

West Galveston Island POA

Members Meeting

The West Galveston Island POA (WGIPOA) Members meeting was held on February 20, 2016, at the Galveston Country Club. Jerry Mohn, President, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Proxy and members in attendance established a quorum. Directors present were Paul Voinis – Sportsman Road, Melanie Perry – Palm Beach, Craig Vance – Terramar, Boyd Carr – Isla Del Sol, Kim Foley – Pointe West, Charley Jones – Sea Isle, Carolyn Bilski – Spanish Grant Beach, John McCulley – Spanish Grant Bay, Greg Mack – Pointe San Luis, Steve Kendziera – Jamaica Beach, Tammy Kidd – Bermuda Beach, and Dick Kuriger – Pirates Beach.

The Board reviewed the minutes and the financials. Motion by Charley Jones and seconded by Dick Kuriger the Board by unanimous vote approved the financial report and minutes.

Jerry Mohn recognized corporate sponsors and campaign candidates. Jimmy Fullen – running for Constable Pct 2. Jerry recognized Brian Maxwell- City Manager, Dan Buckley – Assistant City Manager, and Judge Schweitzer.

Annual Meeting: Jerry stated the there are six members who are up for re-election for a three-year term. Motion by Carolyn Bilski and seconded by Dick Kuriger, the Members approved by unanimous vote the following member Directors to three year terms from 3/1/2016 to 2/28/2019: Jamaica Beach, Dunes of West Beach, Sportsman Road, Isla Del Sol, Laffites Cove, and Sea Isle.

The Board later via email approved of the following Officers for 3/1/2016-2/28/2017:

Jerry Mohn – President
Peggy Zahler – Vice President
Tammy Kidd - Treasurer
Carol Champagne - Secretary

Community Policing: Lt. Joshua Schirard gave a report on community policing. Do not leave items in your vehicle.

District 6 Happenings – City Council Member Carolyn Sunseri is running again for City Council. The City of Galveston is working on getting restore funding, working on getting septic tanks off the west end. For property on the beach – the City is looking to purchase this land and rebuild dunes with Restore Act money. The City is looking at having an impact fee for those who come to the island. Parts of Pirates Beach are not included in the maps at the time of annexation. She is working on getting those included so they can take part of the tax ratings. Also working on changing the council member terms from two (2) to three (3). This will be on the ballot. Working on giving the City Manager the ability to make purchases based on State law. Broadway is being landscaped with trees. Also working with the county to clean up their property. Search is on for a new Police Chief and City Attorney. It was recommended that a new boat ramp be opened up.

“Ike Dike” Jerry Mohn introduced Colonel Len Waterworth who made a presentation on the “Ike Dike”. Colonel Waterworth is retired as the Commander of the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Galveston District. Since retiring from the Corp, Colonel Waterworth became President of Dannenbaum Engineering in Houston and was the Executive Director for the Port of Houston Authority. Today, Colonel Waterworth is back on the island as the Executive Professor in the Department of Maritime Administrations as well as a senior research associate in the Center for Beaches and Shores at Texas A & M University at Galveston. He works with Bill Merrell, who developed the Ike Dike concept. Colonel Waterworth is looking at new approaches in storm protection along the costal spine of the Houston-Galveston region.

Surge Protection - advancing the Ike Dike concept, the next step... We know our investments, we know our value to the nation, and we know we are at risk. There are no easy answers.

People, Economy and Environment: our population is six (6) million and growing, we have the second largest petrochemical complex in the world, we are number one (1) in exporting, and the second largest eco-system.

Risks: Texas upper coast hurricane from 1851-2005 had twelve major hurricanes ranging from category 3 to category 5. Cost of Ike a category 2 storm: damages – it was the third costliest hurricane in the United States history behind hurricane Andrew and hurricane Katrina with estimate of \$30 million in damages. Thirty Texas Counties declared disaster.

National reactive policy: Corps of Engineers has never delivered a project of this size under their normal corps policy, the President’s budget has cut the Corps of Engineer budget 30%, the States have not normally been involved with federal projects. The more people the more business risk – evacuation, business disruption, increasing insurance.

Academic leadership and private funding has produced a proven concept THE COASTAL SPINE. The coastal spine is an area 60 – 70 Miles long and is covered with sand. Covered with sand dunes, the roads, and businesses. West end most homes are 15’ – 18 ft in height. The Ike Dike would be 17 ft ht.

Next step: Formation of the Center for Texas Beaches and Shores inside the Texas A & M University dedicated to preservation. It is a comprehensive approach to Texas Coastal preservation and protection of the Texas shoreline. Established by the Texas Legislation with no funding to address beach erosion and wetlands loss throughout the State of Texas. Nationally recognized – coast fold risk reduction program: integrated, multi-scale approaches for understanding how to reduce vulnerability to damaging events.

National Science Foundation Partnerships for International Research and Education (“PIRE”). Coastal floods are the most costly, disruptive, and life-threatening hazard worldwide. The negative impacts of these storm events are increasing in the United States (U.S.) and abroad. In response to this growing problem, this project will establish a research and education program on coastal Flood Risk Reduction between the U.S. and the Netherlands. This international collaboration will support excellence in research and learning across the engineering and management sciences, leading to new knowledge that will transform the way floods are dealt with in the U.S. and around the world. www.tamug.edu/ctbs

Coastal barrier protection, flood risk reduction programs, increasing insurance impacts, development of disaster resilient communities, the stress nexus of coastlines; population development, infrastructure security and morphological dynamics of Texas coast, debris management after severe hurricanes and storms. Doing proactive practical research not reactive. State funded research to protect our coast the cost is \$2million/year. How can you help! Talk to elected officials and ask when will we have a project in this region and remind them studies don't protect our community.

Attend upcoming events and let your voice to be heard. On April 11, there will be a joint Coastal Barrier hearing with Senator Taylor at the Texas A & M University campus. Ask for your donations.

The Board later via email approved in making a \$1000 contribution to the CTBS (Center for Texas Beaches & Shores).

Water Bills – Jerry Mohn expressed the large increase (over 100%) for sprinklers was not fair to the west end since not as many in the inner city.

Restore Act – the City of Galveston will meet on March 1st concerning the West End primarily to discuss walkovers and dune construction .

Restore Act: Ten (10) Property Owner Associations on the west end have committed to participate in this project.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M.

Recording Secretary: Susan Gonzales