

West Galveston Island Property Owners Association

April 15, 2023

0900 Call to Order

0902 Introduction of Board Members

The WGIPOA meeting was held on April 15, 2023 at the Galveston Country Club. The meeting was called to order by Jerry Mohn, President. A quorum was established with the attendance of Jerry Mohn – President; Chris Lauer – Bermuda Beach; Julie Greenwell – Sea Isle; Craig Vance – Terramar; Peggy Zahler – Spanish Grant Beach; Mark Feldman - Condos; Dan Walsh - Spanish Grant Bay; Tracey Lavoie – Sportsman Road; Joe Trum – Dunes of West Beach.

0904 Introduction of elected officials – Marie Robb – District 6 City Council Member; Taz Jones – Alderwoman City of Jamaica Beach; Jimmy Fullen – County Constable. Beverly Ferguson – Legislative Aide for State Senator Mayes Middleton. Introduced corporate sponsors Welby Financial and House Doctors.

0906 Approval of March 31, 2023 financials – Moved by Peggy Zahler and approved by Craig Vance.

0907 Election of Board Members - Moved by Dan Walsh and seconded by Chris Lauer. The following Homowner Associations were elected as Board Members for a 3 year term to end 2/28/26: Beachside Village, Pirates Property Owners Asso, Acapulco Village, Pointe San Luis, Pointe West, Spanish Grant Beach, and Jerry Mohn.

0909 District 6 Happenings by Marie Robb, Galveston Council Member - District 6 Upcoming election on May 6 with early voting on April 24th. On the ballot will be the 4B sales tax. It will continue the already existing sales tax allocation of the \$7.9 million (mostly paid by tourism) which sends money to City of Galveston beaches, parks, infrastructure (street improvements), and economic development. This proposed change would end the “sunsetting” clause which finalizes the spend of these taxes through 2029 and allow for longer term projects and bonds.

The City’s Beach Access Plan is still on schedule to be in compliance with the GLO’s 2023 goal. The City is still in favor of getting all 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.

Marie is meeting with CenterPoint Energy this week to drive around and discuss power surges. Owners can file claims for losses caused by these surges. Contact Marie for these contacts.

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Marie is still moving forward with getting natural gas lines run to all of the neighborhoods in the West End. New developments on the West End will be helping to expedite this process.

If you have any questions or concerns, please text Marie Robb at (409) 256-4518 or email at Marie@MarieRobb.com, and she will answer and/or forward the issues to the appropriate agencies.

0927 West End Police Report from Lt. Sean Migues.

It is prom season, so many young folks are down on the beach. Please call about underage drinking early in the day to slow the issues that will occur later in the night.

Burglaries are increasing with the increase in tourism. Please make sure to lock up your items around your homes (kayaks, coolers, jet skis, unlocked trailers, golf carts, etc).

The staffing of the GPD is increasing with new recruits and the call back of former officers. Over the next 18 months, the staffing issues should be straightened out.

If you have a golf cart, please make sure to have it registered and inspected. If you don't have seat belts on your cart, it is highly encouraged that you have them.

If you see something, say something. For all non-emergency issues, please call the non-emergency phone line right away at 409-765-3702. Getting the right information to the right people quickly is the best way to address your issues.

0953 Gulf Coast Protection District (GCPD), Sally Balko

The Texas General Land Office (GLO) and GCPD are the non-federal sponsor for the Coastal Texas Storm Surge Project (Ike Dike) for ecological and funding/planning portions of this project, respectively.

State representative Dennis Paul has written HB 2416 to set up a Gulf Coast Protection Trust Fund. This will allow the GCPD to funnel allocated non-federal funds to the Coastal Spine Project. These funds are required to match half of the federal funds for the current and future projects. This will utilize funds for the construction projects and then the ongoing maintenance associated with these projects in the future.

HB2665 has been proposed and will reduce short term rental registration fees and removal of R0 zoning for neighborhoods. This would pull the power of governance from the City and push it to the state. More information to come in the future.

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1006 Beach Maintenance Advisory Committee (BMAC), Craig Vance

Stacie Putnam was recognized for her recycling efforts on the beach front. The company she works for, Enios, is working to make the oil-based, plastic products more easily recyclable.

Cyclyx is pushing their 10 to 90 program. Currently, only 10 percent of recyclable products are recycled and their mission is to increase this amount to 90 percent.

Kelly de Schaun (CEO - City of Galveston Parks Board) indicated that the Park Board and City staff have successfully agreed to a contract to allocate utilizing part of the HOT tax to fund the Parks Board.

1015 Gulf Coast Water Authority, Brandon Wade - General Manager and CEO

Created in 1965, the Gulf Coast Water Authority provides water to the City, who then provides it to the residents of Galveston. They provide water for Brazoria, Fort Bend, and Galveston counties. The water comes from the Brazos River Basin.

The history of the authority was based in moving water in canals for agricultural rice fields. Due to subsidence of the soils in our area, it is more efficient to move water through canals than through underground pipes. Pump stations pull water from the Brazos River and feed these canals. The canals lead to the water treatment plants which then feed the residents of Galveston.

The Gulf Coast Water Authority also has contracts with the Brazos River Authority to release water from the upstream reservoirs and help replenish the river downstream.

Desalination plants have been discussed amongst the city and with state representatives, but have high operational costs. These costs are approximately 10 times the costs of water removal from the river. To make these plants truly feasible, there will need to be state and federal funding behind the construction and operation of these plants.

There are also discussions of treating brackish water instead of straight salt water. These treatment plants are cheaper to run and is a potentially more viable option than a straight desalination plant.

1100 Adjournment of the meeting.

Taz Jones U-Tube recording of the meeting: Part 1 <https://youtu.be/Bip8llJei8w>

Part 2 <https://youtu.be/irSc0unKckA>

The next meeting is May 20, 2023 at the Galveston Country Club. The guest speaker is Roger Rees, Galveston Wharves CEO and Port Director.