

West Galveston Island Property Owners Association (WGIPOA)

Board of Directors meeting

The WGIPOA Board of Directors meeting was held on March 21, 2015 at the Galveston Country Club. Jerry Mohn, President called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. A quorum of Directors present by attendance of Jay Hellerich - Acapulco Village, Tom Boothe - Condo/W. Beach, Lew Arend - Dunes of West Beach, Boyd Carr - Isla Del Sol, Steve Kendziera - Jamaica Beach, Bet Jennings - Laffites Cove, Dick Kuriger - Pirates Beach/cove, Peggy Zahler - Spanish Grant Bay, Nina Parker - Terramar, and new Board Member Jeanie Mason - Palm Beach.

Corporate Sponsors present were Johnson Space Center and CKM Property Mgt.

Jerry Mohn recognized District 6 City Council Member Carolyn Sunseri, Judge Jim Schweitzer and Pct 2 County Commissioner Joe Giusti

Minutes were reviewed by the Board. Motion by Tom Boothe seconded by Peggy Zahler the Board by unanimous vote approved the minutes of February 21, 2015.

Peggy Zahler, Nominating Committee Chair stated that the terms expired for Bermuda, Condo, Spanish Grant Bay, and Terramar. One new member Palm Beach was also being considered. The terms are from March 15 – February 28 and are three (3) year terms. Motion by Peggy Zahler and seconded by Dick Kuriger the Board by unanimous vote approved the appointment of Director Members Bermuda, Condo, Spanish Grant Bay, Terramar and Palm Beach.

The amendment and new bylaws were presented to the Board. Motion by Lew Arend and seconded by Dick Kuriger, the board and members approved the new amended bylaws.

District 6 Happenings - Carolyn Sunseri stated that the Land Development Regulations were approved March 5, 2015. The signage and non-conformities was not addressed at this time. Short-term rentals - two Associations were included in the R-0 rating.

1% to Conserve Galveston Island: Brenda Lee gave an overview of the 1% to Conserve Galveston Island Program. Program (TCVSPP) initiative will establish a funding mechanism that will allow the Galveston Island community to implement community-vetted land conservation projects that maximize ecological value and public access, and that are prioritized in plans such as the City of Galveston's Comprehensive Plan and Hurricane Ike Long-Term Community Recovery Plan, the Galveston Bay Foundation's Habitat Conservation Blueprint, the Trust for Public Land's West Galveston Island Greenprint for Growth. Note this is a project of Artist Boat. This is a voluntary program with Galveston island businesses. Money derived from this program is to be used for preserving Galveston. We are one of the top tourism county's. The program is modeled after the Crested Butte 1% program.

Sargassum Symposium: Capt. Robert Webster advised NASA has a new system to view the sargassum, which will be available April 2nd -3rd 2015. The purpose of the program is to bring together everyone involved and those concerned with the effects of Sargassum on the Gulf Coast. The conference will address current research being conducted as well as future directions. Our goals are to gain a better understanding of the current knowledge of Sargassum and to address how current developments can affect future financial and environmental impacts to the Gulf Coast area. By attending you will gain a better understanding of the current Sargassum situation and becomes a part of the future direction of coastal management.

Coastal Heritage Preserve: – Karla Klay, Executive Director of Artist Boat, is establishing the Coastal Heritage Preserve on Galveston Island. The project will be a conservation of an area of approximately 364 acres of land on the West Galveston Island adjacent to the West Bay. The WGIPOA donated \$5000. On Sunday, March 22, there will be a dedication for the purchase of property.

Golf Carts: A request for support of allowing golf carts on the beach for people 55 or older. The Board felt that the issue was addressed since people with disabilities could drive a golf cart on the beach with proper stickers. Each Board member discussed the issue with their respective Boards and the final decision relayed at the meeting was a no vote.

Galveston Police Department: Chief Henry Porretto - Prior to becoming Police Chief he was assigned to the west end and is familiar with the issues. He requested more staff but got a tax cut. The dynamics of the work force has changed. Nine positions are open and they are interviewing.

The State of the Department: The received 71,089 calls, 88,000 911 services, every hour an officer files a report, 6017 arrests, 14,627 citations, every 87 minutes an officer arrests someone, and every 5 minutes GPD dispatches a 911 call. Two murders in 2013 and 4 in 2014. Robbery 2013 –104, 2014-108, and assaults were 85 in 2013 and 84 in 2014.

Since he took the position-sworn complaints have been reduced, he has increased the level of training. The issues for the department were in administrative. They now have eight (8) Certified Public Managers, and they provide nationally recognized accredited development programs for those who seek broader understanding. Additional programs include Citizens Police Academy which is free, Galveston PD App for I phone, Social Media Initiative (facebook.com/galvestonpolice), TAPS for at risk youth (Teen & Police Service Academy), White House Task Force – Galveston PD requested to be part of the White House Task Force on 21 Century Policing – the goal is to strengthen the relationship between local police and the community.

The meeting was adjourned and Jerry Mohn requested the Board members to remain to elect 2015/2016 Officers. Motion by Jay Hellerich and seconded by Dick Kuriger, the Board by unanimous vote approved the following slate of Officers.

President – Jerry Mohn

Vice President – Peggy Zahler

Treasurer – Peggy Rapp

Secretary – Carol Champagne.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.
Susan Gonzales, recording secretary