



Park Board of Trustees of the City of Galveston

10/25/2022 - Minutes

I. Call Meeting To Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

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.

Trustees Present: Marty Fluke, Will Wright, Dave Jacoby, Mike Bouvier (via Video), Kimberly Gaido, Jason Hardcastle, Spencer Priest and Jason Worthen.

IV. Conflict Of Interest Declarations

There were no conflicts declared.

V. Requests To Address The Board

Public comments were made by Bill Hynek for agenda item VIII-C and Trey Click for agenda item VII-A.

Online comments were read from from Ken Matthews on agenda item VIII-C and Jerry Sanchez on agenda item XIII.

VI. Employee Spotlight - Sandy Johnson (Susan Keeble, 5 Minutes)

Susan Keeble introduced Sandy Johnson the guest experience coordinator for Dellanera RV Park and recognized her for her five years of service at the Park Board.

VII. Administration

A. Discuss And Consider Approval To Co-Sponsor The 25th Street Lighting Project (Bryson Frazier, 5 Minutes)

Bryson Frazier shared that after discussions between the Park Board and the City regarding this project, it makes the most sense for the City to procure and maintain the 25th street lighting project with the Park Board being a co-sponsor. He reported that the cost would be \$182,000 of which \$174,000 is for materials, installation and maintenance and the remaining \$8,000 for program sponsor signage.

Jason Hardcastle would like to see for future discussions with the City plans to enhance the landscaping to fill the gaps along this route. Kimberly Gaido concurred that the gaps need to be addressed. Jason Worthen recommended extending the agreement moving forward.

Motion: Jason Hardcastle motioned to approve the co-sponsorship of the 25th street lighting project.

Second: Spencer Priest seconded.

Approved: (8-0).

B. Presentation Of Grants Program Update (Tom Singleton, 5 Minutes)

Tom Singleton gave an update on the grant program. He reported that staff has worked to create procedures and tracking tools to administer the grant program. He also shared that several grants have been identified and applied for in support of key projects and the Park Board has already been awarded two grants: the Humanities Texas mini grant for the Juneteenth Town Hall in the amount of \$5,000 and the National Environmental Education Foundation Driving Mobility and Accessibility on Public Lands grant of \$25,000 for accessibility upgrades at East Beach.

C. Discuss And Consider Approval For Acceptance Of National Environmental Education Foundation 2022 Driving Mobility And Accessibility On Public Lands Grant Award (Tom Singleton, 5 Minutes)

Tom Singleton reported that this national grant program is meant to support accessibility on public lands. He shared that the Park Board submitted an application for the purchase and installation of mobi-mats, which are plastic mats that can be laid down on the sand to allow access to the beach for those with mobility issues. In addition to these, Mr. Singleton also reported that the application included the addition of ADA compliant parking spaces closer to the beach template.

Motion: Marty Fluke motioned to accept the grant.

Second: Dave Jacoby

Vote: Approved (8-0).

D. Discuss And Consider Approval For The Creation Of A Seawolf Park Development Task Force (Jason Hardcastle, 10 Minutes)

Jason Hardcastle shared the goals of the task force which include highlighting the park as a cultural experience, maintaining the Parks within a Park cohesion through the standardization of signage, architecture and promotions, fast track development through the coordination of capital projects, ensuring funding opportunities support development needs and obtaining City support for development. He reported that the recommended members would include himself, Marty Fluke, Mike Bouvier, Brian Abugel, Charles Wiley, Kimberly Danesi and a representative from the City, still to be determined.

Motion: Spencer Priest motioned to approve the creation of the Seawolf Park Development Task Force.

Second: Kimberly Gaido seconded.

Vote: Approved (8-0).

E. Committee Updates (Committee Chairs, 10 Minutes)

Marty Fluke shared that with the dismissal of the litigation, Jason Worthen has been reinstated as Chair of the Beach Maintenance Advisory Committee and Vice-Chair of the Parks and Amenities Committee.

The committee Chairs/Vice-Chairs provided updates on the activities of their respective committees. These updates included welcoming the new committee members, the beach projects, the seaweed permit renewal, year-end park revenue reports, concession program for 2023, workforce social media and event plans, July 4th recommendations, update on wayfinding signage program and approval of the committee workplans.

F. Discuss And Consider Approval Of 2022-2023 Committee Workplans (Kelly De Schaun, 5 Minutes)

Kelly de Schaun gave an overview of the proposed committee workplans and highlighted several tasks that they would be undertaking in fiscal year 2022-2023. She shared that other items could be added in the future if needed.

Motion: Will Wright motioned to approve the 2022-2023 Committee workplans.

Second: Kimberly Gaido seconded.

Vote: Approved (8-0).

G. City Council Liaison Update (Mike Bouvier, 10 Minutes)

Mike Bouvier shared that Council has on the agenda to discuss the proposed ordinances regarding the Park Board.

VIII. Operations

- A. Presentation Of Federal Emergency Management Agency Receivables And Projects Update (Tom Singleton/Sheryl Rozier, 10 Minutes)

Tom Singleton gave a brief overview of the FEMA process. He reported that the reimbursements outstanding are from Hurricane Ike with an approximate value of \$2.9 million. He also noted that there are projects still in the development and review process from Hurricanes Laura and Harvey. Mr. Singleton shared that projected FEMA receivables for fiscal year 2022 were at \$1,076,784 and \$931,320 were received. Sheryl Rozier added that the outstanding Hurricane Ike projects are for Seawolf Park and these will be eligible for reimbursement once the projects are complete and the paperwork submitted and approved.

The trustees requested that a report be presented that encompasses all FEMA projects outstanding as well as those in the pipeline for a complete picture of projects.

- B. Discuss And Consider Approval Of Award For Stewart Beach Pavilion Concrete Repairs Phase 2 (Sheryl Rozier, 10 Minutes)

Sheryl Rozier shared staff is requesting approval of the full \$200,000 budgeted in the capital improvement plan for this repair. She stated that the bids received covered the scope of work in both lump sum totals as well as contingency based on recommendations once items are uncovered by the engineers. Mrs. Rozier stated that this item also needed to be approved by City Council and no work would be done until that was obtained.

Motion: Marty Fluke motioned to approve the \$200,000 for the concrete repairs.

Second: Spencer Priest seconded.

Vote: Approved (8-0).

- C. Discuss And Consider Approval Of Eligibility Of Galveston Adventures Helicopter Tours For New Agreement (Ann Hobing, 10 Minutes)

Ann Hobing gave a brief history of this item and shared that the Parks and Amenities Committee (PAC) had asked for this agreement to be brought forward this year before renewing. She stated that in 2021 there had been noise complaints brought forward about this concession. Ms. Hobing reported that concessionaire did make adjustments as requested such as training and altitude monitoring along with decibel readings recorded however noise complaints still continued in 2022.

Kelly de Schaun shared that the helicopter concessionaire is in compliance however this concession may not be a good fit to maintain harmony between the residents and tourism. Since this type of business has been operating out of Stewart Beach, there have been noise complaints even though changes have been made. Carla Cotropia expressed concerns and did not believe that this agreement should be renewed.

Motion: Spencer Priest motioned to approve the recommendation of PAC to renew the agreement.

Second: Mike Bouvier seconded.

Vote: Failed (0-8).

Marty Fluke and Jason Hardcastle both believe that the concession agreements are operational and do not need the approval of the Board. It is stated in the Concession Policy and will need to be revisited to make this change.

IX. Tourism Development

- A. Update On Proposed Holiday Activities Planning For June 23 Through July 4, 2023 (Michael Woody, 5 Minutes)

Michael Woody presented two options that the Tourism Development Advisory Committee (TDAC) is working on for the June-July holidays. He shared that both options do include a provision for sponsoring a fireworks display should the City choose to go that route.

Mr. Woody reported that option 1 would include a July 3rd drone show downtown, morning July 4th parade downtown and sponsorship of the fireworks. The 2nd option would be to bridge Juneteenth and July 4th by adding events for the two weekends between these. This option would include the July 4th parade downtown, July 3rd and 4th small bands performing around the island, sponsorship of the fireworks show as well as the bridge activities of Friday night bonfires, Saturday morning golf cart parades downtown, Saturday sandcastle lessons/competition, possibly a beach volleyball tournament and an educational selfie adventure sharing the heritage of the island. Mr. Woody shared that TDAC will be making their final recommendation to the Board in November for approval.

B. Update On The Washed Ashore Island Wide Art Exhibition (Michael Woody And Kimberly Danesi, 15 Minutes)

Michael Woody and Kimberly Danesi shared a presentation of many of the art pieces that will be part of the exhibit in Galveston from December 10, 2022 to March 3, 2023 and reviewed the locations planned across the island for these.

X. Consent

Motion: Marty Fluke motioned to approve the consent agenda items.

Second: Dave Jacoby seconded.

Vote: Approved (8-0).

- A. Discuss And Consider Approval Of Tourism Development Expenditures (Michael Woody)
- B. Discuss And Consider Approval Of General Fund Managed Expenditures (Schel Heydenburg)
- C. Discuss And Consider Approval To Renew The Accounting Software License Agreement With Community Brands (Bryson Frazier)
- D. Discuss And Consider Approval To Donate Four 4-Wheelers To Community Emergency Response Teams Of Galveston County And Houston Precinct One And To Trade-In Two 4-Wheelers (Peter Davis)
- E. Discuss And Consider Approval Of Sanitation Services Expenditure (Larry Jackson)

XI. Executive Session

The meeting entered executive session at 3:25 p.m.

- A. Pursuant To Texas Government Code Section 551.071 - Consultation With Attorney On A Matter In Which The Duty Of The Attorney To The Governmental Body Under Texas Disciplinary Rules Of Professional Conduct Of The State Of Texas Clearly Conflicts With This Chapter - Legal Matters Concerning Concessionaire Program

XII. Action Item (S) Resulting From Executive Session

The open meeting resumed at 4:29 p.m.

- A. Discuss And Consider Approval Of Action For Any Executive Session Item Listed On The Meeting Agenda
Staff was instructed to bring back additional information for the November meeting.

XIII. Discussion Concerning City Of Galveston Proposed Changes To The Hotel Occupancy Tax (Marty Fluke, 15 Minutes)

Marty Fluke reported that the City has two ordinances on their agenda that would change the process of the hotel occupancy tax collections and depository as well as requiring approval of the Park Board budgets. He shared that he will be asking that these are deferred until at least after the joint meeting scheduled to allow for the two entities to discuss. Mr. Fluke stated that there are two opinion letters that support that the current process is fully compliant with state code. Jason Hardcastle and Will Wright also expressed support to defer so that the trustees and council can meet and discuss before changes are made. Spencer Priest stated that changes like this should be part of the interlocal agreement and not an ordinance.

XIV. Future Agenda Items

- Complete FEMA report

- CTA Program
- Draft of concession policy
- State legislative agenda
- United Way

XV. Announcements

Kelly de Schaun announced that the Park Board would again be part of the Galveston United Way campaign.

The holiday events rack cards were distributed.

XVI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

Schel Heydenburg
Board Reporter

Dave Jacoby
Board Secretary