

West Galveston Island Property Owners Association (WGIPOA)

The WGIPOA meeting was held on October 23, 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 not established but we appreciate the attendance of John Lightfoot, Pointe San Luis, Craig Vance – Terramar, Boyd Carr – Isla del Sol, Rosemarie Gonzalez – Acapulco Village, and Barbara Hankins – Sportsman Road.

Jerry Mohn introduced elected officials, City Council Member Marie Robb, City Council Member Bill Quiroga, 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, also introduced were Police Officers Edward Coronado, Joel Caldwell, and Assistant Police Chief Doug Balli. Also introduced were Woody Green and Taz Jones both Jamaica Beach City Council Members.

Motion made by Boyd Carr and seconded by Rosemarie Gonzales, the September 18, 2021, minutes and the September 30, 2021, financials were approved.

General Manager Knute Lund: The WGIPOA gave a glass plaque to Knute in appreciation of his great service to the West Galveston Island Property Owners Association since our inception in 1999. Knute was supposed to retire 10/31/21 but he informed us the Club has yet to find a replacement and he will stay on until 12/31/21.

Public Announcement: Robb Bunge made a request to the group to support “The Walk to End Epilepsy” program will take place at Moody Gardens, November 13th.

District 6 Report: City Councilwoman Marie Robb

Marie has requested from West End property owner associations to identify potholes in their area so she can have the City to fix them. Reminder to go to the city website to submit information regarding damage claims. She is working extremely hard with the Parks Board to have a sand nourishment project from the end of the Seawall to 13-mile road. She mentioned City Council has fifty consent items on their agenda for the 10/28 meeting. Marie also stressed to vote here because your vote means more here than let us say up in Houston. At least register one spouse in Galveston. Call her cell at 409-256-4518 for any issues or concerns.

Sally Bakko, Board Member of the Gulf Coast Protection District. The district includes five counties and had their third meeting in Orange County and discussed the Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay project. \$300,000 of funds have been allocated to the 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.

Officer Edward Coronado gave a west end police report and indicated that the “National Night Out” was a real success. In addition, the Police Department is having a Holiday Food

Drive and requesting the public donate 10,500 canned goods. Board Member Craig Vance indicated that the WGIPOA will start collecting canned goods next year for the Galveston County Food Bank.

Galveston County Constable Jimmy Fullen gave a PowerPoint presentation of the issues at the border with migrants and his involvement. There have been 1.7 million apprehensions since the first of the year. 7 out of 10 females are victims of sexual assault. “Coyote” runners are paid \$5000 to get people across the border. “Runners” are given coordinates where to pick up migrants at \$1000 per passenger and can make \$30-40,000 per month. The migrants all have I-phones 10 or better. Jimmy indicated this is an extremely dangerous situation at the border.

Lt. Joel Caldwell gave an update on “GARM” (Galveston Association of Rental Managers). There is concern the upcoming Lone Star Rally will disrupt neighborhoods, but Joel indicated there will be extra officers for the Rally for the west end.

Asst. Police Chief Doug Balli: Since the current Police Chief, Vernon Hale, is resigning as of 10/31, Doug is the interim Police Chief, and he has applied for the job. He has been a police officer since 1994. His intent is not to lose an officer on his watch. He wants to move forward and cannot sit tight. Officer safety is prime concern and wants to improve customer service. Patrols are based on statistics and emphasized to report them. It was mentioned the west end has many weekenders and may discover an issue when they get down to their home but do not report it. Again, report any incident. There are four officers most of the time 24/7 from 61st Street to San Luis Pass. In addition, Asst. Chief Balli stressed the importance of a “Power of Attorney” sign at a resident. If an officer sees a suspicious person at a house with a power of attorney sign, they can apprehend the individual. Otherwise without the sign the officer will have to contact the owner and by the time this happens the suspicious person will be long gone.

Meeting Adjourned 10:30 AM