NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING
Park Board of Trustees of the City of Galveston
East End Lagoon Advisory Committee
Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.
601 Tremont Street, Galveston, Texas 77550

In accordance with the order effective March 16, 2020 issued by the Office of the Texas Governor, the Park Board of Trustees will conduct this meeting via video conference in order to maintain social distancing guidelines for the reduction in the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

I. Call Meeting To Order
II. Roll Call And Declaration Of A Quorum
III. Conflict Of Interest Declarations
IV. Requests To Address The Committee
   The public shall be allowed to provide comment to the Committee regarding one or more agenda or non-agenda items by completing the public comment form available on the Park Board of Trustees website at the following link prior to the start of the meeting:
   HTTPS://WWW.GALVESTONPARKBOARD.ORG/FORMS.ASPX?FID=65
V. Appreciation For Volunteer And Staff Leadership On EELAC (Kelly De Schaun, 5 Minutes)
VI. 2020 - 2021 Committee Appointments (Steven Creitz, 5 Minutes)
   Documents:
   EELAC COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2020.PDF
VII. Discuss And Consider Approval Of Meeting Minutes
   Documents:
   DRAFT 9_9_2020 - MINUTES.PDF
VIII. Discuss And Consider Large Events Recommendations (Kristen Vale, 30 Minutes)
   Documents:
   BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR LARGE EVENTS_SEPT. 18 2020.PDF
IX. Discuss And Consider East End Lagoon Advisory Committee FY 20-21 Work Plan (Steven Creitz, 20 Minutes)

   Documents:

      TOP STRATEGIES AND AREAS OF WORK FOR FY 2020-2021.PDF

X. Programming Update (Ann Hobing, 5 Minutes)

XI. Future Agenda Items

XII. Announcements

XIII. Adjournment

I certify that the above Notice of Meeting was posted in a place convenient to the public, in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas government Code, on or before October 2, 2020, 5:00 p.m.

Approved

Steven Creitz
Chair, EELAC

Spencer Priest
Chair, Park Board of Trustees

Kelly de Schaun
Park Board CEO

Please Note Members of the City Council may be attending and participating in the discussion.

In accordance with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons in need of a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding shall, within three (3) days prior to any proceeding, contact the Park Board Administration Office, 601 Tremont, Galveston Texas 77550 (409-797-5147)
**East End Lagoon Advisory Committee Members 2020**

**Chair & Trustee**: Steven Creitz - Term 2019-2021

**Vice-Chair & GINTC Representative**: Diane Olson - Term 2020-2022

**Audubon Representative**: Alice Anne O’Donell - Term 2019-2021

**Eco Tourism Representative**: Julie Ann Brown - Term 2019-2021

**Citizen At Large**: Kristen Vale - Term 2020-2022

**Citizen At Large**: Peter Moore - Term 2019-2021

**Texas A&M Representative**: Len Waterworth - Term 2019-2021

**Local Foundation Representative**: Lauren Scott - Term 2020-2022

**TDAC Representative**: Vacant - Term 2020-2022

**Resource Members (Non Voting)**: Deborah January-Bevers; Barbara Sanderson; Ernest Cook
9/9/2020 - Minutes

I. Call Meeting To Order
   The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am.

II. Roll Call And Declaration Of A Quorum
   Roll was called and a quorum declared.

   Committee Members Present: Steven Creitz, Diane Olsen, Julie Ann Brown, Len Waterworth, Alice Anne O'Donell, Eliza Quigley, Kristen Vale

III. Conflict Of Interest Declarations
   There were no conflicts of interest declared.

IV. Requests To Address The Committee
   There were no requests to address the committee.

V. Introduction Of Kimberly Danesi, Chief Operations Officer (5 Minutes)
   Kelly de Schaun announced the promotion of Kimberly Danesi to the role of Chief Operations Officer, replacing Reuben Trevino.

VI. Introduction Of Ann Hobing, Guest Experience Manager (5 Minutes)
   Kelly de Schaun announced the full time hire of Ann Hobing to fill the newly created role of Guest Experience Manager.

VII. Discuss And Consider Approval Of Meeting Minutes
   Motion: Diane Olsen made a motion to approve the March 4, 2020, July 1, 2020 and August 5, 2020 East End Lagoon Advisory Committee meeting minutes.

   Second: Len Waterworth seconded.

   Vote: Approved (6-0, Eliza Quigley dropped off the call.)

VIII. Update On The Comprehensive Wetland Delineation (Sheryl Rozier, 30 Minutes)
   Sheryl Rozier shared a graphic delineation plan, funded and produced by GINTC, showing the footprint of East End Lagoon and East Beach Park uplands and wetland and areas that might be open for development. She discussed how the Corp of Engineer's interpretation of the area as uplands or wetlands will be vitally important to the EELAC and to the Park Board. The area is being quantified for acreage. She indicated which areas would be more feasible to development, while being both fiscally and ecologically responsible. Mrs. Rozier indicated that next steps include GAI handing off documents to the Corp for a jurisdictional determination, that would give permission and direction to work in federal waters in the US. This will be a long process, likely nine to twelve months.
IX. Discuss The Top Strategies And Areas Of Work For FY 2020-2021 (Steven Creitz, 20 Minutes)
Steven Creitz led a discussion on items being considered for the committee's 2020-2021 work plan. Kelly de Schaun indicated that the plan needed to be more focused and deep, rather than broad. Sheryl Rozier outlined the five items under consideration and asked the committee to consider combining some ideas to come up with three specific items for consideration. She went on to tell the committee the RV/camping concept, because of delineation of property by the Corp, may be a longer timeline so could be a more minor effort or pushed to later in the fiscal year. Sheryl indicated that the outreach plan would rely heavily on Ann Hobing, with some input from the committee. The signage plan needs to be more focused and have a more well thought out budget. Steven Creitz indicated his top three would be Fort San Jacinto, fishing pier and RV park. Diane Olsen agreed that the fishing and RV concept could be combined. Julie Ann Brown caught the committee up on nature walks and virtual video "tours" geared toward families that are being produced and shared on social media. Kelly commented that the fishing and RV ideas would obviously be more of a planning/site planning for this year. Steven mentioned the Fort San Jacinto beautification plan. Kelly asked for Sheryl, Barbara and Nate to work together to come up with a plan of action for that area for the committee to consider. Diane updated the committee on prior conversations regarding the site and the possibility of adding a railing, paint and lighting, to make the area more inviting. Sheryl and Kelly finished the discussion by reiterating that the items that seemed important for the committee to address are Fort San Jacinto improvement, fishing/RV site planning exploration, outreach work and a signage plan.

X. 2019-2020 Committee Work Plan
Sheryl Rozier pointed out that this is a standing item on the agenda to keep the committee on track and that the new work plan will be evolving.

XI. Future Agenda Items
Steven said that finalizing top strategies should be a discuss and consider item for the next meeting. Kristin Vale will bring Special Use for Large Events guidelines next month.

XII. Announcements
Kelly reminded the committee about the Virtual Tourism Summit, September 14-18, 10am.

XIII. Adjournment
Meeting was adjourned at 10:07 am.
Best Management Practices & Operational Guidelines for Large Events at East Beach

This document is intended to provide guidance and discussion of best management practice recommendations for large event venues at East Beach adjacent to environmentally sensitive areas. This is a living document that is subject to change as the sensitive environmental areas will likely change naturally through time, and as new information and concerns are brought forward.

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<th>Species of Conservation Concern</th>
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<th>Mar</th>
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<td>Nesting Sea Turtles</td>
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<td>Piping Plovers</td>
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Peak species presence are indicated by Xs. Colors represent “best” or “worst” times to hold a large-scale event. Blue = “Worst”, Yellow = “Caution”, Green = “Best”, and no color represents little to no impact to those particular species of conservation concern. “Worst” months = April, May, June, the latter part of September and October.

Large Event Recommendations that predict to host approximately 4,000 cars or more:

1) Timing
   a) To the maximum extent possible, schedule large events as late in the nesting season as possible or outside of the nesting season.
   b) If large events are scheduled during the nesting season, efforts should be taken to schedule the event outside of peak bird and sea turtle nesting season months of May and June.
      i) August is a better summer month to hold a larger scale event, as the nesting bird season is coming to an end and the number of nesting birds are typically lowest. During peak nesting bird months, eggs and chicks are on the ground and most vulnerable to disturbances.

2) Placement (Figure 1)
   a) Place the event footprint (e.g. stage, general admission, etc.) as far away from the conservation area as possible.
   b) For large events with amplified sound (e.g. concerts) held within the east parking lot, create at least a 30 to 50 meter buffer (98 – 164 feet, larger buffers are better) from the bollard line of the conservation area and the event footprint\(^1\) (Figure 2, Page 4).
   c) When a large event with amplified sound is held within the east parking lot that charges an admission fee per person to attend the event, install temporary fencing around the event footprint to prevent trash and pedestrians from entering the conservation area.

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\(^1\) The United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) recommends a 50 meter buffer from nesting piping plovers and this buffer can be applied to other ground nesting coastal birds. This buffer is 50 meters from the closest recorded nesting location in the conservation area. USFWS. 1994. Guidelines for managing recreational activities in piping plover breeding habitat on the U.S. Atlantic Coast to avoid take under Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act. Northeast Region. April 15, 1994.
d) Avoid or minimize placing food and drink concessions along the conservation area to reduce concentrations of food and drink remnants left behind in the sand that may attract gulls, grackles, or other nuisance animals (i.e. predators to nesting birds).

e) Avoid locating general admission or other event activities within the “Pedestrian / No Swimming” beach within the conservation area to minimize disturbance to birds. Ensure people avoid the fenced conservation area when birds are nesting. The conservation area will be protected with temporary signage and fencing by the American Bird Conservancy and Houston Audubon during the nesting season.

f) Prohibit overnight parking or camping on the pedestrian beach during special events to avoid disturbance, injury, or mortality to wildlife using this beach. If camping is permitted for a special event (ex: Jeep Go Topless), provide overnight security and portable toilets. To the maximum extent feasible, place the camping footprint in the west parking. If conditions prevent this, use the western half of the east parking lot as an alternative location. If the east parking lot is used for camping, install temporary signs at the eastern border of the footprint informing people to avoid the conservation area, particularly during the nesting season.

Figure 1. Map defining use areas at East Beach in Galveston, Texas.

3) Control level of use
   a) Define capacity for each event to effectively staff the event.
   b) When feasible, have large events with amplified sound end at approximately 10:00 p.m. Holding events during daylight hours will help law enforcement, staff, and volunteers to have a better view of sight of activities occurring during the event. This will help control crowds and reduce noise disturbance to adjacent residents.
c) Enact a traffic flow and emergency response plan in coordination with the City of Galveston and Police Department.

4) Trash
a) Enact a litter control plan for each event to help control and reduce trash from entering the conservation area.
b) Avoid handing out loose promotional material during events, as this often becomes trash that either blows into the conservation area or is left behind.
c) Remove trash within 24 hours of the event to avoid attracting avian and mammalian predators and to reduce trash from blowing into the conservation area or into the water.
d) If a significant amount of trash or debris finds its way into the conservation area during the nesting season after a large scale event, work with wildlife experts to remove it so as to minimize disturbance to the nesting birds.

5) Noise
a) Fireworks should be prohibited at all times. Fireworks can disturb nesting birds, nonbreeding birds, and other wildlife that use East Beach and the East End Lagoon for refuge. Fireworks are also a threat to the habitat as debris from fireworks can start fires in environmentally sensitive areas and pose a risk to residential property.
b) For large events with amplified sound, direct speakers towards the water to project the sound over the water and away from the conservation area and adjacent residents. The use of directional speakers is also applicable.
c) Ensure the event organizer has the proper permits approved for an outdoor performance with loudspeaker amplifiers that exceeds the City of Galveston’s noise ordinance, Chapter 24 – OFFENSES – MISCELLANEOUS. The following ordinance language is without a permit:

Sec. 24-2. - Maximum permissible sound levels.

(a) After notice or warning by a licensed peace officer, no person shall conduct, permit or allow any activity or sound source to produce a sound that is discernible beyond the property lines of the property on which the sound is being produced that when measured as provided in section 24-1 [defining dB(A)] exceeds the applicable dB(A) level listed below for the property on which the sound is received:

(1) Daytime hours—(7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.):
   a. dB(A) shall be seventy-five (75).

(2) Nighttime hours—(10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.):
   a. dB(A) shall be seventy (70).

(b) The dB(A) levels set forth in this section apply to the property where the sound is being received and will be measured at the receiving property at the curb line of the receiving property or the property line closest to the source of the sound. Any sound that when measured at the property where the sound is being received exceeds the dB(A) levels set forth in this section is a violation of this chapter. The city manager shall have authority to increase these levels when granting a permit under section 34-5 of this Code.
Sec. 24-5. - Loudspeakers and amplifiers.

(a) Sound application permits are required for any exterior loudspeaker or amplifier uses which are not part of the ordinary normal day-to-day operations of a legally operating commercial business or governmental facility.

(1) The decibel restrictions herein shall apply to legally operating commercial businesses and loudspeaker permit holders.

(2) The application for a permit for the use of loudspeakers or amplification shall be submitted to the city manager or designee within ten (10) working days in advance of the planned use.

a. The application shall designate an individual, person or persons who shall be in control of the sound equipment and assure that its use complies with the terms of the permit.

b. Permit applicants shall pay an administrative fee of seventy-five dollars ($75.00), for a single day of use and one hundred and fifty dollars ($150.00), for multiple days of use to the city.

Figure 2. Buffer recommendations for large events in the east parking lot. Red line = 30 meters/98 feet, blue line = 50 meters/164 feet.
Agenda Item: Discuss and Consider the Top Strategies and Areas of Work for FY 2020-2021 (Steven Creitz, 20 minutes)

Background:
Each year the Park Board Committees produce an Action Plan for the work they will do in support of budgets and goals. In FY20-21 it has been requested that the Committees limit their focus to three (3) areas. In September, EELAC discussed the action plan and agreed to focus on the following items:

- **Fort San Jacinto Improvements**: EELAC, the City of Galveston, and the Park Board will collaborate on what can realistically be achieved to evolve the site of Fort San Jacinto. Items and projects brought forward will be researched and presented to the committee in future meetings as discuss and consider items before additional steps are taken. The City of Galveston will be the final approver of any projects as the site ultimately sits with them.

- **RV & Fishing Pier Planning**: Sheryl Rozier, Project Manager and Len Waterworth, EELAC Member are continuing to foster discussions surrounding regulatory hurdles with the establishment, construction, and operation of a fishing pier off the East End Lagoon parcel. A pro forma for the fishing pier will be developed and brought to the committee for deliberation, based on the recommendations in the Business Plan. Formal planning for the RV park will be dependent upon the jurisdictional determination from the Corp. The Committee will evaluate and discuss the pro forma in the Business Plan to determine the best course of action for all parties involved – likely a public/private venture. Lastly, the committee will work on preliminary site options and possibly a Request for Interest, so that progress can move forward efficiently once the jurisdictional determination is received. At this time, the committee will use the wetland delineation report as a guiding document.

- **Programming, Community Outreach, Signage**: Programming will be a primary aspect of furthering the development of the East End Lagoon in FY 20-21. Julie Ann Brown, GIITC and Ann Hobing, Guest Experience Manager are currently discussing programming opportunities and will provide updates to the committee regularly. Ann will also solicit additional programming opportunities and concessionaires on a constant basis for the Nature Preserve. Comprehensive signage for the East End Lagoon has been a topic of many discussions. EELAC will work to identify needs and locations, develop language, and produce a plan for pricing and implementation, while using the logo and brand book as a guiding document.