

West Galveston Island POA

Board of Directors meeting

The West Galveston Island POA Board meeting was held on January 16, 2016, at the Galveston Country Club. Jerry Mohn, President called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

A quorum was established by the attendance of Tom Boothe – Condo/W. Beach Grand, Jay Lendrum – Dunes of West Beach, Peggy Zahler – Spanish Grant Beach, Kim Foley – Pointe West, Bill Ferrary – Bermuda Beach, Jeannie Mason – Palm Beach, Charley Jones – Sea Isle, Paul Voinis – Sportsman Road, Craig Vance – Terramar, Boyd Carr – Isla del Sol. Susan Gonzales, Bet Jennings – Lafittes Cove, Debbie Reinhart – Beachside Village, Steve Kendziera – Jamaica Beach, and Jerry Mohn.

Corporate Sponsors in attendance were Peggy Zahler- JSC Federal Credit Union.

Elected Officials in attendance included Galveston Mayor Jim Yarbrough, County Commissioner Precinct 2 Joe Giusti, State Representative Wayne Faircloth, County Constables Jimmy Fullen and Clint Wayne Brown, and District 6 City Council Member Carolyn Sunseri.

Candidates for office included Jimmy Fullen and Clint Wayne Brown for County Constable, Marie Robb – Galveston County Republican Chair, and, State Representative Wayne Faircloth.

Other people in the audience included Brian Maxwell – Galveston City Manager, Bruce Reinhart – Chair of Galveston Planning Commission, Clyde Steadman and Miguel Aleman from the Parks Board, Galveston Police Officer Joey Quiroga, and Bill Herr – Code Enforcement.

The Board previously received the minutes of the October 17, 2015, and special Board Meeting December 19, 2015, and financial statements for December 31, 2015, yearend and motion reviewed the minutes of a Special meeting held on August 15, 2015 and the September financial report. Motion by Peggy Zahler and seconded by Tom Boothe, the Board approved the reports.

Community Policing: Captain David Torres introduced the West End Commander, Lt. Joshua Schirard, who also spoke and advised to reach him via email is: jschirard@cityofgalveston.org or cell at 409-599-7410.

GalvestonWestender Newsletter: Editor Peggy Zahler advised the newsletter is now 5 years old and continues to grow. A new one should be forthcoming within the next month and appreciated an article by the Mayor.

District 6: Carolyn Sunseri advised the following:

- City Council an extension of a Public Improvement District for Beachside Village.
- Laffites Cove POA approved an amendment to their deed restrictions to prohibit short term rentals. Now the request will go to the Planning Department

- Swimming pool at Lasker Park was approved and noted one donation was for \$1 million from a residence in Pirates Beach.
- RESTORE Act Committee will have a public meeting January 26 at the Convention Center. City looking at funding from RESTORE for dune walkovers, sewer for Sportsman Road, etc.
- Plan to hire a City Attorney before the May elections
- Engineering underway for sewer line at Sunny Beach and 8 Mile Road
- Sewers for Bermuda Beach are ready to go
- Downtown Parking approved – Monday through Saturday 9:00AM-6:00PM with first 15 minutes free, \$1.50/hr., cash, pay phone, and credit card, Post Office to Strand and 25th to 21st Streets.
- Water rates: After rate increase from Gulf Coast Water Authority of 30%, City passed an ordinance to increase water rates based on usage. Purpose was to conserve water.
- Comcast is back now in Galveston with a kiosk at City Hall for citizens to visit.
- The Neighborhood Funds allocated to each City Council member, Carolyn would like to use hers in restoring a public boat ramp access near the airport at Jones Drive Bridge where a former RV park was located. There are no public boat ramps now on the west end.

Mayor Jim Yarbrough: Referred to the topics covered at last year's presentation and to see what improvements have occurred. Comments made as follows:

- Complimented Carolyn Sunseri in giving facts in what happens at City Hall.
- Don't try to please everyone, but look for common consensus and improvement and make it better than yesterday.
- Look for incremental profits and look for better than last year and need to change the culture at City Hall.
- See the CIP (Capital Improvement Program City Website at: <file:///C:/Users/Jerry/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/IE/KC1BUVIX/CIP%202016%20Final%20with%20tabs%20for%20website.pdf>)
- Making progress in City Council – workshops in morning and take action in afternoon at City Council – getting to only monthly meetings.
- Pushing anything beach and tourism, HOT tax collections, and short term rentals, to the Parks Board. Purpose - fewer Boards means fewer meetings. Structure with ad hoc committees to help City Council; sun set them and move along.
- Need structural change – now we have three different entities – Parks Board, City, and Wharfs Board. 3 different programs for each. Consolidate plans that each entity has under one roof and you will save millions. Right now you have three risk managers and need only one – triplicate in everything.
- Three entities doing parking – Port of Galveston receives \$5.9 million on cruise ship parking. Need to build vertical parking lots and use current parking lots for other commercial venues. Would like to see no parking on south side along the Seawall and to build vertical garages for parking.
- Have esplanades along the Seawall – the middle lane, with palm tree planters, which would allow pedestrians crossing Seawall Blvd a safe area. Southside of Seawall emergency lane possibly some type of skateboard/jogging/bike trails.

- Trolleys are coming back – possibly 2017/2018 and will have trolleys with tires to take where the rail lines cannot go.
- Port of Galveston – economic impact on maritime business – need a strategic plan.
- Pelican Island – bridge will happen – need to use the 45 feet deep port areas available there.
- Navigation District – manages Pelican Island Bridge and to provide capital improvements for the Port of Galveston and need structural change.
- Question for management audit – should Wharf and Port be separate or part of District?
- North of Broadway and west of 25th – public housing not perfect but better than past. Scattered sites – 384 will not work because don't have space. North Broadway will change to mixed neighborhoods.
- Need fire station behind City Hall – one to be built and to look like Moody Mansion.
- Gateway Beautification – improved over a year and Texdot plans palm trees and oleanders along esplanades. Lots of green space coming.
- \$6 million grant for Seawall Blvd – transit stops with bus service and restrooms. Major improvements at key intersections and lighting south side of Seawall with LED lights.
- Washington Park – County Commissioner Joe Giusti got it moving. Boat ramps will be elevated – pedestrian bridge and landscaping. Finish early spring/summer.
- CDGB funds – all City non housing have been allocated.
- New firehouse at Pirates Beach.
- Old incinerator to come down.
- Re habilitating Falstaff Building – first phase is parking spaces, which will generate funds to replace windows and to paint facility. Eventually the owner will turn the facility into a boutique hotel.
- Ike Dike – cannot get funded through normal channels. Get it with another storm like New Orleans obtained after “Katrina” and the Northeast obtained after “Sandy”
- ERP (Erosion Response Plan) and Beach Access Plan – hires a consultant, John Lee, to work and make improvements in next two years.
- Stewart Road grading from 61st to 53rd street.
- Water rates – three components:
 1. GCWA increased rates 30%.
 2. Take or pay contract stopped and now must buy 21 mm water/day. Put any excess in storage tanks. Conservation with minimum usage on west end
 3. 3rd component – CIP (Comprehensive Improvement Program) – rates have built into it to pay bonds, 5 years in CIP. Projects on west end – use debt to put in sewers. Current water bills have debt service built into it.
- Be proud who we are and who we are not – making incremental progress. We are getting there.
- Visual pollution – get rid of signs
- Sunny Beach and 8 Mile Road - \$332,000 engineering contract for sewer installation

Other: Jerry Mohn discussed the West End Marsh Restoration underway with several bay side subdivisions who have entrance channels that need to be dredged. The beneficial use of dredged material (BUDM) would be used to build marsh restoration areas and terraces for

natural habitat. It's a 3 to 5 year program to obtain all the financing. We are working with Texas Parks & Wildlife.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.