



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

5/6/2022 - Minutes

I. Call Meeting To Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:02am.

II. Pledge Of Allegiance

The pledge was recited by those present.

III. Roll Call And Declaration Of A Quorum

Roll was called and a quorum declared.

Members present: Jason Worthen, Marty Fluke, Hal Needham, Willis Ghandi, Ben Ritt, Heidi Whitehead, Marie Robb, Craig Vance, Peggy Zahler, Jerry Mohn, Jen Johnson and John Machol.

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

IV. Conflict Of Interest Declarations

There were no conflicts declared by the committee members.

V. Requests To Address The Committee

There were no requests to address the committee.

VI. Discuss And Consider Approval Of Meeting Minutes

Motion: Jerry Mohn

Second: Marie Robb

With the following change made to the minutes. Change 46% to 51% of the percentage of HOT tax from the short-term rentals.

Vote: Approved (11-0)

Mrs. Heidi Whitehead abstained from the vote.

VII. Welcome New Committee Member (Jason Worthen, 5 Minutes)

Chairman Jason Worthen introduced Mrs. Heidi Whitehead to the committee as she joins the Beach maintenance Advisory Committee to fill the Volunteer Organization position. Mrs. Whitehead is the Executive Director for the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network.

VIII. Presentation On Sargassum And Hurricane Forecast (Hal Needham, 20 Minutes)

Dr. Hal Needham shared the science behind why the recent hurricane seasons have been so active and provided a seasonal forecast for the upcoming hurricane season. Dr. Needham also updated the committee on the sargassum forecast for the season.

IX. Update On Enrollments In The Emergency Seaweed Relocation Program (Elizabeth Schneider, 5 Minutes)

Miss. Elizabeth Schneider updated the committee on the Seaweed Emergency Relocation Program enrollment numbers and status. Miss. Schneider updated the committee that the Park Board was offering the opportunity for a 30-day extension for Home-Owner Associations or Property Owner Associations who have yet to apply to the program but are still interested.

X. Discuss And Consider Support Of Beach Patrol's Beach Headquarters (Peter Davis, 15 Minutes)

Chief Peter Davis spoke to the committee about Beach Patrol's need for a new headquarters. He provided statistics for the number of actions Beach Patrol takes to keep beachgoers safe, and the number of employees and volunteers to make their operation a success. With this many employees and volunteers, a headquarters where everyone can gather and meet under one roof is very important for morale and the completion of their mission. Chief Davis emphasized that the best place for this headquarters would be on the sand due to the quick response time that is needed for Beach Patrol.

Motion: Jerry Mohn – Motion to support the Beach Patrol headquarters, on the sand.

Second – Marie Robb

Vote: Approved (12-0)

XI. Discuss Proposed Collaboration On Project Vesta (Sheryl Rozier, 15 Minutes)

Mrs. Sheryl Rozier brought forth the concept of a proposed collaboration on Project Vesta. Project Vesta is a research-based organization. They are working to reverse climate change and ocean acidification by greatly accelerating the Earth's natural long-term process of rock weathering through Coastal Carbon Capture. Carbon-removing sand made of the mineral olivine is added to the ocean. There, the sand dissolves, countering ocean acidification and permanently removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. They are looking for a long term partner and felt that Galveston would be a great location for a pilot site due to the long term sediment needs, the Park Board's strong relationship with the regulatory agencies and access to solid research and science. The committee had many questions and indicated the project has peaked their interest. They requested the item be brought back to the committee during their next meeting to further discuss the concept.

XII. Discuss And Consider Support Of 'Free Trash Bag' Pilot Project (Elizabeth Schneider, 10 Minutes)

Miss. Elizabeth Schneider brought forth a possible pilot project concept to provide free trash bags to beachgoers on Galveston Island. The free trash bags are to be purchased from the Up2U litter prevention campaign that started at the Nueces River Authority. Three different distribution boxes are proposed at three separate locations on the island to test how the concept does at the three different locations. The project is proposed to put the responsibility back on the people to encourage them to take care of their own trash and to educate the public on the trash we see on the beaches.

Motion: Jason Worthen - Motion to support.

Second: John Machol

Vote: Approved (10-0)

XIII. Update On World Ocean's Day (Elizabeth Schneider, 5 Minutes)

Mrs. Elizabeth Schneider updated the committee on the booth BMAC will host at World Ocean Day Festival after meeting with the adhoc group. Miss. Schneider explained the booth, activities, and information that the group will provide at the festival. An ask for volunteers was made to man the booth, the day of.

XIV. 2021-2022 Committee Work Plan

The committee reported they are on track with the Committee Work Plan.

XV. Future Agenda Items

- New Committee Work Plan
- Dr. Hal Needham - Sargassum update requested
- Discussion on Project Vesta

XVI. Announcements

Women in Science – May 27 at 9am Dr. Sarah Piwetz Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network

Recruitment for future BMAC members - The recruitment process and materials, including community outreach, a pre-orientation session, and an application, will be available as of June/early July. New members join in Sept. Oct.

XVII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:51am.