELL PARK**

PO Box 66551  
Houston, Texas 77266-0551  
713-524-2485

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