



Park Board of Trustees of the City of Galveston Beach Maintenance Advisory Committee

3/4/2022 - Minutes

I. Call Meeting To Order

Meeting was called to order at 9:02 am.

II. Roll Call And Declaration Of A Quorum

Committee Members Present: Jason Worthen, Ben Ritt, Craig Vance, Jerry Mohn, Peggy Zahler, John Machol, Marie Robb, and Hal Needham.

Resource Members Present: Allison Buchtien, Rhonda Gregg and Brandon Hill.

III. Conflict Of Interest Declarations

No conflicts of interest were declared.

IV. Requests To Address The Committee

No requests to address the committee were made.

V. Discuss And Consider Approval Of Meeting Minutes

Motion: John Machol motioned to approve the January 7, 2022, Beach Maintenance Advisory Committee Meeting minutes.

Second: Peggy Zahler seconded.

Vote: Approved (8-0)

VI. Presentation On TAMUG's Multimeter Probe At Seawolf Park (Nicole Patterson, 20 Minutes)

Miss. Nicole Patterson and Miss. Vicotria Caballero presented on their long-term water quality data collection research with Texas A&M University at Galveston using a multimeter probe on the Seawolf Park fishing pier. The probe monitors the temperature, salinity changes, turbidity, pH, & total algae. The data from the probe will be collected constantly, downloaded weekly, analyzed, and organized. Eventually, the hope is to have the data uploaded through TAMUG online portal for the public. Such water quality data is beneficial for all. The probe is in a 4-inch diameter PVC pipe that sits 7ft in the water and can be accessed from a kayak.

Mrs. Marie Robb informed the group about Lake Madeline and the ongoing water quality issues due to the wastewater treatment facility. She suggested they put a probe there.

Mr. John Machol asked about security for the pipe and if they're worried about placement and the public. They said no because of the way it is mounted and the security of the park.

Mr. Brandon Hill asked about the expansion of the project and the types of data they intend to collect. Their probe has 7 spaces for data collection, and they have used them all. They will make a point to contact other water quality collection agencies to collaborate and compare data.

Mrs. Robb suggested that TCEQ collects water quality data so that they contact them for their data. She was worried about boats coming into contact with the probe. They said due to placement this should not be an issue.

VII. Presentation On The Destination Sustainability Plan (Kelly De Schaun, 20 Minutes)

Mrs. Kelly de Schaun presented the Destination Sustainability Plan 2022. The Plan focused on long-term and large-scale sustainability with room for constant improvement through thoughtful actions and intentions. The goal is to have a high value visitor. Someone who appreciates the island for what is and respects the island itself. Strategic Product and Experience Development to increase cultural experience. Created short-term Rental Policy. Sky-rocketed short-term registration through the City and Park Board policy. Growing the full-service hotel experience to proactively work to make something sit on the sand. Cruise District Connectivity, support development and advocate for greater pedestrian connectivity when on the island boarding or leaving a cruise. The goal is to increase time and money spent on the island.

VIII. Discuss And Consider Federal Seaweed Maintenance Permit Renewal, Geography And Implications For The HOA/POA Extreme Inundation Program (Kimberly Danesi, 20 Minutes)

Mrs. Kimberly Danesi presented on Discuss and Consider Item Seaweed Inundation HOA/POA program. The Trustees in the past have decided to exclude the areas that are not under the Park Board jurisdiction from the Seaweed permit moving forward during the renewal process. However, concern was brought up about this, so the Board recommended the item come back to BMAC for a discussion on moving forward and a recommendation for the permit grounds moving forward. She said to clarify, there will be a program this season of sargassum for 2022. This discussion is on the future of the program. Mrs. Danesi gave an overview of the situation the Park Board faced in 2014 when the extreme sargassum inundation hit the island. There was a wait on equipment that was to be rented and used to clean. When asked how this would look in 2022 and moving forward, the loader equipment would take some time to acquire for rental. Operators for the large equipment would be hard to find as well. Mrs. Danesi highlighted the reality of what the situation would look like moving forward with the program. The HOA/POA linear footage on the island doubles what the Park Board manages now. There will also be an increase in cost per hour pay for the program enrollees and the requirements for what an 'Emergency Seaweed' situation qualifies as. Mrs. Danesi then opened the floor for discussion on the topic.

Mr. Jerry Mohn said he wanted to express his displeasure and does not like the decision to exclude the subdivisions from the permit and program moving forward. Mr. Mohn would like to see the continuation of the program.

Mrs. Peggy Zahler asked for clarification of the refund process and the application process for 2022. Mrs. Kimberly Danesi clarified that the retainers must be returned and HOAs/POAs must re-apply is to be part of the program moving forward. Mrs. Peggy Zahler asked why the Park Board has decided to make to lean towards not including the private property in the permit. Mrs. Kelly de Schaun clarified that the Park Board has previously made this decision and what the future would look like when the permit would be renewed. Mrs. Zahler clarified for the HOAs/POAs that the Park Board properties will be prioritized during an emergency situation and will be cleaned first. The private properties will come second to the property the Park Board is responsible for. Mrs. de Schaun stated that Mrs. Marie Robb suggested that the city could offer support through a collaborative effort to make the program sustainable in an emergency situation. Mrs. Robb said the city would gladly make its equipment available in an emergency seaweed situation such as they did in the 2014 event. Mrs. Robb emphasized that 46 % of the HOT tax comes from short-term rentals the majority of which reside on the West End. Additionally, she stated that there have been discussions at the City that if the Park Board is going to abandon those on the West End, then maybe that is something the City needs to re-evaluate is if the Park Board should have management of the beaches at all. Mrs. Robb hopes that there will be an agreement between all entities involved.

Mr. John Machol asked that the group think about the situation more before applying and that the island consider what an undertaking it would be to have a permit and the responsibility to relocate the seaweed.

Mr. Jason Worthen said he agreed that he would like to see the island come together and not point fingers if the island would have an emergency seaweed situation.

Mrs. Marie Robb made a motion to make the permit extend from tip to tip, but there was no quorum present. Mrs. Peggy Zahler asked if this was time sensitive and suggested a special meeting.

IX. Update On The Nourished Beach 2021-2026 Capital Investment Plan (Sheryl Rozier, 10 Minutes)

Mrs. Sheryl Rozier presented on the Nourished Beach 2021-2026 Capital Investment Plan. She updated on projects and the plans moving forward. She spoke on the 2021 Babe's beach project and the completion of the project. The Stewart Beach drainage project dune mitigation project status was updated. After the freeze, the scope of work required has been substantially reduced due to the plant loss at the original location. The Park Board going forward is hoping to go ahead with original planning with mitigation planting in the dunes with boundaries from 77th street working west to 86th-89th street. Award contract for a planting project in April for dune planting mitigation. Mrs. Rozier updated on the offshore breakwater at the terminus of the seawall. The Army Corps of Engineers still anticipates a few more months of work on their end. Expect community engagement soon pertaining to the project. Mrs. Rozier also updated on the nourishment project for Dellanera. She is working to alter the contract for the engineering to extend the project from the end of Dellanera to 13-mile road.

X. Update On Trash Initiatives - Timeline And Possible Projects (Elizabeth Schneider, 20 Minutes)

Miss. Elizabeth Schneider updated the committee on the status of the Trash Initiatives previously brought to the committee. She outlined the programs within the initiative and her plans divided by financial quarters for progress within each program.

XI. 2021-2022 Committee Work Plan

The Committee is on track with the Committee Work Plan.

XII. Future Agenda Items

Clarifying volunteers and Adhoc for World Oceans Day, Blue Flag Designation, Chief Davis on Portuguese Man-O-War and update on Beach Patrol Safety Issues

XIII. Announcements

Mrs. Kimberly Danesi announced the Tourism Summit event, May 5th. She reminded everyone Spring Break starts next Saturday. Mr. Larry Jackson and the overnight crew starting collections for the Leave No Trace City Ordinance for Spring Break. Remind short-term rentals if you know anyone coming to town.

Mr. Worthen reminded everyone of the big spring break crew coming to the island.

XIV. Adjournment

The Beach Maintenance Advisory Committee regular meeting adjourned at 10:54.