

West Galveston Island Property Owners Association

The WGIPOA held a Board of Directors Meeting on October 28, 2017 at the Galveston Country Club. Jerry Mohn called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. A quorum was established by the attendance of Boyd Carr – Isla Del Sol, AJ Widacki sitting in for Bet Jennings – Laffites Cove, Dick Kuriger – Pirates Beach/Cove, Charley Jones – Sea Isle, Bill Ferray – Bermuda Beach, Barbara Hankins – Sportsman Road, Jay Lendrum – Dunes of the West Beach, Jamaica Beach, Steve Kendziera and Craig Vance – Terramar.

Jerry Mohn introduced the public officials and candidates: City Council – Carolyn Sunseri. Candidates: Bill Sargent – Running for Congress, Johnny Smecca – District 6 School Board, Mays Middleton – District 23 House, Jack Roady – District Attorney, Wayne Faircloth – District 23 House, and Judge Jim Schweitzer.

Minutes & financial report: Motion by Charley Jones and seconded by Craig Vance the Board approved the September 16, 2017 minutes and financial reports of October 23, 2017, by unanimous vote.

Galveston Fire Department – Chief Mike Wisko: The Fire Department’s pension board is strong and has a defined benefit plan. Mike indicated 75% of the calls are medical. There are 4 ambulances and 6 fire stations for Galveston Island. The City has advanced life support capabilities. The west end fire station at Sea Isle has capabilities to get onto a beach and to handle San Luis Pass emergencies. There is a new \$542,000 pumper truck in Sea Isle. Mike advised there is a need for a ladder truck for the west end, which will cost \$1.3 million. Galveston now has an ISO 1 rating, which should save 3-4% on your insurance.

The Chief advised there is a month of hurricane season left and to make certain batteries are charged and smoke detectors are ready. Make certain your heaters are working and to clean the chimney because residue builds up from wood, which is flammable. The City is having a fire prevention day at station #5 on 11/9 from 6-8PM.

The fire station next to City Hall will be torn down and a new one built in 12 months at a cost of \$9.6 million.

District 6 Happenings – Carolyn Sunseri: Facebook for the City is now live and work shop meetings can be seen. The City is trying to buy the old Dairy Queen shop on Broadway between 25th and 26th streets. Street work is continuing now on the north side of Stewart Road from 61st Street to 53rd Street. Texdot plans to install palm trees down Seawall Blvd and at 61st Street by the end of the year.

Lone Star Motorcycle Rally was a big success. City Council approves hiring 10 additional police officers. They will be placed on a special detail along the Seawall and downtown and this should free up other officers to be available in other areas of town.

Hotels and amenities: More hotels are popping up west of 89th street that don’t have amenities like restaurants, which the City feels necessary and they are developing an ordinance for more restaurants.

No more U turns are allowed on the Seawall and blinking yellow lights will be installed at the new crosswalks in front of the San Luis and other areas. ok at the City Managers minutes

“My Galveston” Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce. Presented by members of the C-Crew - Lindsay Touchy of the Chamber and Erin Yarbrough of Galveston ISD Foundation. The C-Crew was formed to attract young professionals and now have 160 members. C-Crewe members share a love of Galveston and saw the need for a cohesive effort to promote the island as a great place to live. In early 2013, members of the Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce C-Crewe, a young professionals group began to have a conversation about their city. All had similar experiences of hearing things about Galveston that weren't necessarily true or simply wrong. Sometimes these thoughts came from those who commuted to the island to work, sometimes they came from local citizens.

That talk gave birth to the idea of the My Galveston campaign. Meeting after work and on weekends for the last two years in a volunteer capacity, C-Crewe members came together to create a public relations campaign and marketing strategy with the mission to promote the island as a great place to live, raise a family and work. Its vision: increase the number of families living on the island and promote positive perceptions about island living.

Some of the members come from generations of “born on the island” and some are “islander by choice.” Several are parents to small children who chose to build their families here; some are new homeowners, and some are renters. Despite all these different backgrounds, the one thing that unifies the committee is its love of Galveston and the fulfilling lifestyle it provides in a beautiful, unique, and historic coastal community.

Ultimately, the My Galveston campaign seeks to increase the number of people who call the island home by partnering with public and private businesses, civic organizations, foundations and educational institutions. It encourages all groups to promote Galveston Island by sharing the positive reality of island life and presenting facts, so people can make an informed decision when actively looking at Galveston as a place to live and work. The idea is to have everyone deliver the same clear message that will have a powerful impact on people considering Galveston as their home.

There are monthly luncheons, quarterly mixers, and annual events. Purpose is to promote Galveston as a great place to live. Encourage a positive perception related to island living. In addition, to increase the number of professionals living on the island. It took 2 to 3 years to develop the website www.MyGalveston.com.

The future of My Galveston is to partner with the City of Galveston to build a robust website presence featuring neighborhoods, healthcare facilities, education institutions, young and seasoned professionals, and promote the campaign locally and regionally.

“My Galveston” is:

- A great place to live
- Unique
- Fun, easy, and laid back
- An island with miles of sandy beaches

- Safe
- Culturally rich
- Smart

Other: Beach Maintenance: Jerry Mohn encouraged beach side subdivisions to take advantage of the moratorium the General Land Office imposed after Hurricane Harvey, which allows the repairs to damaged beach access areas and dunes without submitting to the City and GLO for a permit. Requirements will be a report before and after and pictures before and after. It's a great opportunity to do sand nourishment of beach access areas and dune reconstruction.

Next Meeting: No meetings for November and December and the next meeting will be on January 20, 2018.

Adjourned at 10:20 AM.

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