

**Media Contact**

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## **Galveston Park Board Update: May 15, 2015**

The Galveston Park Board of Trustees held its regular meeting at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 12 at Park Board Plaza. Below is an update of news from the boardroom.

### **Park Board to Partner in Bird Protection Program**

On Tuesday, the Park Board agreed to partner with the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) and the Houston Audubon Society (HAS) on a beach-nesting bird protection, monitoring and outreach program at East Beach. The program, funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Coastal Program, will help protect nesting Least Terns, Wilsons and Snowy Plovers nesting at East Beach. The Park Board will provide support for the conservation activities that include monitoring nesting birds and providing interpretive services. In addition, Park Board staff will help promote the program through its web site and other social media platforms. The conservation program began in April and will continue through early September.

### **Park Board Appoints Peggy Zahler to Beach Maintenance Advisory Committee**

On Tuesday, the Park Board appointed Galveston resident Peggy Zahler to the Beach Maintenance Advisory Committee (BMAC). Zahler serves as vice chair for the West Galveston Island Property Owners Association and will take the BMAC seat of Claire Reiswerg of Sand 'N Sea Properties. BMAC reviews and makes recommendations regarding beach maintenance and restoration in Galveston.

### **Russ Kuykendall Named Seawolf Park Manager**

At its regular meeting on Tuesday, the Park Board introduced the organization's new Seawolf Park manager, Russ Kuykendall. Kuykendall comes to the Park Board with 20 years of service to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at the San Jacinto Battleground Monument and the Battleship Texas State Historic Site. As Seawolf Park manager, he will oversee the historic monuments at Seawolf Park's American Undersea Warfare Center, including the USS Cavalla WWII era submarine and the USS Stewart destroyer escort ship.

### **Park Board Approves Concessionaire Agreement with MOD Coffeehouse**

On Tuesday, the Park Board approved a concessionaire agreement with local business, MOD Coffeehouse. This summer, MOD will operate vending trucks at Izard Battery Park (also known as Crockett Park) along the Seawall and at the East End Lagoon along Boddecker Drive. MOD will offer coffee, tea, smoothies and packaged snacks at these sites.

### **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).

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