

## **West Galveston Island Property Owners Association (WGIPOA)**

The WGIPOA meeting was held on September 18, 2021, in person at the Galveston Country Club. The meeting was called to order by Jerry Mohn, President at 9:00 AM. A quorum was established by the attendance of Julie Greenwell- Sea Isle, Chris Lauer – Bermuda Beach, Peggy Zahler – Spanish Grant Beach, Kim Van Camp – Condominiums, Craig Vance – Terramar, Boyd Carr – Isla del Sol, Rosemarie Gonzalez – Acapulco Village, Dan Walsh – Spanish Grant Bay, Doug Little – Pirates POA, and Peter Moss – Sand Hill Shores.

Jerry Mohn introduced elected officials, State Senator Larry Taylor, State Representative Mayes Middleton, City Council Member Bill Quiroga, Galveston County Commissioner Joe Giusti, and Galveston County Constable Jimmy Fullen. Jerry Mohn also introduced Marty Fluke – Trustee with the Parks Board, Sally Bakko – Director of Policy and Government Relations for the City of Galveston, and Kimberly Danasi – Chief Operations Officer for the Parks Board of Trustees.

Jerry Mohn recognized corporate sponsor JSC Federal Credit Union.

Motion made by Peggy Zahler and seconded by Craig Vance, the August 21 minutes and the August 31, 2021, financials were approved.

### **District 6 Report: Peggy Zahler, on behalf of City Councilwoman Marie Robb**

The City of Galveston is working on the power outage at Indian Beach. Reminder to go to the City website in order to submit information regarding damage claims. Discussion for emergency orders for dune construction and nourishment projects. Attempt to lower tax rate has failed. While property appraisals are up, tax rates are going up as well. Call at 409-256-

**Sally Bakko, Board Member of the Gulf Coast Protection District.** The Chief of the Corps of Engineers has signed the most current version of the Corps of Engineers Coastal Barrier System (Ike Dike) moving the project forward to funding requests at the federal level. While implementation issues are still in consideration, Hurricane Nicholas may influence the expedition of this process.

**Kimberly Danasi, Chief Operations Officer of the Galveston Parks Board.** Separate from the City of Galveston, the Parks Board is made up of elected members to make decisions to improve Parks along the island. Parks Board manages custodial services along the shoreline (4,000 trash cans and 35 dedicated employees) as well as the five (5) parks along the beach. The Parks Board holds the federal permits to conduct the sand placement within “wet” areas of the beach.

Currently, the Babe’s Beach Nourishment “RESTORE” project is pumping sand onto the beach along the seawall and is funded by a federal grant. The sand is collected from ship channel dredging activities and any “beach quality” sand is put onto the beaches based on

**an engineering plan. There are additional projects placing sand from the end of the seawall to Dellanera RV Park and then an extension to 8 Mile Road and is expected to occur late this fall and extending through the winter.**

**The grant for the engineering of the dune nourishment from 8 Mile Road to 13 Mile Road is still in discussions. The funding (CEPRA Funding) is only for the engineering portion of this project and will involve lengthy discussions with the City.**

**Mobile amenities are being built to have concessions and bathrooms on a mobile platform. They are cheaper to construct and can be moved in time of storms.**

**Trash education initiatives along the beaches are being implemented. Toy boxes are planned to be placed on beaches to help get kids involved in putting used toys into the bins instead of littering along the beach.**

**Larry Taylor, State Senator. 87<sup>th</sup> legislative session, discussed the “Ike Dike”. They’d like to spend money on long term projects that will benefit the coastal communities for generations to come. In total, 65% of the benefits of the “Ike Dike” are the gates to the entrance of the Ship Channel and will be the first priority. Funding will be a split of 65% of federal funds, and 35% of the Coastal Protection District. We are hoping for a direct appropriation similar to the funding of the Louisiana levee reinforcement projects after Hurricane Katrina. This would protect many of the inland processing plants.**

**Texas Legislature online will show which bills are online and when they are scheduled to be discussed and voted on. You can find your issues, and receive tracking notices on scheduling of these bills.**

**Border issues are a federal issue and a state problem. Currently there are public safety issues in border counties. Residents coming home to people on their porches or potentially in their houses. This effects residents, border protection officers (including DPS), as well as the families of these officers. For our community, the deputies that usually patrol our neighborhoods are being deployed to these areas and thus cannot be utilized to patrol on our behalf.**

**Reliable energy transmission hardening is an issue. In hot temperatures and areas with potential flooding, transmission lines are above ground. These lines are prone to damage from wind related events especially with trees near the lines.**

**Mayes Middleton, State Representative.**

- New bills are being challenged during second special sessions. Election integrity bill suppressing illegal voting item.**
- Homestead exemptions changed to date of purchase instead of following January of the following year.**
- Social media censorship to respect all viewpoints equally.**
- No cash bail for violent felons.**
- \$90 million for foster families.**
- Border security money appropriated for personnel and fencing.**

- **Disaster reappraisal bill for impacted houses to only pay taxes for the current value of an impacted property, instead of a pre-disaster value.**
- **Texas Windstorm Insurance Association (TWIA) are not allowed to lobby and allow for a grace period between payments after disasters.**
- **Power grid reform bills to realign “essential circuits” where certain areas will not lose power during planned outages. Additionally investing in power input locations to increase reliability.**
- **COVID Liability Bill to protect small businesses.**
- **Telemedicine covered under MediCare and Medicaid. Farm Bureaus are allowed to sell insurance not under ObamaCare restrictions.**
- **Cities cannot defund police. A tax freeze and ability to de-annex if police funding is cut. This is mainly focused around Austin, TX.**
- **On Monday, the agenda is redistricting, the dog leash bill, churches can’t be closed by government order, school sports rules based on gender, and many more.**
- **Trying to get a loop built into the electrical grid to the west end of the island instead of the current “one-way street” of electricity that operates on the island. It’s like a line of old Christmas lights, when one fuse on the strand goes out, the remainder of the downstream strand goes out.**

**Meeting Adjourned 11:00 AM**