

West Galveston Island POA

Board of Directors Meeting

The West Galveston Island POA (WGIPOA) Members meeting was held on May 21, 2016, at the Courtyard by Marriott, 9550 Seawall Blvd, Galveston, Texas. Jerry Mohn, President, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. A quorum was established by the attendance of Directors Paul Voinis – Sportsman Road, Melanie Perry – Palm Beach, Craig Vance – Terramar, Boyd Carr – Isla Del Sol, Charley Jones – Sea Isle, Peggy Zahler – Spanish Grant Beach, Dick Kuriger – Pirates Beach and Bet Jennings – Laffite’s Cove, Joan Newton – Bermuda Beach, and Jay Lendrum – Dunes of West Beach.

The Board reviewed the minutes and the financials. Motion by Peggy Zahler and seconded the Craig Vance, by unanimous vote approved the financial report and minutes of April 16, 2016 and May 13, 2016 as presented.

Jerry Mohn recognized corporate sponsors and campaign candidates. Jerry Mohn introduced – Officials, County Commissioner Joe Giusti, who advised the County will be spraying for mosquitos and to call him if you feel more spraying is needed at 409-771-3888. Bill Herr City of Galveston Code Enforcement was introduced as well as Parks Board Trustee, Clyde Steddum who also stated that a bench on the Sea Wall will be dedicated to Jerry Mohn

GARM: Joel Caldwell with GARM was out patrolling due to Prom Season. There will be at least four (4) Officers patrolling. He encourages members to report call and report suspicious large parties of kids. Call 409-682-3603. There are seven (7) rental companies who are members of GARM. The rules for the number of vehicles are the number of vehicles that can fit in the driveway.

Community Policing: Officer Jack Dougherty stated that they have increased the number of Officers on the west end. Officers do respond to vehicles and golf carts on the beach. Officers will also speak to the parent of the children who are driving golf carts. For Turtle sightings call 409-692-3979. Police dispatcher is 409-765-3702.

WestEnder Newsletter – Peggy Zahler stated nothing to report at this time.

District 6 Happenings – Council Person Carolyn Sunseri was not able to attend due to a family commitment in Lubbock. Jerry Mohn read information for the report that Carolyn prepared. “My apologies for not being here today. I am in Lubbock at my niece’s graduation from Texas Tech University. I was sworn in for a second term the other day, along with Mayor Jim Yarbrough and Council Members Craig Brown, Terrilyn Tarlton Shannon and Mike Doherty. The District 1 & 3 positions are in a runoff and that has been set for June 18th. If you have friends or family in either of these districts, please make sure that they get out to vote.

Since our last meeting, a new Police Chief has been hired, as well as a new City Attorney. Rick Boyle will be our new Chief of Police. He starts very soon. Don Glywasky was chosen as our new City Attorney. He has many years of experience through his affiliation with the County and he has already made a great hire with Sally Bakko as a new paralegal in his office. She is sending out notices to us daily about what is going on in the State and Federal legislature. She is really on top of things.

Sewers are my main focus at the moment. We went out to bid for the engineering work and it came in much higher than we anticipated. Staff is having it re-worked and I have a meeting scheduled with the City Manager, Deputy City Manager and Mayor on Tuesday morning to discuss it further. We continue to have drainage issues in Sea Isle and with the recent rain; it is becoming more of a problem. I am being told that this plan is almost completed their engineering. CenterPoint is changing out light throughout the city. You will notice the brighter LED lights in the major thoroughfares. They will make their way into the neighborhoods in the near future. Kawakawa Beach residents – I have asked for lighting in your area.

53rd street has been completed and work will begin on other streets in the city. The Seawall repaving is coming along very nicely and the 61st Washington Park area is really moving along. We hope to have it completed by the summer season. The City has hired a marketing firm to assist us in rebranding the City. I have met with the firm and given them my input, along with the Mayor and Dr. Brown. They are meeting with many different folks to get their input, as well. They should have a presentation to bring back to us this summer.”

The “ZIKA” Virus: Jerry Mohn introduced Dr. Scott Weaver, Director of the UTMB Institute for Human Infections and Immunity and the Scientific Director of the Galveston National laboratory. This presentation will be the “Zika Virus and the Risk to the Gulf Coast”. Dr. Weaver is one of the foremost medical experts on the Zika virus and has studied the beginning when it first surfaced. The Zika virus spread from Brazil to Central America, the Caribbean, and now the United States. The Zika virus could have an impact on the Olympics in Brazil later this year.

Zika virus is a mosquito-borne disease that is a member of the flavivirus group. This group includes several other viruses that cause serious, sometimes life-threatening diseases such as yellow fever, dengue fever, West Nile and Japanese encephalitis.

Zika virus has been known for decades to circulate in Africa and Asia and more recently in the Pacific Islands, but very few cases of human disease were documented before 2007. In May of 2015, the first infections were confirmed in Brazil. Since then, the Brazilian government estimates that more than 1.5 million people have been infected with Zika virus. Zika is now confirmed to be circulating in several countries and territories in the Americas including Mexico and is probably present in even more. The list of countries where Zika virus has been identified can change with new cases identified.

Cases have been reported in people who have recently traveled to an affected region. Given the widespread recent outbreaks and spring vacation travel season, more Americans will likely contract Zika virus disease in this way.

It is likely that cases of Zika virus disease will occur in regions of the US inhabited by the mosquito believed to be responsible for spreading the virus in most parts of Latin America and the Caribbean, *Aedes aegypti*. The southern US is infested with this mosquito and therefore is at risk for local transmission of Zika virus disease in a manner similar to dengue and chikungunya viruses. *Aedes albopictus* has also been implicated in Zika virus transmission in Africa and occurs further north in the eastern US.

In children and adults, Zika virus infection is generally mild - some develop flu-like symptoms, joint pain, eye inflammation and red rashes, while other people may not have any symptoms. In some cases, infection is associated with serious complications, including Guillain-Barre syndrome, a disorder where the immune system attacks the peripheral nerves and eventually causes paralysis. There is currently no vaccine to prevent Zika virus disease nor are there any treatments to resolve disease symptoms.

Concerning the possibility of the Zika virus being transmitted in semen, a few suspected cases have been identified but it remains unclear how often this occurs or how long the virus persists in infected men.

Microcephaly is a neurological condition where a baby is born with an abnormally small head because its brain did not develop correctly. These children almost always have lifelong mental retardation and many die young. There have been reports in Brazil of microcephaly in babies of mothers who had been exposed to the Zika virus, and Zika virus has been detected in the amniotic fluid and tissues of several fetuses. However, more research is needed to confirm the causal link. Nonetheless, the CDC suggests that pregnant women in any trimester should consider postponing travel to regions where the Zika virus is active.

Currently no vaccine exists to prevent Zika virus disease. The best prevention is avoiding mosquito bites. If you or someone you know plans on traveling to countries where Zika virus or other viruses spread by mosquitoes are found, take the following steps:

Use insect repellents - When used as directed, insect repellents are safe and effective for everyone, including pregnant and nursing women. Most insect repellents can be used on children in proper concentrations. Do not use products containing oil of lemon eucalyptus in children under the age of three years. Repellents containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, and some oil of lemon eucalyptus and para-menthane-diol products provide long lasting protection.

If you use both sunscreen and insect repellent, apply the sunscreen first and then the repellent. Do not spray insect repellent on the skin under your clothing, Treat clothing with permethrin or purchase permethrin-impregnated clothing.

When weather permits, wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants. Use air conditioning or window/door screens to keep mosquitoes out of your home, hotel room or place of work. Remember that the mosquitoes believed to transmit Zika virus bite during the daytime as well as early morning and evening.

Help reduce the number of mosquitoes inside and outside your home or hotel room by emptying standing water from containers such as flowerpots or buckets. If you live in areas inhabited by *A. aegypti* or *A. albopictus*, eliminate sources of standing water near your home to reduce populations of these mosquitoes and lower the risk of local Zika virus circulation if you or another traveler returns infected.

Next WGI meeting will be at the Hurricane Preparedness meeting held at the Jamaica Beach Fire Station on June 18.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M., Secretary Susan Gonzales