

West Galveston Island Property Owners Association

January 20, 2024

0900 Call to Order

0900 Introduction of Board Members

The WGIPOA meeting was held on January 20, 2024 at Waterman's Restaurant. The meeting was called to order by Jerry Mohn, President. A quorum was established with the attendance of Jerry Mohn – President; Boyd Carr – Isla del Sol; John Lightfoot – San Luis Pass; Rosemarie Gonzales – Acapulco Village; Julie Greenwell – Sea Isle; Craig Vance – Terramar; Peter Moss – Sand Hill Shores; Dan Walsh – Spanish Grant Bayside; Chris Lauer – Bermuda Beach; Kim Van Camp – Condos; Doug Little – Pirates POA; and, Joe Trum – Dunes of West Beach.

0902 Introduction of elected officials and corporate sponsors

Brief intro by Luke Mazur from House Doctors. City Council Member Marie Robb, and State Representative Terri Leo Wilson, and Galveston Chief of Police Doug Balli.

0910 Approval of October 28th meeting notes and December 31st financials

Moved by Craig and seconded by Chris.

0906 West End Police Report from Lt. Sean Miguez.

All Galveston Police Officers are all wearing body cameras to protect our officers and our neighbors.

The West End has been redistricted to run from 95th to the end of the island now. This removes Walmart and Heards Lane from the West End Police District. This allows for quicker response times.

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.

0920 Mayor, Dr. Craig Brown

The City of Galveston has a great financial stability. The City is better funded and bonded than in previous years, as well as maintaining a lower tax level. The City sets the level of taxes to manage appropriate level of City resources. The City also has a revenue source from collecting fees from the Port of Galveston including a \$1/day parking fee for cruise line passengers. This money helps to pave streets and repair drainage. Additionally, Hotel Occupancy Taxes (HOT tax) benefit beach nourishment, trash cleanup, and infrastructure benefiting the tourism industry and beautifying our island.

The Sandhill Cranes Soccer Complex, a tournament style soccer complex, is being constructed on the West End utilizing these taxes.

PageTwo

The cruise lines are also helping to construct new and amend existing streets and parking associated with tourism. This includes the existing stud for a flyover at 45 and Harborside leading to the cruise terminals.

The City and Park Board are putting efforts into tourism towards less tourist, but those who stay for longer periods of time. These efforts include eco-tourism, sports-tourism, cultural-tourism, and medical-tourism.

USS Texas is a battleship undergoing repairs. These repairs should be completed in late summer or early fall. The intent is to dock adjacent the Landry restaurants.

The mayor likes to put his focus on what is best for the residents as all decisions for the City are made. That includes managing flooding issues within the City.

0945 City Manager, Brian Maxwell

The water pressure on the West End is supplied by both the water towers and pump stations. We usually have water pressure at 60-65 psi with is far above the City of Houston which is 35 psi. In addition, the City has put in new meters, funded under grants, to identify releases and notify both the City and homeowners. The City allows for leak adjustments on your high months if you identify and repair a leak at your house.

The City is combining the non-emergency phone number to respond to the City's public services.

Mardi Gras is coming up and you will see drones in the air assisting the police department. You will also see concrete barriers and loaded sand trucks blocking certain intersections. With the addition of the redistricting of the police department, the City personnel should be more available to provide services where they are needed.

The City Marshals are now on a 7-day schedule to allow investigations and compliance follow up on the weekends.

Galveston has more short term rentals per capita than elsewhere in the state and we have the lowest short term rental taxes.

The City is working with UTMB to rebuild Fire Station #2 in addition to a safe room for emergency officials during a Category 4-5 Hurricane or other emergency responses.

With drainage on the island, pump stations help to remove some water, but do not move all water out of our neighborhoods. The ditches run along the entire island only have 1' of fall from the beach to the bay, otherwise they would be underwater. Some of these issues stem from the West End being annexed into the City. This land was originally platted by the County which did not include drainage right-of-ways. The new construction areas are required to drain to a storage area, but not necessarily the Bay.

Aging electric systems are an ongoing issue. CenterPoint energy is the only supplier to the island and is discussing moving their service center off of the island. That being said, CenterPoint is

Page Three

becoming more proactive on the West End. CenterPoint is taking infrared photos of each power pole and replacing the main transmission line poles with fiberglass poles.

If your culverts get filled, please contact Public Works and they will put your culvert on the list to get cleaned out. Some culverts were not installed to City code. The cost of this is supposed to be maintained by the homeowner. The City will work with you to replace the culvert, but the landowner would be required to replace driveways and sidewalks.

1030 District 6 Happenings by Marie Robb, Galveston Council Member - District 6

As the new electrical poles are being replaced on the West End, you should expect temporary power outages.

Marie is working with Public Works to improve the “drainage to no-where” issues on the West End. Either holding areas, or drainage to the Bay are proposed. These discussions are ongoing.

Sand nourishment project from 7 Mile to 13 Mile Road is ongoing. The current status is looking for an appropriate sand source. Anticipation of placement of sand is the first quarter of 2025.

Beach Access Plan amendments proposed include reallocating some of the parking from the west end to Pocket Park #3 on 11 Mile Road which should be opening soon. This park has a large asphalt parking lot and direct access to the beach. The City will meet in February to update City ordinances to move closer to moving all cars off of the beach.

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.

1040 Gulf Coast Protection District, Sally Bakko

The Gulf Coast Protection District (GCPD) has met with congressional officials to utilize funding that was approved, but not allocated for use. GCPD is requesting the allocation of the funds for the year one objectives including (1) the final design and construction of the large gate protection system, (2) the sand sourcing and environmental work for dunes in Bolivar and Galveston surrounding the gates, and (3) dune construction/nourishment in South Padre. The President’s 2024 budget is not expected until March.

GCPD Board is working on an in-kind agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers. This includes ongoing CEPRA projects across the area. These projects count toward non-federal dollars required prior to the start of the project.

1050 Beach Maintenance Advisory Committee (BMAC), Chris Lauer

The Park Board’s “Leave No Trace” campaign is ongoing for Spring Break and then Memorial Park to Labor Day. Additional cleanup crews are on the beaches from midnight until dawn to remove items left on the beach. Items collected can be returned to the owners, but if not are broken down in attempts to recycle as much as possible.

Page Four

The next Beach Maintenance Advisory Committee will be at the Park Board offices (601 Tremont/23rd St) at 9 am.

1055 Adjournment

The next WGIPOA meeting will be February 17, 2024 at Waterman's Restaurant.