



Park Board of Trustees of the City of Galveston
Workshop
601 Tremont Street, Galveston, Texas 77550

2/12/2019 - Minutes

I. Call Meeting To Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:31 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: Spencer Priest, John Zendt, Maureen Patton, Craig Brown, Jan Collier, Steven Creitz, Victor Viser, Will Wright and Jason Worthen.

Staff Present: Kelly de Schaun, Mike Moser, Schel Heydenburg, Reuben Trevino, Sheryl Rozier and Kimberly Danesi.

IV. Requests To Address The Board

Spencer Priest stated that those wishing to address the Board would be called on when the item is opened for discussion at the table.

V. Discuss Park Board Management Of The City Of Galveston Arts And Historical Preservation HOT Funding (30 Minutes)

Spencer Priest explained that he and Kelly de Schaun had been approached to see if the Park Board was interested in managing the Arts and Historical Preservation HOT funding. He shared that while it makes sense since it ties into what the Park Board does, there are three current Board members who are directly impacted by this funding and this creates a conflict for these trustees. Mr. Priest stated that at the direction of legal counsel, these trustees with conflicts, Maureen Patton, John Zendt and Will Wright will need to leave the table and have a seat in the audience while this item is discussed.

Craig Brown stated that the City is currently evaluating all of their committees not just the Arts and Historic Preservation Fund Advisory Board. He shared that the City passed the ordinance directing this process in 1983 and the City is reviewing to see if changes are needed. Dr. Brown stated that the Park Board specializes in this type of allocation already with special events and it makes sense for them to do this as well.

Kimber Fountain, Chair of the City's Art and Historic Preservation Fund Advisory Board, reviewed the process currently in place for applicants and how the allocation of funds is determined. Dr. Viser inquired if the Arts Board has ever applied for matching grants to this funding. Ms. Fountain stated that this is not in the current scope of the Board but that it is done by many of the individual applicants.

Kelly de Schaun reviewed the documentation included in the meeting packet. These documents included a sample of the distribution of the local HOT collections, the distribution of Arts and Historic funding since 2012 and the current City of Galveston Ordinance regulating the funding. She shared that the current ordinance includes the creation of a reserve fund which could possibly come to the Park Board as well if they take over the management of the funding.

Several members of the audience addressed the Board. Lisa Shaw with the Galveston Arts Center shared the importance of this funding which is applied towards marketing efforts for the recipients. Theresa Elliot with Casa Del Mar stated that while she thinks it is a good idea for the Park Board to manage this funding, she is concerned that the City is looking to keep some of the current allocated funds when it already gets a percentage of the HOT funds for the renovation of City Hall. She shared that the Hotel Industry also shares this concern. Joan Marshall with the Bryan Museum stated that the 1.5 million allocated for the Arts is not a lot of money and would like to see the fund restored to the original full percentage. J.P. Bryan, also with the Bryan Museum, stated that the support of the Arts is very important and that HOT funds are specific in their use to attract visitors that stay overnight on the island. Joyce McLean expressed that the Park Board should be cautious of assuming this management. She shared that during her tenure on the Board, the Downtown Advisory Committee came to the Park Board from the City with funding but after a few years, the City withdrew the funding. Robert Lynch also expressed concern that the funding would not stay and question why the City wants to change the way the funding is currently done. Mary Branum, a current member of the Arts and Historical Preservation Fund Advisory Board, supported the idea of the Park Board taking over management of these funds. Diane Olsen with the Galveston Island Nature Tourism Council and Christine Hopkins, a current member of the Advisory Board both stated that the reserve fund is not necessary and that all of the funding should go to the Park Board if the management is assumed.

Spencer Priest asked all of the Trustees to review the information provided and take into account all of the comments presented. This item will be on the table for discussion at the joint meeting with the City on February 28, 2019.

VI. Receive And Discuss Proposed East End Lagoon Business Plan (30 Minutes)

Kelly de Schaun gave a short history of the East End Lagoon and shared the accomplishments of the Park Board since assuming the management of this area. Mrs. de Schaun walked the Board through the plan highlighting the community input, top headlines, areas of concern and the major opportunities listed. She also noted that this area could play a pivotal role in the storm surge protection plan currently being discussed. Mrs. de Schaun directed the trustees to several pages of case studies of similar areas which showcases several amenities that would be ideal for the East End Lagoon. She reviewed the recommendations from the business plan that include an open air pavilion, several trails, camping and paid fishing. Mrs. de Schaun reminded the trustees that this plan is a high level look at what could be done at East End Lagoon and that there are many details that would have to be worked out before proceeding. She reviewed the Pro Forma Summary which showed that based on the presented business plan, the area would not be profitable until the 8th year. John Zendt stated that the question needing answered is "would the City commit to covering the loss, anticipated at less than \$50,000 a year, to get this plan moving forward since they previously contributed \$75,000 per year?".

Len Waterworth, a member of the East End Lagoon Advisory Committee, addressed the Board. He stated that the East End Lagoon is a unique piece of property and will be an attraction for birding, kayakers and hikers and that this area is an important part of Galveston's attraction portfolio.

Kelly de Schaun shared that the business plan is on the agenda for joint meeting with City Council on February 28, 2019. She stated that the hope is to get consensus on the direction to proceed and then the next step would be to begin working on the specific details needed to move forward.

VII. Future Agenda Items

- Update on Galveston.com task force
- Summer fireworks

VIII. Announcements

- New City Ordinance for overnight parking on the Seawall during Mardi Gras
- Tourism Summit - May 2, 2019

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Schel Heydenburg
Board Reporter

Maureen M. Patton
Board Secretary