

## **Media Contact**

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## **Galveston Park Board Update: November 14, 2017**

The Galveston Park Board of Trustees held its regular meeting at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 24 at Park Board Plaza. Below is an update of news from the boardroom.

### **Legislative Agenda**

Nourishment, RESTORE, keep the government from harmful policies. Continual material placement with as much federal funding as possible. On Tuesday, the Park Board approved the purchase of four vehicles for Beach Patrol to replace vehicles in its fleet. Lone Star National Coastal Recreation Area.

### **Park Board Overview of 2017 Federal Legislative Agenda**

At its meeting Tuesday, the Park Board overview of its 2017 federal legislative agenda. Key focus areas of the agenda include federal engagement in beach management, coastal restoration, tourism promotion and the national flood insurance program and the establishment of the Lone Star Coastal National Recreation Area. Agenda items provide the basis for visits to federal legislators undertaken by Park Board trustees and staff throughout the year. Washington-based Van Scoyoc Associates prepared the agenda. The Park Board also approved a \$60,000 contract renewal with Van Scoyoc Associates for their services in the fields of government and public affairs. This marks the fourth year the Park Board has contracted with the firm to assist the Park Board in achieving the objectives laid out in the agenda. Developing relationships.

### **Park Board Approves Funding for Future Cheer Power Competitions**

Cheer Power has held their January competition for the last 5 years at Moody Gardens and is contracted for 2020 with funding as a line item in the TD budget. Galveston was able to bring this competition back to Galveston from NRG convention center by offering funding to offset some hard costs. For 2012-2105 we gave them \$20,580.00 to offset costs and they requested an increase in 2012 for the next two years at \$25,160.00 Staff Recommendation: This event has been a great fit for Galveston in early January. This last year we were able to confirm 1906 TRN as they have had their housing company work closely with us. We know that there are many more rooms consumed during this event as it draws 6,000 to 10,000 people. For 2021-2025, after discussion with Moody Gardens, the request is for \$20,000.00, \$14,000.00 for convention center rental and \$6,000.00 bleacher removal. They are requesting contracts with Moody Gardens for 2021-2025 based on receiving this funding. The dates are: 1-14/17-21, 1-13/16-22, 1-12/15-23, 1-11/14-24 and 1-16/19-25. Staff recommends we continue to fund this event at \$20,000.00 per year due to the time frame the competition is held and the compression it creates for the Island.

### **Park Board Approves Installation of Parking Pay Stations**

Solar powered pay stations at Jimmy's on the Pier and Galveston Fishing Pier. Merchants have been asked.

Outside. Machines cost \$19,156 including installation of both. Allowing people to use credit cards.

### **Park Board Approves 2017-2018 Business Plan**

Park Board Business Plans Approved At its meeting Tuesday, the Park Board approved annual business plans for its departments. The plans include project descriptions, completion dates, funding sources and identify those responsible for completing the projects. The business plans can be viewed on line at [www.galvestonparkboard.org](http://www.galvestonparkboard.org).

At its meeting Tuesday, the Park Board approved the organization's business plan for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. Executive Director Kelly de Schaun outlined the 2017-2018. Kelly de Schaun presented results from the 2016-2017 business plan. She pointed out that Park Board staff sales, sports tourism, convention services, CTA program, marketing and public relations, social media, surpassed room night goals by 40% (?) nine city wide events, 150 FAM, 20 client events in major markets. New business accounted for 65% sports tourism sales initiative water-quality issues and park revenues.

### **Park Board On Short List for RESTORE Funds**

The Galveston Park Board received word that we're in line to receive more than \$10 million in federal grants for two coastal improvement projects on the island. We were notified today that the two projects for which we submitted RESTORE grant applications have been submitted to the State Treasury for final approval. The Park Board requested \$9 million to support the continuation of a beach nourishment program that will place sand on the beach from 61<sup>st</sup> to 103<sup>rd</sup> streets over the next two to three years. In addition, we applied for more than \$1.4 million for a pavilion construction project at the East End Lagoon. The projects – a sand nourishment project along the seawall and a pavilion construction project at the East End Lagoon – have entered into the second round of the approval process to receive funds from the federal Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities and Revived Economies (RESTORE) Act, stemming from the Deepwater Horizon spill in 2011. Shovel ready projects will receive priority. Reimbursement model. 2019 and 2021. Army Corps GLO. Having been green-lighted by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Park Board's grant application will move to a final review before being submitted to the U.S. Treasury for acceptance. **Park**

### **Board Approves Amendments to Human Resources Policies**

At its meeting Tuesday, the Park Board approved changes in the organization's human resources policies. In an effort to become more in line with the City of Galveston and the Port of Galveston, the changes will give full-time employees more vacation time at shorter intervals of employment. The Park Board also approved an unpaid leave policy. Sick time and holiday pay policies.

Update on HOT and park revenues

Exceed 8% above last year's collections in September 11% over budget.

EELAC

Overview: Over the last year EELAC has had multiple conversations about the viability of the East End Lagoon (EEL), revenue streams, operational costs and maintenance expenses. To date the Park Board and EELAC have been operating and making decisions for the EEL based on the master plan done in 2010 by AECOM. This master plan is a very valuable document and was developed with a great deal of public support and input. This plan in its entirety should not be overlooked, but sections of the business aspect of the document need to be reviewed based on current day values and data. Through conversations with City Council, IDC, City Staff and EELAC, during the last budget process, it was recommended that this topic be researched more thoroughly culminating in a more current business plan for the EEL. This plan should review and reduce physical construction based on site constraints and maintenance costs, review and vet construction costs, evaluate and project revenue streams based on appropriate activities on site and look for alternate funding streams for the area. Some of this information will come out of dialogue and engagement with organizations and individuals that were not part of the process in 2010. The schedule for this work should run from December to May, culminating in a five year, minimum, phased approach business plan. This proposal was reviewed and a motion to send it to the Trustees was made at the EELAC meeting on November 1, 2017. The motion was unanimous with revisions per staff that have been addressed in the attached proposal. Staff Recommendation: Per EELAC recommendation, staff recommends executing the Proposal for a Business Plan for the East End Lagoon with Rathburn Planning & Consulting. Funding Source (if a budgetary item): FY 2017-2018 East End Lagoon Budget (EL-70-5204) -- \$35,000

**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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