

Media Contact

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Galveston Park Board Update: September 26, 2017

The Galveston Park Board of Trustees held its regular meeting 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 26 at Park Board Plaza. Below is an update of news from the boardroom.

Galveston Film Festival to Debut in October 2018

At its meeting Tuesday, the Park Board approved up to \$10,000 in incubator funding to support the first Galveston Island Film Festival slated for Oct. 5-7, 2018. The festival will feature panel discussions, film screenings, seminars, master classes and networking opportunities all while providing exposure of Galveston to the film industry. Incubator funding is intended to support start-up events on the island. Funding is contingent on hotel room nights and may not exceed 50% of an event's total operating budget.

Park Board Approves Funds for Cavalla Historical Foundation Upgrades

On Tuesday, the Park Board approved a funding request for \$11,300 for the Cavalla Historical Foundation to make upgrades at its facility at Seawolf Park. The funds will help the foundation make repairs to the USS Stewart and USS Cavalla in order to remain in compliance with U.S. Navy requirements. The repairs include bilge cleaning and repair, metal plate fabrication and air conditioning unit replacement. The foundation has earmarked \$11,300 of its own funds for the repairs and the Park Board's contribution will serve as a match.

Park Board Approves Funds for Downtown Holiday Decorations

On Tuesday the Park Board approved Houston-based PeopleGeneration as the vendor to provide enhanced downtown holiday decorations this fall. At its Aug. 22 meeting, the Park Board approved a \$35,000 spend for the decorations and directed staff to seek out a vendor. The firm will provide the decorations, set-up, regular maintenance, staffing and tear down. The decorations will be placed in Saengerfest Park from November to late December. The decorations will consist of lights, lanterns and a giant snow globe that will serve as a prop for photo opportunities. Park Board staff determined that the decorations will help to attract visitors to downtown during the holiday season.

Park Board Approves New Pay Scale for Beach Patrol Staff

On Tuesday, the Park Board approved a separate pay scale for its full-time, year-round beach patrol staff. Park Board staff examined market data to establish salary minimums, midpoints and maximums in comparison to similar public safety entities in the local market, including the Galveston Police Department and UTMB's police force. Staff determined that beach patrol duties require a stand-alone pay scale for several reasons, including required periodic physical fitness tests, certifications maintenance, frequent night-time calls and a high level of personal risk. The new pay scale is intended to retain staff for a longer period of time and to create a more defined career path for employees.

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.

Park Board Approves Contract for Stewart Beach Pavilion Painting

At its meeting Tuesday, the Park Board approved a contract with Galveston-based J.W. Kelso Company for painting services at the Stewart Beach Pavilion. The contract is for \$47,707 and services include painting the pavilion's facades, stairwells, handicap ramp, second and third floor breezeways and second floor bathrooms. Painting is expected to begin in October. Funds for the project come from Stewart Beach capitol funds.

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.