

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

**April 23, 2020**

- 1. THE WGIPOA meeting was held on April 23, 2022, 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 with the attendance of Rosemarie Gonzalez – Acapulco Village; Kim Van Camp – Condos; Craig Vance – Terramar; Barbara Hankins – Sportsman Road; Boyd Carr – Isla del Sol; Dan Walsh – Spanish Grant Bay; Julie Greenwell – Sea Isle; Tony Nims – Dunes of West Beach; John Lightfoot – Pointe San Luis; and Chris Lauer – Bermuda Beach**
  
- 2. Jerry Mohn introduced elected officials, Galveston County Tax Collector/Assessor and guest speaker Cheryl Johnson; District 6 City Council Member Marie Robb; Marty Fluke – Trustee with the Parks Board; Tim Tietjens – Galveston Planning Director and guest speaker; Brandon Hill – Galveston Coastal Planning Director and guest speaker; Sally Bakko – Galveston Director of Policy and Public Relations; Lt. Tim Buck – Galveston Police Dept and guest speaker; Chief of Police Doug Balli; and, former City Council Member Johnny Smecca.**
  
- 3. Introduce candidates for office**
  - Marie Robb (District 6)**
  - Marty Fluke (District 6)**
  - Terri Leo Wilson – State Representative**
  
- 4. Approve March 19 Minutes and March 31 Financials. Approved by Chris Bauer and seconded by Kim Van Camp**
  
- 5. District 6 Happenings (City Council Member Marie Robb)**
  - Capital improvements of the electricity on the island is ongoing.**
  - Texas Gas is bringing natural gas lines to the West End without costs passed on to the residents.**
  - Working to get sand from the beneficial dredge projects reallocated from placement on Babe’s Beach to the West End beaches. With opposition from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Marie and the City have asked for letters of non-objection from the local port and industry partners to allow this sand placement. These letters were received and there is now potential to resurrect the plan to place beach quality sand on the beaches in 2023 or 2025.**
  - New 5G towers to be installed in the bay.**
  - Pirate’s Beach Wastewater Treatment plant is being upgraded.**
  - Pot hole brigade is still repairing holes and cracks in the roads from 69<sup>th</sup> Street to San Luis Pass.**

**6. West End Police Report (Galveston Police Department Lt. Tim Bock and Chief Doug Balli)**

- 1,100 calls from 61<sup>st</sup> Street to San Luis Pass.
- Engrave your catalytic converters with your license plate number.
- If you see something, say something.
- 12 additional police officers hired yesterday.
- GPD is still actively recruiting.

**7. Galveston Island Independent School District 2022 Bond Issue Committee (Chairperson Matthew Hay)**

- Multi-part bond for the Galveston Independent School District to:
  - (a) replace Ball High School (1950) and aging transportation (if passed, completed 2025-2026);
  - (b) build a new aquatic center (pool);
  - (c) upgrade Central (1950), Weis (1938), and Austin Middle Schools;
  - (d) district wide technology upgrades; and
  - (e) replace Courville Stadium (1938).

**8. Gulf Coast Protection District (Sally Bakko)**

The Gulf Coast Protection District is a non-governmental group that sponsors and gathers information for the Coastal Texas Study Project, aka Coastal Spine or Ike Dike. There are three parts to the study that affect Galveston.

- (1) Installing a ring barrier (levee and pumps) around downtown Galveston.
- (2) Constructing a dual dune system along the beaches.
- (3) Constructing gates to protect the ship channel.

This project needs to benefit the national interest and have a healthy cost benefit ratio. The current discussions are in the authorization process. May 18<sup>th</sup> will be the first opportunity to determine if any parts of the Coastal Texas Study Project will be authorized. Next meeting is May 11<sup>th</sup> in Harris County at the Bay Area Community Center.

**9. Galveston City Planning Updates (Tim Tietjens – City Planning Director & Brandon Hill – Coastal Planning Director)**

Golf cart (maximum speed of 20 mph) and neighborhood electric vehicle (max speed of 35 mph) regulations have changed over the last year. Neither are allowed on any streets where the speed limit exceeds 45 mph. These vehicles are required to have license plates, inspections, and registrations in order to drive on public roads. If driven solely in a master planned community, please contact the Marshall's Office to get certain exemptions that may apply to you. Operators must have a valid driver's license.

The Open Beaches Act allows for all of the beaches in Texas to be accessed by the public. The current city plan for closing the beaches to vehicular traffic was implemented prior to Hurricane Ike. All current issues will be reconciled by September. In order to amend the existing plan, the current plan has to come into compliance. Once in full compliance of the old plan, the City can work with the neighborhoods in order to complete a new plan in line the vision for the island.

A wave bumper system idea has been brought up for implementation by the city. The intent is for fiberglass blades to be placed atop of anti-scour mats along the beach. There are three, 1-cubic yard bags of sand applied behind the blades for support. This system is temporary and can be moved once no longer needed. The initial plan is to install this wave bumper system along Spanish Grant Beach and Bermuda Beach. The proposed “Cadillac” option of this plan would cost \$6.5 million. The costs are to be offset by FEMA, GO-MESA, and other governmental funds which only require a 10% match by the city.

**10. Galveston County Taxes (Cheryl Johnson – Galveston County Tax Assessor/Collector)**

Cheryl provided many short term solutions for property tax reform to save on property taxes and reduce appraisal creep. An appraisal cap would allow for long term property tax savings to homeowners. She also proposed pushing some tax assessment of commercial properties at the state level instead of at a county level.

Cheryl is teaching a class for “Effectively Protesting Property Values”. The class is provided online at the Galveston CAD website. Ask for all of the sales utilized to access your property value. This information is supposed to be provided to you for free. Then you compare those houses to yours. You can utilize the photos posted on HAR for comparisons to your home. Look at updated features in the comparison houses, and research the costs to upgrade your home to include those features. Feel free to reschedule the initial informal meeting in order to get a little more time to prepare your materials. If needed, you can pay to go to an arbitration (ARB) hearing or take your case to the Galveston County Courthouse.

Formal protest must be submitted by May 16<sup>th</sup>, but wait to go dispute your assessment until July 23<sup>rd</sup> when the tax rolls are finalized.

Next meeting is May 21, 2022 with guest speakers Galveston County Judge Mark Henry and County Commissioner Joe Giusti.

Adjourned at 11:25.