

West Galveston Island Property Owners Association

May 20, 2023

0905 Call to Order

Introduction of Board Members

The WGIPOA meeting was held on May 20, 2023, at the Galveston Country Club. The meeting was called to order by Peggy Zahler. Board members in attendance of Peggy Zahler – Spanish Grant Beach; Sam Turner – Pointe West; Boyd Carr – Isla del Sol; Craig Vance – Terramar; Chris Lauer – Bermuda Beach; Doug Little – Pirate’s Beach.

0908 **Introduction of elected officials and corporate sponsors** (House Doctors of Galveston and Wellby Financial).

0910 **District 6 Happenings** by Marie Robb, Galveston Council Member - District 6

The City is working on amendments to the beach access plan. 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. The current amendments include getting cars off Sunny Beach, closing previously listed “special use areas”, and allowing for concrete bases under commercial buildings near beach (not just residential properties).

The vote on the 4B sales tax passed within the City. 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.

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

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

The City Council directed the Parks Department to move forward with the CEPRA application for dune nourishment grant money to be allocated across the west end. The GLO would like to wait for the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) beneficial reuse permit project to move through, which is currently projected for 2025 and may or may not include any beaches on the West End.

The beach nourishment from the end of the seawall and heading west to Dallanera RV Park (Seascape) was managed by the GLO. There is quite a bit of rubble in this material. The GLO will be responsible for remedying these issues.

The City’s Public Works Department is working to address flooding issues that have been put in place by TXDOT during the FM3005 resurfacing. The City found a few dams that were put in

during the construction process are still in place. 33 of the 35 dams are still in place and TXDOT will soon be removing.

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.

0935 **West End Police Report**, Lt. Sean Migues.

Memorial Day weekend is coming up. Please call about underage drinking early in the day to slow the issues that will occur later in the night.

Burglaries are still occurring across the island. This includes curious young folks who are looking for something new to do. Please make sure to lock up your items around your homes (kayaks, coolers, jet skis, unlocked trailers, golf carts, etc). If you do put in a security system, please make sure that you get something that you can operate.

Hurricane season is upon us. Please have a plan in place and a location that you can get to with $\frac{3}{4}$ of tank of fuel. Please plan to evacuate early, if possible. IF you are evacuated by the Fire Department or Police Department, you will be placed on a bus and taken to an arena in either San Antonio or Dallas.

If you see something, say something. For all non-emergency issues, please call the non-emergency phone line right away at **409-765-3702**.

0945 **Gulf Coast Protection District (GCPD)**, Peggy Zahler and Marie Robb on behalf of Sally Balko

State senator Dennis Paul has written HB 2416 to set up a Gulf Coast Protection Trust Fund and it passed last Thursday. This will allow the GCPD to funnel allocated non-federal 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.

The Texas General Land Office (GLO) and GCPD are the non-federal sponsors for the Coastal Texas Storm Surge Project (Ike Dike) for ecological and funding/planning portions of this project, respectively. There is currently \$500 million dollars available for projects within the GCPD counties.

0950 **Beach Maintenance Advisory Committee (BMAC)**, Craig Vance

During the May 5th meeting, Donnie Conally was recognized for his beach toy reuse box construction project as part of his Eagle Scout project.

World Ocean's Day is upcoming on Saturday June 10th, 11:00 am - 4:30 pm. The agenda is available through the Artist Boat website.

There is a large sargassum (seaweed) mat that is moving toward the southeast coast, but will most likely not be coming toward Galveston.

The following projects were discussed: Stewart Beach mitigation/vegetation efforts; Dallanera RV Resort beach nourishment; Babe's Beach nourishment; offshore break water project at the

west end of the Seawall; and construction of additional emergency access ramps along the Seawall.

1000 **Roger Rees, Galveston Wharves CEO and Port Director.**

The Port with its' 100 employees will generate ~\$1.62 million to the City in 2023. The cruise industry makes up 60% of these funds. Cargo operations from Galveston export and import around the world. The infrastructure of this port needs additional infrastructure for upgrading port slips and bulkheads.

The 20-year strategic Master Plan will upgrade interior roadways, expand cargo areas, parking, and developing Pelican Island (1,100 acres). On the cruise side, with the Carnival expansion, additional Customs and Border Protection requires expansion to protect Galveston with the people vacationing from the ships.

Cargo will generate an estimated 600,000 labor hours in 2023. There is a plan for building a direct road from I-45 to the harbor. There is also plans to fill in 2 boat slips to expand the rail spur closer to the waterfront.

The Port has a Green Marine certification. This allows for shore power to provide power to ships at the dock instead of these ships running their own petroleum powered generators while sitting at the dock. It also allows for the reduction of noise at the Port.

National Maritime Day will be on May 22nd at Pier 21. It will include an observance of those lost at sea and will begin at 4 pm.

1040 **Adjournment** of the meeting.

The next meeting will be held on June 17th at the Jamaica Beach Fire Department. We will discuss Storm Season preparedness.