



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

3/26/2019 - Minutes

I. Call Meeting To Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 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, Steve Creitz, Victor Viser and Jason Worthen.

Trustees Absent: Will Wright

Staff Present: Kelly de Schaun, Mike Moser, Dan Gundrum, Kimberly Danesi, Reuben Trevino, Bryan Kunz, Peter Davis, Sheryl Rozier, Jaree Fortin, Schel Heydenburg and Carla Cotropia, Legal Counsel.

IV. Conflict Of Interest Declarations

There were no conflicts declared.

V. Requests To Address The Board

Peggy Zahler, Vice President of the West Galveston Island Property Owners Association, (WGIPOA), addressed the Board regarding Agenda Item IX-B. Ms. Zahler read a resolution from WGIPOA in support of the contingency plan in the event of a seaweed inundation and requested that the Board approve this item.

VI. Employee Recognition (Kimberly Danesi, 5 Minutes)

Kimberly Danesi recognized Chief Peter Davis for his upcoming induction into the International Swimming Hall of Fame. Mrs. Danesi shared that Chief Davis was selected for the Paragon Award for his contributions to water safety.

VII. Administration

A. Spring Break Update (Kelly De Schaun, 10 Minutes)

Bryan Kunz reviewed the hotel reported numbers for the week of March 10, 2019 which show a decrease in occupancy and the average daily rate for Spring Break compared to 2018. Mr. Kunz shared that in 2018 nearly all regional school districts and colleges were on break the same week but that this year, there were several who were on break the week of March 17, 2019 and that the numbers for this week were not yet available to report.

Dan Gundrum reviewed the park numbers which encompassed March 9 through March 17, 2019. He reported that the numbers were down compared to last year. Mr. Gundrum stated that the weather this year was damp and foggy and the beach water temperature was still in the 60's.

B. Discuss The Results Of The 2018 Employee Engagement Survey (Kimberly Danesi, 10 Minutes)

Kimberly Danesi reviewed the survey results. She shared that the survey done annually is administered by a third party and that the results from the Park Board are compared to not only the year over year Park Board results, but also to over 10,000 employees surveyed across the country. Mrs. Danesi reported that the Park Board surveys only the full time employees and of those, 89% participated. She shared that the Park Board once again had positive results with 9.2 of out 10 employees being satisfied. Mrs. Danesi stated that the strengths noted on the survey included rewarding job, meaningful work, relationships, teamwork and leadership. She also shared the areas noted for improvement based on the survey which included compensation, benefits and work life balance and reviewed the action plans being taken to address these areas.

C. Update And Discussion And Interlocal Agreement Negotiations With City Of Galveston (Carla Cotropia, 15 Minutes)

Carla Cotropia shared that the original document was written in a way that appeared to suggest that the Park Board was doing something wrong but that the City does not believe this and stated so in the joint meetings held to discuss the agreement. Ms. Cotropia stated that the meetings have been going well and that there has been a lot of progress. She shared that she has rewritten the agreement based on the conversations at the joint meetings and that there are only a couple of items still needing agreement on between the two entities. Craig Brown stated he believes staff will have this agreement resolved and ready to go to the Board and City Council for approval at the next meetings.

D. Report On State And Federal Legislative Efforts (Kelly De Schaun, 10 Minutes)

Kelly de Schaun gave an overview of recent legislative efforts at both the State and Federal level. This included Mrs. de Schaun participating in the Galveston County Day at the Capitol in Austin on March 6, 2019 where her group was able to meet with representatives from five legislative offices, including two legislators. Mrs. de Schaun also shared that while in Austin, she attended a reception honoring Babe Schwartz and stayed over an extra day to work with Ryan Brannan on support for CEPRA funding bills. She also reported that she and Victor Viser visited Washington DC and while there they met with the National Endowment for the Arts about grants. She also shared that they met with staff from both Senator Cruz and Senator Cornyn's offices as well as Representative Randy Weber to discuss the Park Board's legislative agenda.

E. Presentation Of Budget Calendar (Mike Moser, 10 Minutes)

Mike Moser shared the projected 2019-2020 budget calendar for presentations of the proposed budget to the Board and Committees. He stated that the goal is to have the public hearing and Board approval of the budget on September 18, 2019.

VIII. Tourism Development

A. Discuss And Consider Agreement With Univision Radio To Host 2019 Music Festival At East Beach (Bryan Kunz, 10 Minutes)

Nester Enriquez with Univision gave a short presentation on the music festival being planned for East Beach. He shared the history of this event and that Univision also hosts these in New York, Miami and Dallas and that in 2018 it was held in Houston. Bryan Kunz shared that Univision will be working with the Galveston Police Department on their security plan and will be bringing in vendors for the area such as retail and food. He also stated that the Convention and Visitor's Bureau team would be working with Univision to market this event.

Motion: John Zendt motioned to approve the agreement with Univision to host the music festival at East Beach.

Second: Maureen Patton seconded.

Vote: Approved (8-0)

- B. Discuss And Consider Instructions To The Tourism Development Advisory Committee Regarding Feedback On Planning Opportunities And Concerns Surrounding Cruise Markets In The Port Of Galveston Master Plan (Kelly De Schaun, 15 Minutes)

Kelly de Schaun thanked those that participated in the sessions done by the Port on their master plan. She stated that this is currently the biggest investment in the tourism industry for Galveston and she gave an overview of the Plan as it relates to the Cruise business. Mrs. de Schaun shared that as the tourism bureau for Galveston it is important that the Park Board be part of this planning to make sure that it complements the vision for Galveston and is not a detriment to the city. Mrs. de Schaun reviewed the feedback letter she submitted to the Port and asked for the Board to determine if this was sufficient feedback or if they would like the Tourism Development Advisory Committee (TDAC) to further look at the issue. She shared that Roger Rees, the Port Director, has been invited to present to TDAC as well.

Craig Brown suggested that the Wharves Board and Park Board of Trustees should consider having occasional joint meetings to open the communication dialogue between the two entities. He stated that the Port is not looking at tourism and that this would be beneficial to both entities. Several concerns and questions were discussed by the trustees including impacts on the island's resources, businesses on the island and traffic concerns.

Motion: Victor Viser motioned to instruct the Tourism Development Advisory Committee to review the Port Master Plan and the impacts it would have on the long term tourism vision for the island, local retail, hotels and bars, transportation and resources and develop a plan for engagement with the Wharves Board.

Second: Jan Collier seconded.

Vote: Approved (8-0)

IX. Operations

- A. Discuss And Consider The Execution Of An Interlocal Agreement With The City Of Galveston Related To Opportunities To Leverage Existing City Of Galveston Procurement Contracts (Sheryl Rozier, 10 Minutes)

Sheryl Rozier explained that the interlocal would permit the Park Board to use the City's procured contractors and services. She stated that this was predicated by staff's discovery that the City had recently put out an invitation to bid for demolition services which the Park Board would also have to do for the demolition of the Mardi Gras Warehouse. Mrs. Rozier shared that staff reached out to the City's procurement department regarding this and that this interlocal would allow the Park Board to contract with vendors that have already gone through the City's due diligence. Craig Brown stated that the City could be voting on this interlocal agreement at their March 28, 2019 Council meeting.

Motion: John Zendt motioned to approve the Interlocal agreement.

Second: Craig Brown seconded.

Vote: Approved (8-0)

- B. Discuss And Consider Allowing Park Board Staff To Establish And Manage A Seaweed Contingency Plan For Extreme Inundation Events And Authorize The Executive Director To Enter Into Agreements That Follow The Terms And Conditions Of The Proposed Program. (Reuben Trevino 10 Min)

Reuben Trevino reviewed the proposed program and associated fees. He stated that the implementation

of this program would be effective only in extreme seaweed inundations such as the one that occurred the Summer of 2014. Mr. Trevino reported that this plan came about after several discussions with property owners and was presented to WGIPOA members and East End property management. He clarified that this program would cover the areas not under management of the Park Board and would only be available to those properties/individuals who register in advance so that proper planning can be made. Kelly de Schaun explained that for litter debris, the Park Board cleans the island's beaches from tip to tip but that seaweed management is only done in the areas that the Park Board manages. She explained that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is working to create a regional permit that would allow these entities to work under on it but that this process could take approximately three years to complete.

Motion: Victor Viser motioned to approve the proposed contingency plan with an additional \$250.00 administrative fee added to those costs and to authorize the Executive Director to enter into agreements for this program.

Second: Jan Collier seconded.

Vote: Approved (8-0)

- C. Discuss And Consider Allowing Or Not Allowing 3rd Parties To Operate Under The United States Army Corps Of Engineers Beach Maintenance Permit. #SWG-2014-00448 To Provide Self-Service Seaweed Relocation And Authorize The Executive Director To Execute Agreements That Comply With All Terms And Conditions Proposed. (Reuben Trevino 10 Min)

Reuben Trevino shared that the Park Board was approached by an individual property that purchased their own beach cleaning equipment about working under the Park Board's U.S.A.C.E. beach cleaning permit while the regional permit is being developed. Jason Worthen expressed concern that allowing this could have the same result as occurred in 2018 with a vendor the Park Board allowed to work under the permit. Craig Brown agreed. Mr. Trevino shared that this could be a pilot program to see how allowing property owners with their own equipment would work. Spencer Priest recommended that this go to the Beach Maintenance Advisory Committee to work out the specific details such as process for compliance, complaints and quality control.

Motion: Victor Viser motioned to send this item to the Beach Maintenance Advisory Committee to define the specifics.

Second: Maureen Patton seconded.

Vote: Approved (7-1, Worthen opposed)

X. Executive Session

The Board entered into Executive Session at 4:32 p.m.

- A. Pursuant To Texas Government Code Section 551.071 - Consultation With Attorney And Section 551.074 - Personnel Discussion - Discuss Complaint Made To The City Manager Regarding Park Board Compensation Practices

XI. Discuss Complaint Made To The City Manager Regarding Park Board Compensation Practices (Craig Brown, 10 Minutes)

The meeting reconvened at 5:25 p.m.

Spencer Priest shared that the Park Board became aware of a complaint regarding the compensation practices when the City Council posted an item on their agenda regarding the complaint. Mr. Priest stated that he had requested information from the City on this complaint but has not received any information at this time. Kimberly Danesi gave an overview of the Park Board compensation policy and how it is

implemented. She shared that currently the Park Board is working with the City of Galveston and the Port of Galveston on a third party compensation study. Mrs. Danesi said that a compensation study had been done previously and the current pay scale the Park Board uses was compiled from this information. She stated that during the annual review process, if the Board has approved a merit increase for the year, these funds are used to determine, based on merit, if and what raise an employee receives and that these are reviewed and approved by herself, Kelly de Schaun and Mike Moser before implemented. Mrs. Danesi stated that the pay scales are used to ensure that no employee receives funds over the amount in their classification and that this past year, there were several employees who did not receive a pay increase since they were already at the maximum amount in their classifications pay range. She also shared that there are six sales employees in the Convention and Visitor's Bureau that receive incentives based on quantitative goals established at the beginning of each year. Carla Cotropia stated that these incentives are done as allowed by law. Kelly de Schaun also shared that the Park Board is audited and the use of Hotel Occupancy Tax is part of these audits. Spencer Priest recommended that the Finance and Operations Committee review the compensation practices.

XII. Consent

John Zendt requested that Consent Item C be voted on as a separate item.

Motion: Maureen Patton motioned to approve Consent Agenda items A and B.

Second: Steven Creitz seconded.

Vote: Approved (8-0)

John Zendt recommended that fireworks only be done on the 4th of July since Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends are already busy on the island.

Motion: John Zendt motioned to approve the 4th of July Fireworks display.

Second: Victor Viser seconded.

Vote: Approved (7-1, Worthen Opposed)

Motion: Jan Collier motioned to not have fireworks displays on Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends.

Second: Maureen Patton seconded.

Vote: Approved (8-0)

- A. Discuss And Consider Approval Of Park Board Of Trustees Meeting Minutes
- B. Discuss And Consider Amending Existing Agreement With Good Vibes Surf Lessons To Include Surf Board Rentals (Dan Gundrum)
- C. Discuss And Consider Approval Of Contract With Sky Wonder Pyrotechnics For 2019 Fireworks Displays (Dan Gundrum)

XIII. Future Agenda Items

- Fema Update
- Galveston.com Update
- Funds for Holidays
- March Results

XIV. Announcements

XV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

Schel Heydenburg
Board Reporter

Maureen M. Patton
Board Secretary