

West Galveston Island POA
Board Meeting Minutes

The West Galveston Island POA Board of Directors meeting was held on February 21, 2015. Jerry Mohn, President, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. A quorum was established by attendance of Tom Boothe - Condos, Charley Jones - Sea Isle, Boyd Carr - Isla Del Sol, Lew Arend - Dunes of West Beach, Peggy Zahler - Spanish Grant Beach, Joan Newton – Bermuda Beach, Dick Kuriger – Pirates, Bet Jennings - Laffites Cove, and Kim Foley - Point West. Debbie Reinhart – Beach side Village, was present in the audience.

Jerry Mohn introduced County Commissioner - Joe Jiusti, County Judge - Jim Schweitzer, and Bill Herr – City of Galveston Code enforcement. Corporate sponsors at the meeting were introduced and included JSC Federal Credit Union, GARM, CKM Management, and Sand N’ Sea Realtors.

The minutes and financial statements were sent to the Board before the meeting. Motion by Tom Boothe and seconded by Peggy Zahler, the board by unanimous vote approved the minutes.

Community Policing - Officer Sgt. Joel Caldwell stated that Spring Break is coming up. There will be mounted Patrol from 8 Mile to Pirates Beach and out to the Pass. ATV will also be out patrolling. There was a seizure of 28 horses, charges were filed, 2 horses died, the other 26 are up for adoption.

GARM - Sgt. Joel Caldwell stated the companies that are members of GARM do not allow party houses. There were no problems during Mardi Gras. To contact GARM (24 hours) call 409-682-3603,

WGIPOA Newsletter - Peggy Zahler recognized Brad Boney for his contribution and help with the WGI newsletters.

District 6 Happenings - Jerry Mohn for City Council Member Carolyn Sunseri - please be aware of Ordinance No, 15-012 in Short term rentals and compliance. Under the Noise Ordinance, City Council is reviewing the level and may be reducing it to 65 decibels during the day and 60 at night.

Golf Carts: Bob Dolgin from Sandhill Shores made a presentation to the WGIPOA Board of Directors to allow golf carts on the beach for people 65 and older. The WGIPOA Board is to discuss the matter with their respective Boards and to bring back a decision for the 3/21 meeting.

Galveston Parks Board of Trustees: Kelly de Shaun – Executive Director and Melvin Williams – Chairman, and Kay Terry –Staff Accountant

Melvin Williams - The Park Board of Trustees of the City of Galveston is a governmental entity created by a special act of the Texas Legislature in 1962 for the purpose of directing all tourism efforts for Galveston.

The State of Texas requires that a nine-member board be appointed by the City Council, with four members appointed on alternate years for two-year terms and a City Council representative appointed annually.

The Park Board employs a full-time, year-round staff with additional seasonal employees as needed.

Kay Terry - Galveston City Council approved Ordinance 15-012, which authorizes the Park Board of Trustees to be responsible for the registration of all short-term rentals and collection of all HOT Tax

monthly payments. Short Term Rentals are defined as a residential dwelling unit or accessory building used on a temporary or transit basis for less than thirty (30) consecutive days. Failure to comply with the registration and/or payment requirements can result in a \$500 per day fine up to a maximum of \$2,000. Depending on the date paid, all late payments will have a percentage of the tax due added to their payment. Contact Kay Terry, Phone: (409) 797-5132, or email: hottax@galvestonparkboard.org

Kelly de Shaun stated that the pocket parks are owned by Galveston County and that the Parks Board is obtaining ownership of the parks. The nourishment project will finalize March 15, 2015 and will be staged in Pocket Park I. The Pocket Park 2 repairs have started. The pavilion will be ready by summer. Pocket Park 3 at 11 Mile Road is not connected to City sewer; the installation is costly and will not be ready for summer.

The sand erosion for 50-year study was done by the Corp. of Engineers. From that a strategic plan can be formed to support our infrastructure. There are six (6) paid for access points. Galveston has over six (6) million visitors a year. In the next couple of years the Parks Board will be working on a revenue plan aimed at having the visitors pay for the maintenance of the beaches. There are plans to enlarge areas for the public and reduce the number of access points.

In the first coordinated effort since the Texas Supreme Court ruling on C. Severance vs. J. Patterson, the General Land Office, City of Galveston, Park Board of Trustees and local property owners are working together to achieve a major dune restoration and beach nourishment project on Galveston Island's west end designed to combat the high erosion rate at the end of the Seawall and protect one of the West End's only evacuation route, FM 3005.

The total project budget is estimated at \$4.5 million and has a geographic footprint, which extends on the eastern most boundaries from the end of the Seawall to the western boundary of Dellanera RV Park and from the dune conservation line on the north side to the submerged beach. Project funds in excess of \$3.7 million from FEMA disaster funds have been committed from the City and Park Board, with private landowners and the Industrial Development Corporation contributing to the City's share of the 10% local match. The Park Board is fully funding \$200,000 from institutional budgets for its share of the local match. Additionally, the General Land Office has allocated \$775,000 of CEPRA funds, as well as funding a separate feasibility study to determine the viability of an innovative shoreline protection project at the project site. Construction is slated to finish mid-March with approximately 118,000 cubic yards of sand.

Beneficial dredging of the ship channel will benefit the Galveston Seawall sand nourishment projects. The GLO has signed an agreement with the Corp. of Engineers. The beneficial sand will be approximately ½ to one million cubic yards of beach quality sand and placed starting west from 61st street to 89th Street or the end of the Seawall, depending on sand volume. Part of the funding for this project will come from the 4B sales fund for beach nourishment. The project will begin April/May 2015 and will be a reoccurring project by the Army Corp every 15 to 18 months.

In addition beginning March of 2016 the Parks Board plan to place approximately 500,000 cubic yards of sand from 10th to 61st Street. This material will be dredged under the current Parks Board permit. Funding for this project, approximately \$17 million, will come mostly from the cancelled west end \$40 million dune construction and sand nourishment project as a result of the Severance Case.

The west end beaches will benefit from these dune construction and sand nourishment projects from the littoral currents carrying the sand east to west along the shoreline.

The Galveston Island sand maintenance guide is on the website. Handicap people do not have to pay for parking on the seawall.

The Restore Act – the fines received will be used for the first time. \$80 Million will be given to coastal counties, Galveston State Park received \$14 Million, and Artist Boat received \$4 Million. Everyone needs to let your State Representative know that Galveston needs to be considered for those funds.

Artist Boat – Artist Boat has dune planting projects and if any beach property owner associate desires to vegetate their dunes to contact them for help and support.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 A.M.

Susan Gonzales, recording Secretary.