

## **Media Contact**

Mary Beth Bassett  
Public Relations Coordinator  
Park Board of Trustees  
Office: 409-797-5121  
Email: [mbassett@galvestonparkboard.org](mailto:mbassett@galvestonparkboard.org)



---

## **Galveston Park Board Update: March 11, 2016**

The Galveston Park Board of Trustees held its regular meeting at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 8 at Park Board Plaza. Below is an update of news from the boardroom.

### **Park Board Staff to Maintain Seawall Restrooms & Amenities**

This summer, the City of Galveston will add amenities to Seawall Urban Beach Park. The amenities include plumbed restrooms, bus shelters with benches, landscaping and bike racks. On Tuesday, the board approved entering into an agreement with the city to perform maintenance for those amenities. Park Board staff will be responsible for cleaning restrooms regularly and providing additional litter control. The budget this year for maintaining the amenities is \$150,000 for labor, supplies and equipment. Funding will come from seawall parking revenues.

### **Park Board Receives Legislative Agenda Update**

On Tuesday, Trustee Clyde Steddum gave the board an update on a recent trip concerning the board's legislative agenda. In February, Steddum, along with Executive Director Kelly de Schaun, Director of Operations, Reuben Trevino and legislative consultants from Van Scoyoc Associates, met with legislators in Washington, D.C. to provide updates about recent and future nourishment projects in Galveston and thank them for their support. The group met with officials representing the offices of Rep. Filemon Vela, Rep. Blake Farenthold, Sen. Ted Cruz, Sen. John Cornyn and Rep. Randy Weber. In addition, the group met with a representative from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

### **Park Board Approves Interlocal Agreement with County for Beach Pocket Parks**

On Tuesday, the park board approved an interlocal agreement with Galveston County for upgrades and maintenance at West End Pocket Parks 1 and 2. The board and the county will open the pocket parks for the 2016 beach season and have agreed to implement repairs and improve the parks. Pocket Park 3 has been relinquished back to the county and will remain closed until the park's pavilion and other structures are demolished and plans for replacing them are put into place.

### **Board Awards Hotel Occupancy Tax Audit Contract**

At its meeting Tuesday, the board awarded a contract to Delaware-based MuniServices to conduct regular audits on Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) collections. According to a management agreement with the city, the Park Board will oversee ten audits by Sept. 30, 2016. Each audit will cost \$2,600. Funding for the audits will come from several budget line items, including special projects. The City of Galveston auditor will oversee the auditors' work. These audits will be conducted randomly and the goal of the audits is to foster integrity to the process and determine that entities paying HOT pay the correct amount.

### **Park Board Receives Annual Audit Results**

At its meeting Tuesday, the Park Board heard highlights from its annual audit. Performed by Houston based Ham, Langston & Brezina, LLP, the audit was positive and showed no significant findings.

### **Board Approves \$50,000 Renewal Contract with Coastal Strategies Group**

The board Tuesday approved a \$50,000 renewal with High-Island based Coastal Strategies Group, LLC. The firm will provide assistance with identifying grant opportunities and coordinating efforts with state agencies for beach nourishment, dune restoration and permitting. Recently, the firm was successful in garnering \$800,000 in grant funding for coastal nourishment projects to be undertaken in Galveston. The board expects to see continued success in these efforts.

## **Announcements**

- On Tuesday, the Park Board approved a vendor contract with Galveston-based Ocean Tribe, which will provide stand up paddleboard and kayak rentals at the East End Lagoon.

**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).

###