

West Galveston Island Property Owners Association

February 18, 2023

0900 Call to Order

0900 Introduction of Board Members

The WGIPOA meeting was held on February 18, 2023 at the Galveston Country Club. The meeting was called to order by Jerry Mohn, President. A quorum was established with the attendance of Kim Van Camp – Condos; Boyd Carr – Isla del Sol; Julie Greenwell – Sea Isle; Craig Vance – Terramar; Peggy Zahler – Spanish Grant Beach; Chris Lauer – Bermuda Beach; and John Lightfoot – Point St. Luis.

0907 Introduction of Terri Leo Wilson, Texas State Representative

Recognition of Marie Robb as xxx.

Open Beaches Act proof of land ownership is no longer on the private property owner and is put back on the state. If the storm has taken your property, the burden of proof is now on the state instead of on the private property owners.

Terri is sitting on the pension investment committee.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to her Chief of Staff, Sal Mandos, at (512) 463-0502.

0921 Introduction of Marie Robb, Galveston Council Member - District 6

Meeting with Gas One to get gas lines run to the West End.

Beach Access article in the paper this week was a little off. The paper did not reach out to our new Coastal Resources Director, Kyle. The City is still in favor of getting cars off of the beach while staying in compliance with state regulations. The goal is to get all cars off the beach and provide alternative parking.

The construction along FM 3005 is still ongoing. You may have noticed the speed limit signs have changed with increased speeds. In relation to ponding of water along the streets, if you there are issues with drainage after storms, please text Marie Robb at (409) 256-4518, and she will forward the issues to the appropriate agencies.

The City and County are upgrading the lights along Seawall Boulevard to smart lights to help ease traffic.

0939 Introduction of Taz Jones with Jamaica Beach

0940 Introduction of Welby Financial, WGIPOA Corporate Sponsor, Peggy Zahler

0942 Approval of January 31, 2023 financials – Moved by Peggy Zahler and approved by Craig Vance.

0943 Gulf Coast Protection District (GCPD), Sally Balko

GCPD is pushing to move the funding of the Texas Coastal Spine Project (Ike Dike). The economic engine for the Coastal Spines Project is the gates into the Houston Ship Channel. The way to do this was breaking out parts of the project like the beach nourishment and dune system construction projects. The US Army Corps of Engineers is trying to allocate the \$20 million dollars for Bolivar and Galveston for the first year of the project as soon as possible.

Gulf Coast Protection Trust Fund is being created to allow the GCPD to funnel allocated funds to the Coastal Spine Project. This will utilize funds for the construction projects and then the ongoing maintenance associated with these projects in the future.

1000 Beach Maintenance Advisory Committee (BMAC), Craig Vance

Dr. Chris Marshall, has been conducting the study of turtle nesting sites across Galveston Island indicates that the conditions on the island are not optimal for turtle hatching. This is why the nests are gathered and currently transported to Padre Island. There is currently a fundraising effort to build a similar facility on Pelican Island.

Additional discussions to issue bags similar to grapefruit sacks to people on the beach. The hope is to find a better way for people to gather their trash on the beach. Similarly, there will be beach boxes put out across Galveston in a couple of places (Pocket Park #2) for people to be able to place the beach toys in after use instead of throwing them away.

The Dellanera Beach restoration project covers a 2,100 linear feet of beach (~118,000 cubic yards of sand) and will raise the beach 5-feet across this project area. There is currently an engineering design to continue this beach nourishment down to the State Park with an initial plan for this to start in 2024.

1015 City of Galveston Planning Department, Tim Tietjens

Acknowledgment of the Coastal Spine Project benefits to protect our region which provides 40% of the petro-chemical refining and 70% of the aviation fuel in the United States.

The Beach Access Plan (BAP) amendment process is ongoing. The original plan was compiled in 2004. It was amended in 2019 to include a beach user fee. At that point the GLO required the City to come into compliance with not just the 2019 amendments, but the 2004 BAP. The issue is that the 2004 BAP was made off assumptions and geographical information that was not physically verified. Thus, the City of Galveston is required to come into compliance with the 2004 BAP first,

then they can apply for an amendment to make realistic changes to the BAP. As of February 2, 2023, the GLO has indicated that the City of Galveston is now in compliance with the 2004 BAP. This approval included a maintenance policy, mainly for signage, that the City was required to put together.

The future amendments include a focus on creating a task force between the Planning Department and Coastal Resources group. This group will be working with the City Council to make changes to the BAP in accordance with the “intent” of the Open Beaches Act legislation. One of these legislative intents is the amount of required parking based on the linear footage of beach closed to vehicular traffic (one parking spot must be provided for every 15’ of beach closed). This statute was never updated based on the increased size of vehicles, but the provided parking is now required to follow today’s parking standards (>15’ parking spaces).

Introduction of Kyle Clark, the new Coastal Resources Manager. He has been working in Galveston for the last 10 years as a coastal resource’s consultant for T Baker Smith. He previously worked with the US Army Corps of Engineers permitting group and is on the Galveston Beach Maintenance Advisory Committee.

1055 Adjournment of the meeting. The next meeting is March 18, 2023 with the guest speakers being from the City of Galveston Parks Board.

You Tube video provided by Taz Jones of Jamaica Beach

<https://youtu.be/5nqJooVYGK8>