

## **West Galveston Island POA**

### **Board of Directors Meeting**

**March 15, 2014**

The WGIPOA held a Board meeting on March 15, 2014 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 Joan Newton – Bermuda Beach, Lewis Arend – Dunes of West Beach, Boyd Carr – Isla Del Sol, Bruce Reinhart – Kahala, Bet Jennings – Laffites Cove, Ron Pearrow – Pirates Beach & Cove, Tom Gillespie – Sea Isle, Peggy Zahler – Spanish Grant Beach, Clay Lewis - Sportsman Road, Nina Parker – Terramar, and Tom Boothe – West Beach Grand.

Peggy Zahler introduced the following candidates and each spoke briefly. Don Mafrige – Mayor Candidate, Marie Robb – City Council District 6, Judge Jim Schweitzer, Carolyn Sunceri – candidate for City Council District 6.

Corporate Sponsors Johnson Space Center Credit Union - Peggy Zahler, and Coastal Solutions – Marie Robb.

The Treasurer report was reviewed. Motion by Clay Lewis and seconded by Ron Pearrow, the Board accepted the financial report by unanimous vote.

The 2/15/14 minutes were reviewed. Motion by Tom Boothe and seconded by Lewis Arend, the Board approved the minutes of 2/15/14 by unanimous vote.

Community Policing - Officer Chad Meyers – stated that the Power of Attorney gives the Police the power to arrest persons who do not have permission to be on your property – Police Power of attorney only gives power to arrest. Having security cameras at your home helps. Clay Lewis went to Galveston Citizens Academy for 14-week class. He highly recommends the class.

**Call the Police Dispatcher at 409-765-3702**, not the police Officer and your response will be faster. Post the number on the refrigerator. The more calls the more Officers will be patrolling the west end.

District 6 – Marie Robb went to the Coastal Summit for the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association meeting in Washington.

The Senate has passed the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act (H.R. 3370), sponsored by Rep. Michael G. Grimm, R-N.Y. The bill would bar the Federal Emergency Management Agency from increasing flood insurance premiums to reflect updated flood risks in certain areas or reducing subsidies for property that was first insured after July 6, 2012. It has been said it would protect homeowners who have maintained their policies in the federal

government's flood insurance program from the harm of sharply higher premiums that could force them into defaulting on their mortgages or make it impossible to sell their homes, through no fault of the homeowners. The vote, on March 13, was 72 yeas to 22 nays. Congress passed by a super majority. The National League of City's (NLC) have taken this up as an important issue. Grandfathering stays with the property.

The Congressional City Conference is NLC's annual legislative meeting, which informs municipal leaders about federal policy issues, while providing an opportunity for city leaders to bring local concerns to their congressional delegations, the Administration and federal agency leadership in Washington, DC. District Six Council Member Marie Robb and District Five Council Member Terrilyn Tarlton attend the conference in DC March 8 – 12, 2014. The bill restores “grand fathering” of policies located in communities with new flood maps. It also reinstates subsidies for pre-FIRM properties that are bought and sold.

Council Member Marie Robb was appointed to the 2014 Transportation Infrastructure & Services Policy and Advocacy Committee. This committee has the lead responsibility for developing NLC federal policy positions on issues involving transportation, including planning, funding, safety and security of public transit, streets and highways, aviation, railroads and ports. The appointment was announced by NLC President Chris Coleman, mayor, St. Paul, Minn.

Since the City of Galveston has had changes in Management, if you have issues in your community, email [MarieRobb@cityofgalveston.org](mailto:MarieRobb@cityofgalveston.org)

The LDR's are available on line and you can respond to those that affect your community. Send comments to the LDR to the Planning Department and the Planning Commissioners.

When a property changes from VE rating to the AE rating, the insurance companies do not recognize the change since the new maps are not out. There have been protests filed but we expect the new maps soon. There will be community rating which will affects our flood rating. We will receive a 15% discount. The City Council is working for a better rating.

Marie Robb recommended that the Fire Department be invited to the next WGIPOA meeting.

Look at the City of Galveston website for the Clean Galveston Island Day.

GARM Report – Sgt. Joel Caldwell stated we are getting into Spring Break, if you see problems in rental problems call 409-682-3603.

Also recommended homeowners sign a Police Power of Attorney.

FeatherFest 2014 – Mort Voller stated this is the 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Galveston FeatherFest and Nature PhotoFest. It will be held April 10 – 13, 2014 in Galveston. There are many events planned such as Big Day Birding Adventure, FeatherFest's Most Wanted, FledglingFest, and a pre-festival field trip to the Katy Preserve Conservancy. There will be over 100 field trips,

workshops and social events. On April 12, FeatherFest Saturday, kids (6 years and up) and their grown-ups can experience our first FledglingFest – four separate activities for ages 6 and up including a birding workshop, a field trip by bus, an outing by boat and a free raptor show. For information email: [FeatherFest@gintc.org](mailto:FeatherFest@gintc.org). or call the Hotline at 832-459-5533.

Peggy Zahler stated that the WGIPOA Newsletter will be out around Memorial Day.

Peggy Zahler introduced Rick Vasquez – Director of Planning & Community Development for the City of Galveston. Rick discussed Land Development Regulations (LDR's), RV Parks, PDD Zoning topics, and beach issues.

The Planning Commission meets every Tuesday. If you own property in the City you will be impacted by degrees by the changes to the Planning Land Development regulations.

On the west end forty years ago is very different then it is now. The island has a very diverse environment from beachfront resort to historic homes. \$1.6 Million was spent on planning; only \$600,000 of those funds is being spent on the Land Development regulations. A major flaw with the regulations was the annexation of other property with a diverse use. Planned Development Zoning District has listed with 233 uses. The City is working to eliminate that flaw.

[www.cityofgalveston.org](http://www.cityofgalveston.org) and go to the Planning Department to look at the Development Plan.

The 230 RV Park zoned PD, is moving forward on development.

Red tag issuance by building Department has been incorporated into the Planning Department.

The Beach Access Plan and Ordinance are being reviewed. Go to the City of Galveston website and information can be found under Planning Department.

The federal government under the Fish & Wildlife Department, and the U. S. Army Corps regulates wetlands. of Engineers . Before you do anything obtain a permit from the regulators to include the City of Galveston.

Marie Robb, Peggy Zahler, Claire Reiswerg, and Jerry Mohn are working with the City to provide services to some of the communities on the beach to provide trashcans, port potties and will be provided this through September. Some have requested pilings to limit vehicle access.

Next meeting at Marriot Courtyard on the Seawall.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M.