



[NEWSLETTER EMAIL]

Thursday, September 08, 2004

Friends of Preston Ridge Newsletter (#3)

Dear Friends:

You are receiving this email as a result of being a member of the Friends of the Preston Ridge Trail. We are so pleased that so many residents and a growing number of homeowners associations have chosen to become Friends and help underwrite the work of the Friends. We wanted to get you word of several exciting things that have occurred over the summer.

A special welcome and thank you to the many people who joined the Friends over the last few months, and who are receiving this email newsletter for the first time.

1) Summer Community Meeting: Nearly 100 residents attended a Community Meeting in late July where preliminary plans for the Trail's Master Plan and Expansion were presented by the architectural firm of Newman, Jackson and Biebertstein. The Friends of the Preston Ridge Trail and the City of Dallas Parks & Recreation Department sponsored the meeting. A new Master Plan Task Force was also formed to provide input to the architects and the City as the Master Plan is finalized.

The Task Force met in August and has begun the important task of helping select and prioritize amenities (like benches), signage, and landscaping for the existing Trail. The Task Force will also be the conduit for community input into the Trail's northern expansion beginning at McCallum/Meandering running along the electric lines to Highway 190/Bush Tollway.

The architects, the City, and the Task Force are working toward completing the Master Plan by January/February 2005, when it would then need to be formally adopted by the associated/adjacent government agencies. The project would then be put out to bid by summer with the goal of breaking ground later in 2005.

For a complete list of the Task Force members and their background, please visit the Friends' website (www.prestonridgetrail.org), Projects page.

2) Task Force Launches History Project: One of the Master Plan Task Force's near-term objectives is to gather interesting historical facts about the neighborhoods along the Trail. The goal is to incorporate such facts into the Trail's signage and pedestrian pavilions or trailheads. It is hoped these facts will make the Trail experience more interesting and strengthen neighborhood identities. The Friends' Task Force needs your help to compile tidbits about parks, schools, neighborhoods, settlers, railroads, streets, or other elements related to the trail route. Information or questions about this initiative should be forwarded to Task Force member Rich Morgan at remorgan@sbcglobal.net or call him at 972-248-0755. Please make submissions by October 15,



2004.

Rod Scales, chair of the Task Force, and Rich Morgan, a Task Force member and past president of AIA Dallas (the professional association of architects), have already compiled a number of interesting facts about the Trail's path. Please visit the Friends' website (www.prestonridgetrail.org), Projects page, to see what they've gathered, and see if it triggers any additional ideas.

3) Keeping Trail Clean: As the Trail's usage increases, we have begun to receive calls and emails on the Friends' Information Line and at the website with complaints and concerns about litter and other code violations. We have spoken with the City, and they have asked that all such information be directed to the City's 311 Service Hotline or submitted via the City's website.

The City will treat such information with attention and either arrange for clean-up and/or pursue code violations if laws are being broken.

We know it hurts to see people not take care of the Trail, and we encourage everyone to be vigilant about reporting problems.

On behalf of the Board of the Friends, we thank you for your continued support. We are all volunteers, and join you in supporting the Trail's enhancement and expansion. Please call the Information Line (972-770-0436) or visit the website (www.prestonridgetrail.org) to check on new information, etc. in between these email newsletters.

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