

WEST GALVESTON ISLAND PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

WGIPOA Board of Directors Meeting 01/21/22 Galveston Country Club

0900 Call to Order

0901 Introduction of Board Members

Jerry Mohn, Boyd Carr (Isla del Sol), Julie Greenwell (Sea Isle) – (Jerry Mohn made mention that Julie is the new President of the Galveston Association of Realtors), John Lightfoot (Pointe San Luis), Chris Lauer (Bermuda Beach), Peter Moss (Sand Hill Shores), Craig Vance (Terramar), Don Towner (Jamaica Beach), Dan Walsh (Spanish Grant Bayside), Peggy Zahler (Spanish Grant Beach), Tony Nims (Dunes of West Beach), Tracy Lovoi – (Sportsman Road), Doug Little – Pirates POA.

0902 Introduction of Corporate Sponsors / Introduction of Elected Officials. County Commissioner Joe Giusti; County Constable Jimmy Fullen; Parks Board Chair Marty Fluke; Jamaica Beach City Council Member Taz Jones; Police Chief Doug Balli; Fire Chief Charles Olson; Galveston City Council Member Marie Robb, and Mayor Craig Brown and City Manager Brian Maxwell.

New Corporate sponsor - House Doctors with Luke Mazur

Newly elected State Representative Terri Leo Wilson.

Texas Parks & Wildlife at Galveston Island State Park, Hans Hagland and Kyle O'Haver introduced new Park Manager, Steve Kimberly

0907 Approval of December financials and Meeting Minutes from October 15, 2022

Moved by Peggy Zahler and seconded by Chris Lauer.

0908 District 6 Happenings – Marie Robb (409) 256-4518

Jerry Mohn made mention that Marie Robb was being honored at the Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce 178th Anniversary Meeting for the Business Impact Award. Electrical issues occurring prior to Christmas have been taken care of, but Marie plans to conduct drive throughs of the neighborhoods with CenterPoint to upgrade older infrastructure.

She is still working to get gas utilities brought to the West End.

Road repairs are delayed during this time of year due to colder temperatures that don't allow asphalt to set properly. While less workers are being seen on FM 3005, they are still working. The City is having a traffic study being conducted to find an appropriate speed for the road once the construction is complete.

Drainage discussions for the West End are ongoing with a meeting (open to the public) planned for February, soon and will be voted on in November. Currently the ditches on FM 3005 are supposed to drain to the Bay, but some are not currently connected to the Bay.

The City has hired a Coastal Engineer to look at sand nourishment projects across the island.

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Golf cart thefts are on the rise in various neighborhoods. Some have been found and returned. Marie put an emphasis on having cameras on the front of your houses in order to help with crime not just at your house, but throughout the neighborhood.

0922 **Galveston West End Police Report – Chief Doug Balli**

The Police Department (PD) has reduced the number of vacancies from 32 to 7 (however, still some time before new recruits are fully trained and on patrol). PD is reviewing the golf cart thefts in conjunction with the County. Our crime rate is listed on the websites as required by the FBI. These numbers do not account for the 7 million visitors that the island each year. PD and Fire Department are still receiving 2-3 Fentanyl overdose calls each week. Most of the overdoses are residents.

0930 **Butch Stroud – City Marshall**

Former Code Enforcement Officer (Bill Herr) has retired and been replaced by Nick Geeley. To reach the City Marshall's Office, please call (409) 797-3647 or file report's online.

0933 **Gulf Coast Protection District – Sally Bakko**

The "Ike Dike" was authorized in late 2022 and is awaiting funding. Both the House and Senate of Texas have allocated \$500 million dollars in their budgets toward the funding of the "Ike Dike" Project and is a large sign to federal regulators that the State of Texas is ready to fund this project. \$600 million is needed for pre-construction projects. The 65% federal to 35% non-federal funding will not just be for the one time construction and beach nourishment efforts, it will include renourishment of the entire beach system on a 6 year basis.

The City is working on moving the beach and dune system projects up on the schedule of "Ike Dike" efforts to start earlier (2025) than originally scheduled (2030). Beach nourishment will occur first, and that will be followed by dune construction. New leadership at the GLO may expedite future beach nourishment projects.

0953 **Beach Management Advisory Committee (BMAC) Report – Craig Vance**

The January meeting included recognition of volunteers within the communities in Isla del Sol (Friends of the Community). The meeting also included the annual beach survey of sand on the beach and within the water to utilize as a baseline for storm modeling and potential post-storm necessities like FEMA funds.

World Ocean's Day – June 10th, Artist Boat is sponsoring again this year. They have multiple tents for games, resource sharing, and learning activities.

Storm study updates don't indicate an elevated storm season this year.

Washed Ashore Art Exhibits (20 across Galveston) are still up for viewing. This traveling exhibit is up through March 3.

February's agenda includes the seaweed relocation program. The environmental coordinator will review the projects for the next year.

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0957 State of the City - Mayor Craig Brown

Individuals in our community want to improve it on a daily basis and give energy and pleasure to the elected officials that represent them.

The City runs like a business. The City is successful and the City and its' programs are well funded. The Industrial Development Committee (IDC) utilizes a half cent per dollar raised to bring in growth in the City in long term views. These alternative revenue streams are coming from sources generated by tourists. There is a tariff on all Royal Caribbean passengers to benefit our residents. This will be extended to Carnival and Disney cruise lines as well. Also, there is an increased \$1/day for parking fee for cruise lines that will go towards the City's budget. A mental health program is being included in the 911 emergency response team.

The Port of Galveston is being developed drastically to expand cruise terminals. The current Del Monte terminal will be converted to a cruise terminal, potentially Norwegian. There are also cargo companies that want to move into the Port and would diversify our use of our port.

Pelican Island is currently underdeveloped. The Port of Houston plans to put together a stakeholder group to work with the City and the County to sell the 1,100 acres of property to Galveston. The City of Galveston has also worked to become the prime stakeholder of the bridge from Galveston to Pelican Island.

New projects at Stewart Beach Park and Sea Wolf Park are upcoming in order bolster tourism.

The USS Texas is working to dock on City of Galveston property permanently.

Short term rentals are being registered with the Parks Board (currently 4,500 on the island). This \$1 million funding will go to software and response programs to respond to any issues called in to the City Marshall regarding these properties.

Houston Galveston Area Council (HGAC) funnels state and federal funds to cities within the group for projects. The City is trying to bolster its representation on this council in order receive funds for our many projects.

1026 Comments from the City Manager – Brian Maxwell

Our City is made up of 50,000 people. Other small cities like this do not have full scale trash services, fire departments, airports, etc. Public safety for the City use 100% of our public taxes and still utilizes additional funding. Costs increase 10% each year and property tax caps only allow 3% increases. The City runs at a 3-4% overhead rate which is less than the 10% that other cities run under. The City continues to grow and is converting from desperation long-term growth mode, to maintenance growth that doesn't rely on just the residents. This potentially includes improvements to Harborside Drive from the Causeway to the Bolivar ferries.

Street improvements are ongoing and being made differently than the past. The city is now repaving its' own streets. We hire an engineering company to survey the streets throughout the city and based on vehicle mounted cameras. It takes the politics out of which roads are repaired.

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first. Half of the road maintenance costs are on the West End which is 1/6 of the City's population, but 1/2 of the geography.

New water meters are being put in throughout the city. These meters sense water pressure in houses to find leaks ahead of time. Our water comes from the Brazos River which is lower than normal. We may have some issues with water volume in the upcoming future if we don't get more rain. The Gulf Coast Regional Water Authority is looking into cross connections to get more water to Galveston. There are discussions of desalination plants, but it is not feasible to put them in Galveston. The city gets our water treated from the district.

The mental health team associated with our emergency responders should free up police and fire resources that could be utilized elsewhere.

The City is looking into short term rentals being categorized as businesses instead of residences. The houses could then be taxed as businesses.

TXDOT flyover project for 61st Street to Broadway Exiting North on I-45), is planned and designed this year and be constructed over the following 3-4 years.

1057 Next meeting February 18th and will include the city planning department.

Adjourn meeting 11:00 AM.

Taz Jones, Jamaica Beach made a UTube recording of the meeting as follows:

Part 1 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2DAglEYEJ2s>

Part 2 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rrs9sDjeJM>