

West Galveston Island Property Owners Association (WGIPOA)

Board of Directors Meeting

The WGIPOA Board of Directors meeting was held on May 18, 2013 at the Moody Gardens Hotel. Jerry Mohn called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., Present. Directors present were Bruce Reinhart-Kahala, Jay Hellerich – Acapulco Village, Jeff Southard – Dunes of West, Dick Kuriger – Pirates Cove, Tom Gillespie – Sea Isle, and Peggy Zahler – Spanish Grant Beach. Susan Gonzales, CKM Property Owners as Secretary.

Officials in attendance: Marie Robb – COG City Council, Judge Jim Schweitzer, Mayor Lewis Rosen, County Commissioner Kevin O'Brien, Judge Mark Henry, Constable Clint Wayne Brown, Lt. Joel Caldwell, Pat Grady running for District Court, District Clerk John Kinard and Judge John Grady.

Corp. Sponsors Peggy Zahler – Johnson Space Center Credit Union and Marie Robb – Coastal Solutions were present.

The prior meeting minutes were reviewed. Motion by Peggy Zahler and seconded by Jeff Southard, the minutes of April 2013 were approved.

GARM REPORT – Lt. Joel Caldwell stated this is Prom week. We did have one incident but resolved it quickly.

Community Policing: Officer Joey Quiroga has increased patrolling from 8 mile road to San Luis Pass. A fund raiser will be held on the strand on June 28, 2013. Judge Jim Schweitzer stated there are more and more tickets given for doing donuts on the beach and drinking.

District 6 Happenings – Marie Robb stated the biggest thing is the Texas Windstorm SB1700 by Larry Taylor. The bill did not pass. Redistricting, education and transportation will be big issues. There will be a special session, which will reduce the number of Senators needed to pass a Bill. HB3459 by Craig Eiland with the GLO affected after a storm the moratorium time would go from 2 – 3 years. The Ike Dyke SB1560 relates to the Static Easement – cannot make public beach smaller. This bill brings back the static easement and could allow beach owners to do something with their homes. For more information go to www.texaslegislationonline.com. Send support letters to the House to support SB1560. HB3459 (will make open beaches unconstitutional) send letters to the Senate.

The Terramar Plant is being brought up to standards and the City will continue to work on the sewer installation. Forty-five percent of the island is on Septic. Fire Hydrants are being repaired on the island, the repairs are being contracted out to accomplish completion at a better rate. West End sales are up 42%. Mayor Lewis Rosen stated Galveston is booming. City Council will be following Roberts Rules of Order and will shorten the speaking time of council members during meetings. TxDot – Pelican Island Bridge is a historic landmark therefore there will be no change to the bridge. The bridge does need repairs and TxDot has approved money to do the needed repairs.

Artist Boat – Karla Klay Executive Directors of Artist Boat. The mission statement of Artist Boar is to promote awareness and preservation of coastal margins and marine environment through the disciplines of sciences and arts. Artist Boat was incorporated in 2003 as a 501 c(3) nonprofit and so far over 70,000 participants have engaged in their unique Eco-Art Programs including the famous kayak tours and dune plantings. Artist Boat is establishing “Coastal Heritage Preserve” as a conservation area of approximately 364 acres of land on West Galveston Island adjacent to West Bay.

Programs: Eco-Art workshops (2 hours in class), Eco-Art Adventures (4 hour walking or Kayaking), Coastal Waters Ingrate and Professional Development for Teachers (40 hours), Eco-Art Residences, Public and Private Eco-Art Kayak Adventures, Habitat Restoration Adventures, Outreach (Festivals and Events). Help Float the Boat event is held in October.

Coastal Heritage Preserve on Settegast Road. Marquette bought for \$36 million from 8 mile to 11 mile. It is 375 ac., Artist Boat has a Grant to buy 200 – 260 ac. Goal is to place a building for Education with studios, short term lodging for students, class rooms, etc. People were upset and asked that the permit not be passed, but it did pass. Another group was formed to stop the construction of the development and Artist Boat asked to purchase the property. Go on line to get a discount on a Kayak trip. To sponsor a school class room for a day the cost is \$300. To sponsor a bench costs \$3000.

Other:

Signage for the beach – meeting with the City of Galveston and we are trying to have the City.

Land Development Regulations (LDR) – planning commission is taking it out of their program. Bruce Reinhart stated the planning department is amending the swimming pool rules and will allow in ground pool from 200’ to 1000’.

Noise Ordinance working to get it changed to lower it from 85 decimals to at least 65 decimals.

Meeting adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

Susan Gonzales