

WEST GALVESTON ISLAND POA (WGIPOA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The WGIPOA held a Board meeting on January 21, 2017 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, Jay Lendrum – Dunes of West Beach, Boyd Carr – Isla Del Sol, Cindy Angelo – Jamaica Beach, Melanie Perry – Palm Beach, Ron Pearrow – Pirates, Kim Foley – Pointe West, Charles Marcucci - Spanish Grant Bay, Peggy Zahler – Spanish Grant Beach, Paul Voinis – Sportsman Road, and Craig Vance – Terramar. Susan Gonzales, Recording Secretary was in attendance.

Peggy Zahler recognized officials: Mayor Jim Yarbrough, Carolyn Sunseri – City Council, Judge Jim Schweitzer, Joe Giusti – County Commissioner, Constable Jimmy Fuller, Director of Public Works – Kyle Hockersmith, and Tom Linton. Sponsors present were Peggy Zahler - Johnson Space Center and Susan Gonzales - CKM Property Management.

The Board approved the minutes of October 22, 2016 and December 17, 2016 and financial report as presented.

Community Policing – Sgt Joseph Milo is over the Property & Burglary Division of the Galveston Police Department. He has been investigating the rash of burglaries on the west end. Items such as kayaks, equipment, lawn furniture, ice chests, etc. have been stolen. In Pirates there are cameras at the entrances but not along the canals. It was recommended that owners put security cameras on their property in addition to storing items in a locked area. Be sure to record your boat/kayak serial numbers and give that information to the police when reporting a theft.

District 6 – Carolyn Sunseri. Carolyn Sunseri gave appreciation to Sgt Milo for his continued work on the burglaries. It was also noted that Captain Bryan Franklin was promoted to Assistant Police Chief. Key items reported from Carolyn:

- *Water bills to be addressed next month. A meeting was held a few months ago to address various issues and there is now a place on the website for property owners to voice issues directly to the water department.
- *Code enforcement – there was a press release that you can now track violations reported on-line, which is also on the COG website. www.galvestontx.gov.
- *Controlled burn – A controlled burn will be held by the Galveston Island State Park on Tuesday & Friday
- *Beach restoration – these projects will continue from the East end to 61st street.
- *TX DOT is working on plans for the FM3005 raising projected for 2019.
- *Sweetwater project – is on hold until they get the correct permits in place.
- *Ditch maintenance – completed work in Bay Harbor, Sea Isle and Pirates Beach.
- *Council meetings can be viewed live on the website.
- *The installation of sewer on the west end is being submitted to BP for funding based on the fact that it is a public safety issue.

State-of Galveston – Mayor Jim Yarbrough

Mayor Yarbrough stated that the City of Galveston has a plan for all the issues and expects progress in all areas. The economics of Galveston are divided into three (3) areas:

Tourism: Improvements have been made to the Park Board. 35% of the visitors spend the night and 70% don't and there are costs associated with monitoring those who are day-trippers. Goal is to increase those who spend the night. A trolley system is proposed for next year for use by tourists. We are committed to no parking on the sea wall – working on alternatives parking facilities. Plan to put in plumbed restrooms.

Maritime Business: Port of Galveston, goals of the port are divided between, container business, tourism – ships and cargo. The cruise ships bring in 60% of the business. Need to have a plan for the port and its director for the future. There are 27 different business lines that the port caters to (Industrial/Commercial, Refrigeration/Produce, and High-end Equipment) Plans are to develop the port for best use. We are looking for a Port Manager with diverse experience.

Higher Education: University Texas Medical Branch and Texas A & M University – both have growth plans and are building up and have growth in students and faculty.

Roadwork – planning – doing a core packet of what we want but separate out priority list of projects...CIP, there are 17-18 projects plus recovery from 61st to 31st. Capital improvement set up without debt and will go to 2018. \$ 62 million bond issue in May for road improvements to be completed over 4-5 year period.

Water/Sewer – bond rating went to “AA” with lower interest. North Broadway west of 25th – public housing is in & is very nice, will house city employees. Downtown we plan to renovate buildings, Townhomes, parking garages, restaurants and other amenities. Plan to change the complexion of downtown.

The goal is to change the structure in how we operate. Park Board, Wharves Board and City should all be the same, all have finance and IT departments and all have different software. All the administrations are different in each department. Combining or streamlining the insurance policies has saved \$100K saved in premiums. These structural changes are essential.

IKE Dike/Coastal Spine – Seed money was put up for a study being conducted by Dr. Bill Merrell. The State & GLO are leaning towards the coastal spine. Mayor Yarbrough doesn't believe we can get federal funding until another storm provides funding – so we need to be ready.

West end – a list of projects for the west end will be posted on the COG website. The County will also post their project list.

The Board adjourned at 11:00 AM. Susan Gonzales, recording Secretary