



Media Contact

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Galveston Park Board Update: September 14, 2016

The Galveston Park Board of Trustees held its regular meeting at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 13 at Park Board Plaza. Below is an update of news from the boardroom.

Park Board Approves \$18.5 million Operating Budget

At its meeting Tuesday, the Park Board approved the organization's operating budget for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. The \$18,551,042 budget represents an 18% increase over the 2015-2016 operating budget in part because of projected increases in hotel occupancy tax collections. Park Board manages various funds, including tourism development, beach cleaning, beach patrol, debt service, grants, beach nourishment, sand replenishment and general administration. The Park Board is funded in part by state hotel occupancy tax revenue and beach user fees. Additional funding comes from various grants and reimbursements. The organization receives no property or sales taxes from the City of Galveston.

Park Board Appoints Committee Members

On Tuesday, Park Board Chairwoman Joyce Calver McLean appointed board members to serve on its advisory committees. The appointments are: Tourism Development Advisory Committee -- Maureen Patton chairwoman, committee members Buzz Elton, Spencer Priest and Thayer Evans; Beach Maintenance Advisory Committee – Buzz Elton chairman, committee member Rocky Sullivan; Parks and Amenities Advisory Committee – Thayer Evans chairman, committee member Joyce Calver McLean; East End Lagoon Advisory Committee – John Zendt vice chairman; Finance Committee – John Zendt chairman, committee members Rocky Sullivan, Buzz Elton, Spencer Priest and Kerry Tillmon; Downtown Oversight Committee – Joyce Calver McLean chairwoman.

Park Board Approves Tourism Development Contracts

On Tuesday, the Park Board approved a \$23,420 contract renewal with Virginia-based CVent and an \$18,658 contract renewal with Florida-based Naylor LLC. CVent is a software firm that provides lead generation for meetings and events. During the current fiscal year, CVent provided 92 leads to the Galveston Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) with the potential for \$21 million in revenue. Naylor LLC is the official publisher of the trade publications *Texas Society of Association Executives*, *Meeting Professionals International Dallas Chapter*, *Meeting Professionals International Potomac Chapter* and the *American Society of Association Executives*. The CVB advertises with these publications to promote Galveston as a top meeting destination in Texas. The contract provides for prime placement in its membership guides, web sites and directories.

Park Board Approves Contract Renewal for Legislative Services

At its meeting Tuesday, the Park Board approved a \$60,000 contract renewal with Washington-based Van Scoyoc Associates for professional services in the fields of government and public affairs. This marks the third year the Park Board has contracted with the firm that has been critical in developing and maintaining relationships with elected officials and federal agencies. The firm assists the Park Board in achieving objectives on its legislative agenda that include beach nourishment and tourism-related issues. In addition, the firm offers assistance in grant writing and facilitating payments from FEMA and other agencies.

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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