

West Galveston Island Property Owners Association

Board of Directors Meeting

The West Galveston Island POA Board meeting was held at the Galveston Country Club on January 19, 2013. Jerry Mohn, President called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. A quorum of Directors was present with attendance of Jerry Mohn, Boyd Carr – Isla Del Sol, Al Galli – Jamaica Beach, Ron Pearrow – Pirates Beach, Greg Mack – Pointe San Luis, Clay Lewis – Sportsman Road, and Tom Booth - West Beach Grand. Susan Gonzales – Secretary was also in attendance.

Jerry Mohn introduced officials who attended. Judge Jim Schweitzer, Chris Robb for Marie Robb Galveston City Council, and Bob Stokes – Galveston Bay Foundation. Corporate Sponsors – Greg Mack – TSI Toshiba; Clay Lewis – Operations Integrity

The minutes and Treasurers report were reviewed, Motion by Tom Booth and seconded by Ron Pearrow, the Board approved the minutes and treasurers report.

District 6 Happenings: Chris Robb for Marie Robb. The City of Galveston has hired a new planning Director, he is from South Padre. The City has also hired a new controller. The Land Use Plans has been rewritten. Public meetings are taking place. Marie Robb is making sure the information gets out to the public. Marie has been working with the Galveston County on Beach nourishment, FEMA cases. Capital Projects – several roads on west end are being worked on, new fire hydrants, Marie is looking at assuring the right resources are being used. The Texas Windstorm will be a significant issue and there will be a meeting March 5th in Austin to review the issues.

Question concerning signs and trash barrels, cleaning culverts, trash pickup prior to mowing in, large pothole Sportsman Road. A Request for Stewart Road being completed was made. Request for update on sewers in Bay Harbor and Indian Beach are planned for 2014. Ron Pearrow recommended that members go to Public Works directly or the City Galveston Official who handles the work. If you have an issue within your community contacting the correct City of Galveston Official. Ron Pearrow and Chris Robb are on the COG finance committee and are pushing to have outside contractors handled some of the work.

Community Policing – Officer Joey Quiroga stated it was important that issues are reported. Officer Quiroga cell number is 409-256-0762. Clay Lewis commended the Officers who patrol the west end are doing a terrific job. Officer Quiroga is a member of Charity Lighthouse and Blue Santa.

Lighthouse Charity: Mark Davis talked about the organization www.lighthousecharityteam.com – help non-profit to raise money, and others who have

a need. They will be doing four (4) festivals through the Mitchell Foundation. The Del Papa family has donated a location for the Lighthouse Charity. Citizens Police Academy will start to meet on the January 21, www.galveton

Fisheries Investment Act presented by Brad Boney. The Fisheries Investment Act is new legislation that would provide dedicated funding to support the research, monitoring and management programs critical to sustaining ocean fish resources and fishing communities. The bill would restore the original uses of an existing revenue stream derived from duties on imported fish products – valued at an estimated \$124 million for FY2013 – to invest directly in the management of our nation’s ocean fisheries.

Galveston Bay Foundation presented by Bob Stokes, President. The Galveston Bay Foundation was founded in 1987 as a nonprofit organization to preserve, protect and enhance Galveston Bay – one of the world’s most productive estuaries. Its balanced programs in advocacy, conservation, education, and research strive to ensure the Galveston Bay remains a beautiful and productive place for generations to come. The Galveston bay is the largest with 660 square miles and it is the 7th largest in the United States. The bays average depth is 17 feet and covers five (5) counties (Brazoria, Harris, Chambers and Galveston). Fresh water feeds in from the San Jacinto and Trinity rivers. There are tidal exchange from Bolivar, San Luis Pass and Rollover Pass. There is 24,000 square miles watershed from Houston metropolitan, along the Trinity River basin. About half of the population of Texas lives in the Galveston Bay watershed.

Why it is important: It provides lots of jobs, tourism, and transportation with port of Houston, ecosystems and productivity. The mission of the Galveston Bay Foundation is to preserve, protect and enhance the natural resources of the Galveston Bay estuarine system and its tributaries for present users and for posterity. To accomplish this mission the Foundation has targeted four goals:

- 1) Advocacy – Encourage and actively seek solutions to conflicts among the diverse users of the Bay. Wise, prudent and careful utilization of administrative and legal proceedings when required and approved by a 2/3 majority of the Executive Board present and voting. Some of the programs are: Oyster Water Implementation Plan, Clean Water Partnership, Bay water Outreach and Seafood Consumption.
- 2) Conservation - Develop projects aimed at preserving/enhancing the natural resources of the Bay system
- 3) Education - Provide resources and guidance for education projects aimed at developing a constituency for the Bay, from schoolchildren to public officials. Examples: Get Hip to Habitat to teach children value wetlands, children will have the opportunity to harvest marsh and plant grass. Bay Day Festival is every spring and will be June 2nd at the Kemah Boardwalk. Bike around the Bay is a two-day ride on October 12th & 13th.
- 4) Research - Support the allocation of public and private resources for research into the multiple resources of the Bay system and ultimately establish a research endowment. Committees established by the Trustees of the Foundation will develop specific

objectives designed to meet these goals of the Foundation, including the required fundraising efforts. The Foundation will also seek appropriate levels of funding and staff for an administrative office to provide the necessary support and coordination of these efforts. Water Quality Issue, where there are people there will be water quality problems. Research includes Oyster Waters Bacteria Reduction, Clean Water Partnerships working with Cities around the Bay to help keep our water clean. The Galveston Bay Foundation water quality team go out once a month to check water

Conservation Program conservation through enhancement land holdings and habitat restoration.

Marine debris removal, trash bash on rivers, lakes and bayous. Invasive Species removal, Brazilian peppertree on Galveston Island. It out competes our native vegetation. Can also give you a rash live poison ivy.

Habitat Restoration – actively restoring habitat since 1991, diverse habitat types: marsh, Seagrass, etc. Benefits provide habitat for fish & wildlife, stabilize shoreline and reduce, absorb flood waters and storm surges, improve water quality, and recreation. Marsh Mania Statistics is an annual event since 1999, involved nearly 7000 volunteers, restored...

Seagrass Restoration – at least 80% of sea grasses in Galveston Bay were lost since the 1950's. Recent successes in Seagrass restoration in West Bay .

Living Shorelines – efforts to work with people on the bay and other tributaries, softer solutions working with nature to restore, create, or protect valuable habit. Protect landowner investment while enhancing the ecological value of the property, offer great alternative to bulk heading.

Go to www.galbay.org where there are many Volunteer Opportunities: Abandoned Crab Trap Removal – February 16 in Anahuac, Trash Bash – March 23 on Armand Bayou, Marsh Mania – spring – fall, sites TBD, Bay Day – June 1, 2013. There are programs suitable for physically or mentally handicapped.

Land Development Regulations – Beach & Dune February 12, 2013 from 1:00 pm – 5 pm at City Hall, City Council Chambers will address how you can build your home after a storm.

Severance Case – HB 325 was filed December 21, 2012 and basically negates the Texas Supreme Court decision on the Severance Case. In addition, HJR 54 will amend the Texas Constitution to state that a public trust exists for all the in Texas beaches along the Gulf Coast. Attorneys plan to file a Public Trust – disallowing seizure after a storm. HB 325.

Signage: In view of the existing Severance decision, signage will need to be placed on the entrance points to the beaches that allow people to recreate on the beach. Adjourn at 10:36 am

Susan Gonzales, Secretary