

## West Galveston Island POA

### Board of Directors meeting

The WGIPOA Board of Directors meeting was held on September 21, 2013 at the Galveston Country Club. Peggy Zahler, Vice President called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A quorum was established by the attendance of Jeff Southard – Dunes of West, Peggy Zahler – Spanish Grant Beach, Dick Kuriger – Pirates Beach & Cove, Clay Lewis – Sportsman Road, Christopher Kasper – Spanish Grant Bay, Nina Parker – Terramar and Joan Newton – Bermuda Beach, and Bet Jennings – Laffite's Cove.

Peggy Zahler introduced the candidates running for various positions in Galveston.

Jim Schweitzer – stressed the importance of getting to know your neighbors – Neighborhood Watch.

Mayor Lewis Rosen was recognized. Recognition was given to Corporate Sponsors Peggy Zahler – Johnson Space Center Credit Union, and Marie Robb – Coastal Solutions.

The Minutes of August 2013 were reviewed. Motion by Dick Kuriger and seconded by Jeff Southard, the Board approved the Minutes of August 2013.

The financial reports were distributed to the Board. Motion by Dick Kuriger seconded by Bet Jennings, the Board approved the financial reports.

**Community Policing:** Joey Quiroga presented community policing. It is a slow time of the year, but be sure to clear out your car, do not leave items in your car or at home in sight. Always call if it looks suspicious. The citizen's police academy is twelve (12) classes. Meetings are held on Thursday at the Moody Church from 6:00 pm – 8:30 PM. NONE EMERGENCY NUMBER: 409-765-3702

**District 6 Report:** Marie Robb gave the District 6 Report. The COG approved the budget on Thursday. The issues are the use of bond funds and it will affect District 6. An audit is being performed. Sign up for updates on COG of activities. A recent trip to New Orleans occurred with representatives of COG representatives and State representatives, to look at the levy system. On a positive note the Ike Dike is moving forward. The tax rate has stayed at the same level. Marie did not vote for the tax cut due to the failing of the infrastructure. Marie [Robb@cityofgalveston.org](mailto:Robb@cityofgalveston.org).

As a City we are doing quite well, the real estate sales are high, sales increased 47%. Since weather plays a part in Sales Tax it not good for the COG to depend upon it as secure revenue. Traffic control study is being done on 61<sup>st</sup> Street.

**County Constable:** Constable Wayne Brown was introduced and gave his cell phone 409-771-4658. Stewart Road at 7 - 1/2 road there are no markings. Marie Robb stated that she has been addressing the markings and lowering the speed limits.

**Newsletter:** Peggy Zahler reported on the WGIPOA Newsletter. Next newsletter will be within the next couple of months.

**Flood Insurance:** Audrey Glisson reported on Flood Insurance. Pre-firm policies will not change unless

the policy lapses or the property is sold. No stand-alone sheds under the home. The ground level can have one solid wall and the other walls must be leavers.

In 2012, the US Congress passed the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 which calls on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and other agencies to make a number of changes to the way the NFIP s run. Key provisions of the legislation will require the NFIP to raise rates to reflect true Flood risk, make the program more financially stable, and change how Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) updates impact policyholders.

Pre-existing homes and businesses, though, could remain as they were. Owners of many of these older properties could obtain insurance at lower, subsidized, rates that did not reflect the property's real risk. In addition, as the initial flood risk identified by the NFIP has been updated over the years, many homes and businesses in areas where the revised risk was determined to be higher have also received discounted rates. The "Grandfathering" approach prevented rate increases for existing properties when the flood risk in their area increased.

The new law eliminates some artificially low rates and discounts which are no longer sustainable. Most flood insurance rates will reflect full risk, and flood insurance rates will rise on some policies.

Actions such as buying or selling a property, or allowing a policy to lapse, can trigger rate changes. You should talk to your insurance agent about how changes may affect your property and flood insurance policy. There are investments you and your community can make to reduce the impact of rate changes, and FEMA can help communities lower flood risk and flood insurance premiums.

Not everyone will be affected immediately by the new law – only 20% of NFIP policies receive subsidies. Talk to your agent about how rate changes could affect your policy.

\*Owners of non-primary/secondary residences in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) will be 25% increase annually until rates reflect true risk – began January 2, 2013.

\*Owners of property which has experienced severe or repeated flooding will see 25%

**Galveston Fire Department:** Chief Mike Wisko reported on Galveston Fire Department (GFD). Making a Difference. October 1882 the first fire station was built in Galveston. GFD has a good relationship with Jamaica Beach. Original GFD was built in 1852, we had a paid department in October of 1885, and we lost records in the 1900 storm. The Island and Fire Department grew throughout the 1900's; there were 12 stations now only 6 are open. The current response time is 4 1/2 min.

The Fire Department has 115 uniformed fire personnel, 3 divisions, 6 stations, 22 apparatus, and the GFD are members of the JAFF Local 571. Always maintain 30 uniformed fire fighters at all times. They are an all hazard responder. Make approximately 45 calls per day. Ave 7000 calls annually, first responder calls = 4000 annually. Fire calls = 3000 annually and Mutual Aid calls = 15-20 annually.

The area covered is Bolivar, Jamaica Beach, Tiki Island, Bayou Vista, Santa Fe, Kemah, Treasure Island, and the US Coast Guard-Galveston. The GFD also does Statewide Mutual Aid: (Fires) TIFMAS, in Possum Kingdon, Bastrop, Magnolia, and Longview. During Ike we used the Statewide Mutual Aid and received

a lot of help.

The Galveston Fire Department works closely with EMS and Police Department. Do training on the seawall for accidents

Apparatus: (6) Engines - pumper trucks, (2) ladder trucks with a basket, (3) squads – first responder, on the beach, (2) brush trucks for fires, (1) safety Officers, (1) shift commander, (3) fire marshals, and (1) staff vehicles. Just purchased two (2) new pumper trucks and will move trucks out to the west end.

Just purchased two trucks for \$540,000.

Affiliations: Texas Task Force 1, Galveston County Firefighter's Assoc., Texas Fire Chief's Assoc., Texas State Assoc. of Firefighters, State Firemen's & Fire Marshals Assoc., and Houston/Galveston Arson Task Force.

Jamaica Beach VFD is considered as part of GFD. The JBVFD and GFVFD work under the Automatic Aid Agreement and the Galveston Marine Response Partner. There is a shared relationship with approximately 10-15 calls per year/50+ per year.

Hurricane IKE, Saturday morning we had 27-collapsed structure, 40 plus structures destroyed by fire, 3 major fires in progress and 1/3 of island still under water. Single Engine Co. assignments during the storm, obtained water and draft from street, searching exposed structures and many worked 12 – 15 hours shifts. Damage to 3 Stations and lost 2 stations, now replaced. Replaced all new clothing equipment, all breathing apparatus, all new radios, and new truck.

Chief Wisko recommended turning the breakers off – most fires during Ike was from electrical fires.

Fire Hydrants – there are 2400 hydrants on the island, 815 west of 8 Mile Road. 639 are at 100% and 176 Hydrants need repair.

Assessment of West End – it has an increasing population, more call volume, amount of protection – 2 stations and 8 firefighters, planned improvements – looking at ways to improve the service.

HOW YOU CAN HELP – EASY TO READ ADDRESSES, PROPERTY MAINTENANCE AND FIRE VIGILANCE.

KEEP GRASS MOWED.

Chief Mike Wisko contact information is: [wiskomika@cityofgalveston.org](mailto:wiskomika@cityofgalveston.org) , phone: 409-797-3850, Galvestonfire.com.

**Next WGIPOA Meeting:** October 19, 2013 at Moody Gardens with City Manager Michael Kovacs.

Adjourned at 11:20 a.m.