



Agenda Item: Update from the East End Lagoon Task Force

Background: From 2015 to 2021 the development of the East End Lagoon (EEL) was under the guidance of the East End Lagoon Advisory Committee (EELAC). This committee was responsible for 1) the vision of the nature based recreational tourism product, 2) City Council approval of a proposed business plan to support revenue generation, 3) City Council allocation of funding over the intermediate term and 4) the solicitation and award of numerous grants, including most recently \$1.35 million in Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies (RESTORE) funding for the construction of outdoor amenities.

With the vision, business plan and initial funding secured, the continued stewardship of the nature preserve EELAC was disbanded, and oversight was placed with the Parks and Amenities Committee (PAC). The task of implementing the RESTORE grant falls to the Park Board Project Manager, some of the Operations team and a special task force was formed and board approved in August of 2021.

The awarded RESTORE funding is for the development of three significant components at the EEL:

- 1) Development of an elevated, open-air pavilion with tables and benches, restrooms and ADA compliant ramp, parking, and signage,
- 2) A new trail segment,
- 3) Environmental interpretation and signage

Construction of the open-air pavilion will be managed by Sheryl Rozier, Project Manager. The task force operates under the direction of Kimberly Danesi, COO and Sheryl Rozier. A memorandum of agreement is executed with the Galveston Island Nature Tourism Council for technical support. The EEL task force is comprised of Spencer Priest, Julie Ann Brown, Diane Olsen, Alice Ann O'Donnell, Kristen Vale, Anna Deichmann, Peter Moore and various other staff members as needed.

The Task Force worked with students from University of Texas at Austin Design Lab over a two-semester period in 2022 to produce a Master Plan Analysis. The students also produced renderings for future trail improvements, potential camping options and signage examples. Some of the areas the Task Force explored with the students included:

- Long term vision
- Goals
- Methodology
- Site plans
- Case studies
- Research for future signage
- Interpretive signage package

The Task Force is also working on an update to the EEL Website, providing oversight to the work being done on the pavilion, recommended the location of the future trail segment and making decisions on the interpretive signage package for the grant.