



Media Contact

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Galveston Park Board Update: March 13, 2014

The Galveston Park Board of Trustees held its regularly scheduled meeting at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 11 at Park Board Plaza. Below is an update of news from the boardroom.

Board Votes in Support of Galveston Trolley System

On Tuesday, the Park Board of Trustees approved a resolution supporting efforts to bring a trolley system back to Galveston. The Park Board's Tourism Development Advisory Committee (TDAC) has come up with a suggested plan to bring the system back. The plan recommends the City of Galveston fund and operate a trolley system on the same route that existed prior to Hurricane Ike. The board's resolution included a recommendation for the creation of a committee to oversee the implementation of rubber-tire trolleys intended for tourist transportation servicing downtown Galveston and areas of the seawall and Moody Gardens. The resolution – and additional recommendations from other local organizations including the University of Texas Medical Branch – will be brought before Galveston City Council in the future.

Beach Patrol to Staff Lifeguards at San Luis Pass during 2014 Beach Season

In an ongoing effort to protect Galveston beach goers, the Park Board Tuesday approved the addition of lifeguard services at San Luis Pass for the 2014 beach season. Lifeguards will be posted in the San Luis Pass area, located on the island's West End, on weekends this spring through Labor Day. The area already has posted warning signs and is monitored by Galveston Island Beach Patrol. However, due to the treacherous nature of the Pass' waters, and a history of incidents in the area, the board deemed the lifeguard service necessary for public safety. The additional services will cost \$64,182 from the board's contingency fund.

Funding Approved for Partnership with Greater Houston Convention & Visitors Bureau

Tuesday, the Park Board of Trustees agreed to dedicate \$26,100 from its special projects fund to a one-year partnership with the Greater Houston Convention & Visitors Bureau (GHCVB). The partnership will allow the Galveston Island Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) to have access to qualified meeting leads from the GHCVB sales team. The Galveston CVB will also partner with the GHCVB for several national tradeshow.

Galveston Experiences Successful 2014 Mardi Gras Celebration

This year's Mardi Gras Galveston celebration was successful with a 1.6 % increase in overall hotel occupancy and a 13.2% increase in hotel revenue compared to 2013. During Mardi Gras 2014, the island welcomed 238,031 cars over the causeway, a 17.1% increase compared to 2013. Entertainment District ticket sales also increased by 15% compared to Mardi Gras Galveston 2013.

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.

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