



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

2/3/2023 - Minutes

I. Call Meeting To Order

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

II. Pledge Of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

III. Roll Call And Declaration Of A Quorum

Roll was called and a quorum was declared.

Committee members present: Jason Worthen, Craig Vance, John Machol, Willis Ghandi, Jen Johnson, Hal Needham, Heidi Whitehead, Virgie Greb, Bob Bullwinkel, Karla Klay, and Sharon Tirpak

IV. Conflict Of Interest Declarations

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

V. Requests To Address The Committee

There were no requests to address the committee.

VI. Discuss And Consider Approval Of Meeting Minutes

Motion: Craig Vance made a motion to pass the January meeting minutes.

Second: John Machol

Vote: Approved (11-0)

VII. Recognition Of 'A Friend Of Galveston Beaches'

Mr. Gene Zimmerman was as the honoree for the 'A Friend of Galveston Beaches' recognition.

Mr. Zimmerman joined us as a Galveston resident after retiring from working with the Seattle Fire Department for 36 years. He retired as Deputy Chief in 2018 and came to Galveston. Mr. Zimmerman became the Park Board's first Galveston Beach Ambassador. He has been cleaning the beach with the program weekly since October 2022. He has picked up over 254 lbs of trash and he has picked up 2406 bottle caps on the west end. Gene has joined the Certified Tourism Ambassador Program and is a great advocate for keeping Galveston's beaches beautiful.

VIII. Presentation On The Gulf Center For Sea Turtle Research (Dr. Chris Marshall, 30 Minutes)

Dr. Christopher Marshall presented on the Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research. Dr. Marshall is the Director of the Center that focuses on the protection, restoration research, and community for sea turtle research. The Center is operated through Texas A&M University and many partners. Dr. Marshall informed the group on research he

conducted on sea turtle nests surviving in the wild. He also told the committee about the SHORE facility that the Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research is currently fundraising for. The Center would provide a multitude of opportunities for the public and research community.

IX. Review Of Environmental Coordinator Projects For 2023 (Elizabeth Schneider, 20 Minutes)

Mrs. Elizabeth Schneider presented on the projects she is working on as the Park Board's Environmental Coordinator. She briefed the group on projects undertaken by the Park Board to mitigate the amount of trash ending up on the Galveston beachfront. Pilot projects, ambassador programs, environmental education, and volunteer groups were discussed. Mrs. Schneider also talked about the work the Park Board is doing to increase recycling rates.

X. Update On Dellanera Beach Nourishment Costs And Activities (Sheryl Rozier, 10 Minutes)

Mrs. Sheryl Rozier updated committee members on the beach nourishment project happening in front of Dellanera RV Park. The \$6,800,000 project was near completion and looks like it will be done near the end of February. Mrs. Rozier briefed the group that she understands there has been talk about the speeding dump trucks, and that the contractors on the project have given their truck drivers specific routes they must follow. She also explained there is a project on Stewart Road that is sourcing sand from the same site and has dump trucks driving all day as well.

Mr. Criag Vance asked if the sand nourishment projects will keep moving west after this project. Mrs. Rozier said there is currently an agreement with the GLO for the engineering of nourishment from the end of Dellanera beach to the beachfront at 13-mile road. The GLO is in the process of contracting for the project engineering. Mrs. Rozier said the plans and specifications process takes a little under a year.

XI. Review Of Seaweed Emergency Relocation Program (Elizabeth Schneider, 10 Minutes)

Elizabeth Schneider gave committee members an overview of the Seaweed Emergency Relocation Program that the Park Board runs. The overarching goal of the Seaweed Emergency Relocation Program is to enhance preparedness to be able to respond to an emergency seaweed event that could have lasting impacts on the Island's tourism industry, such as the Summer of Seaweed 2014. This program is aimed to assist Home-Owner Associations and Property Owner Associations in times of emergency sargassum situations.

The Seaweed Emergency Relocation Program requires annual enrollment. The application for 2023 opened on Feb. 1st, 2023, and will close May 31st, 2023.

XII. 2022-2023 Committee Work Plan

The committee is on track with the committee work plan.

XIII. Future Agenda Items

- World Ocean Day Festival Update
- Blue Flag Update
- Sargassum Forecast

XIV. Announcements

The Park Board's Women in Coastal Science series recently won an award at the Houston Galveston Area Council Parks and Natural Areas for Program of the year.

XV. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:46am.