

## **Media Contact**

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## **Galveston Park Board Update: June 30, 2016**

The Galveston Park Board of Trustees held its regular meeting at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 28 at Park Board Plaza. Below is an update of news from the boardroom.

### **Park Board Approves Drainage Study Contract**

The Park Board has taken a step forward in improving drainage issues at Galveston's beaches. At its meeting Tuesday, the board approved a contract with Houston-based Atkins North America, Inc. to conduct a drainage study at Stewart Beach and East Beach. According to the contract, Atkins North America will review the beach parks with respect to drainage, reconnaissance and observation during wet weather, and provide recommendations for solutions. Currently, the two beach parks flood during rainy weather having a negative effect on parking and special events held there. Per the agreement, the scope of engineering services provided by Atkins will not exceed \$233,818, which will be paid from settlement money stemming from Park Board revenue losses during the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

### **Park Board Begins Budget Process for 2016-2017**

At its meeting Tuesday, the Park Board began the budgeting process for the 2016-2017 fiscal year by setting Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) revenue projections. The Park Board, which is funded in part by HOT revenues, receives six percentage points of the 15% hotel tax paid when visitors spend the night at Galveston hotel or lodging venues. On Tuesday, the board estimated its HOT revenues to come in at \$12 million next year, a 26% increase from how the board budgeted for its current October 2015-September 2016 fiscal year. Tax revenues for the current year are tracking 20% over budget. The Park Board expects hotel revenues to increase next year as a result of higher average daily rates and several new hotels set to open in the coming months. The HOT revenues received by the Park Board funds several of the organization's departments, including Beach Nourishment, Beach Maintenance, the Galveston Island Beach Patrol and the Galveston Island Convention & Visitors Bureau.

### **Park Board Sets Limits for Sales Staff Commissions**

The Park Board Tuesday voted to keep a commission-based incentive program for the Galveston Island Convention and Visitors Bureau's (CVB) sales team and director and to eliminate a similar program for the rest of the CVB's staff. The incentive program caps commissions at 15% for six sales people and the director and will be awarded only if sales goals are met. Staff members who are not in sales positions will be eligible for performance-based pay increases annually.

### **Announcements**

- The Park Board Tuesday approved the purchase of a Ford Transit Connection wagon from Galveston's Classic Auto Group for \$23,779.94. The vehicle will be used by CVB staff for sales and marketing initiatives.
- At its meeting Tuesday the Park Board approved a \$3,000 special event funding request from the Redfish Rodeo fishing tournament to take place Sept. 15-17 at Galveston's Pelican Rest Marina. The funds will provide event organizers with marketing and advertising support.

### **About the Park Board of Trustees**

The Park Board of Trustees oversees beach maintenance and tourism development on Galveston Island, including operations for beach cleaning, the Galveston Island Beach Patrol and the Galveston Island Convention & Visitors Bureau. For more information on the Park Board of Trustees, please visit [www.galvestonparkboard.org](http://www.galvestonparkboard.org).

