

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

**July 16, 2022**

- 1. The WGIPOA meeting was held on July 16, 2022, 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 John Lightfoot – Pointe San Luis; Craig Vance – Terramar; Tracey Lovoi – Sportsman Road; Peggy Zahler – Spanish Grant Beach; Dan Walsh – Spanish Grant Bay; Chris Bauer – Bermuda Beach; Julie Greenwell – Sea Isle; Pam Humphries – Pointe West POA; and Jerry Mohn.**
- 2. Jerry Mohn introduced elected officials and City/County Administrators: City Council District 6 member Marie Robb; Sally Bakko – City of Galveston Director of Policy and Public Relations and Gulf Coast Protection District Director;**
- 3. Introduce candidates for office which was Terri Leo Wilson for State Representative**
- 4. The minutes of the May 21, 2022, meeting and June 30, 2022, financial report, were approve by Peggy Zahler and seconded by Craig Vance.**
- 5. District 6 Happenings - City Council Member Marie Robb**
  - Pot holes continuing to be filled.**
  - Continued discussions of beach nourishment projects to move 2025 dredge material to the West End. Brandon Hill looking into additional projects for beneficial nourishment. Different discussions between private/public cost sharing to get additional resources put toward neighborhood beaches. Beaches serve as the first line of defense during storms, prior to sand dunes. Additionally, design and engineering projects to start prior within the next 60-90 days (there was no discussion of where these items were taking place).**
  - Current construction of 4 cell towers on the West End.**
  - CenterPoint continuing to strengthen electrical structure/grid on West End.**
  - July 4<sup>th</sup> drone show put on by the Park Board. Fireworks will continue on Pirate’s Beach and funded via donations.**
  - Safety protocols are being reviewed for future large events, especially crowd control and on road vehicle management near the event.**
  - If you have any questions for Marie Robb, her cell phone number is (409) 256-4518.**
- 6. 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.**

- **This multi-county group is responsible for looking into protecting counties along the Gulf of Mexico. This includes the proposed “Ike Dike” projects. The review of the proposed (1) dual dune and beach nourishment project and the (2) fortified dune project. The current lead idea is to utilize alternative materials such as T-walls, 17’ sand dunes, flexible fiberglass barriers, etc. The authorization to move forward with the Coastal Texas Study project to continue with additional design and neighborhood involvement is expected within the next couple of months. The proposed plans protect local infrastructure; and national trade routes and necessary economic items (semi-conductors, grains, etc).**
- **If you have any questions for Sally, please feel free to contact her [sbalko@galvestontx.gov](mailto:sbalko@galvestontx.gov).**

**7. Peter Davis – Chief of Lifeguards on the Galveston Parks Board**

- **Peter has spent almost 40 years working with the Galveston Lifeguard Service and is the President of the United States Lifesaving Association. With increased tourism on the island, the Park Board was created to funnel money brought in by tourism to help protect the beaches and the people that enjoy them.**
- **There is a close tie between the lifeguards and the Sheriff’s Office. There is a small police force within his group (4 total and 2 on rotation) who are lifeguards first. The lifeguards cover 70 miles of water line that includes the bay. They deal with call numbers that are similar to the beaches in San Diego, CA. They filter calls that would usually be sent to the local EMS or Police teams.**
- **They provide some enforcement actions on the beach and maintain thousand of signs on the beach.**
- **In addition, the Lifeguards provide educational outreaches to tourists and schools.**
- **They also provide funding and personnel to non-profit groups such as Jessie Tree, Beach Watchers, UTMB Environmental Alert System, beach disabled work program, lifeguarding camp, Galveston Marine Response, and many others.**

**8. Jim Stevenson – Birds of Galveston Island**

- **There are many migratory birds that breed in Texas. Laughing gulls circle around the Gulf of Mexico as they migrate. Great tailed grackles help to remove trash from the neighborhoods and nest in small colonies. Cardinals are actually non-migratory, so if you see one, they live nearby year round. Starlings migrated to the US from Africa. Sanderlings eat insect such as**

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aphids on the beach. Willets nest in the salt marshes. House sparrows are found in beaches and residential areas that migrated from Europe. Mockingbirds are the state bird and can sometimes mock up to 10 different bird calls. Magnificent frigate birds are sea birds that carnivorous and are nicknamed Man O' Wars. Cormorants are diving birds and fun to watch as they swim.

- **Multiple herons nest across the island. Night herons can nest in trees and are seen in the evenings. Forested terns are skilled fliers that catch live fish. There are 8 species of terns on the island. Royal terns are larger and have a yellow bill. They nest in the bay and feed in the gulf. Pie billed grieves are nesting on the island and Galveston is the only island in the gulf to support a breeding population. Black bellied whistling ducks migrated up from Mexico and will live in neighborhood lakes. Mottled ducks have large broods and are also very tame. Killdeer nest in areas with lots of grass such as yards and the adult will flop around looking wounded (feigning) to draw predators away from their young. Bitterns can hide by sticking their bills straight up in the air and freezing to imitate the surrounding cattails and other vegetation.**
- **Roseate spoonbills nest in the bay, but many nest in a rookery on High Island (go by in the afternoons for the nest pictures). Ospreys dive out of the air to catch fish in the water with their talons. Red-winged blackbirds are just now starting to nest on the island (the most abundant bird in the United States). Scissor-tailed flycatchers live near the island and this is the southern portion of their migratory range. Barn swallows are blue with red bellies and doing well on the island, especially under overpasses. Brown headed cowbirds mate in the morning, feed in the afternoon, and lay eggs in the nest of other songbirds. Mourning doves nest all over the island. Lager head strike have a black mas across their eyes and are predators of small animals and birds. Great horned owls can be heard late at night or early in the morning and feed on skunks and other animals. Crested cara-caras or Mexican eagles are large birds that feed on rodents on the island, but are very secretive nesters. Northern harriers are raptors that nest on the island. Purple martins migrate up from the Amazon to nest in the early spring and then head back South.**
- **Next meeting is August 20 at the Galveston Country Club and we will host a District 23 forum.**

**Meeting Adjourned 11:03 AM**