

Media Contact

Mary Beth Bassett
Public Affairs Manager
Park Board of Trustees
Office: 409-797-5121
Email: mbassett@galvestonparkboard.org



Galveston Park Board Update: July 25, 2018

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

Park Board to Renourish Babe's Beach in April 2019

At its meeting Tuesday, the Park Board approved a contract with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a beach nourishment project. The project will take place in April 2019 at Babe's Beach, a new beach created west of 61st Street in 2015. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will dredge the Houston/Galveston ship channel and place the dredged sand along the existing beach. The project is expected to place an estimated 1 million cubic yards of sand along the half-mile stretch of beach. The Park Board expected to receive \$4.5 million for the project through the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability Tourism Opportunities and Revived Economies Act (RESTORE) funding but the funds will not arrive in time to secure the contract. In order to ensure that the project moves forward, the Texas General Land Office increased its contribution to the \$23 million project from \$3 million to \$6 million. The Galveston Industrial Development Corporation will consider an additional \$500,000 contribution for a total of \$2 million.

Park Board Votes to End Third Party Beach Cleaning

On Tuesday, the Park Board voted to change its policy that allows third-party operators to clean beaches under its federal permit. Current third-party operators can continue cleaning through December 2018 after which they will be required to obtain their own permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the areas they clean. The Park Board determined the third-party operators place the organization at risk of losing its permit because of discrepancies between property owners' requests and provisions of the Park Board's permit.

New Board Members Sworn In, Chairman Elected

At its meeting Tuesday, the Park Board swore in two new trustees, Jason Worthen and Jan Collier. They will replace outgoing trustee Rocky Sullivan and chairwoman Joyce Calver McLean. Maureen Patton was reappointed in June and will serve two terms. Trustee Spencer Priest was elected to serve as chairman of the board. Other officers named at the meeting were John Zendt, vice chair and Maureen Patton, secretary.

Park Board to Fund Fall Fishing Events

On Tuesday, the Park Board approved funding for two fishing events to take place in the fall, the Galveston Fishing Rodeo to take place Oct. 1-31, and the Fall Flounder Classic scheduled for Nov. 1 – Dec. 31. The Galveston Professional Boatmen's Association will organize both events. Fishing and outdoor recreation have recently been identified as areas of focus for tourism in Galveston and these events are designed to promote the sport and to attract anglers and their families. They will also allow organizers to collect visitor data from participants in order to refine future marketing efforts. The Park Board approved up to \$10,000 for each event with funds coming from the Special Event Incubator Budget. The exact funding amount will be determined after the events' economic impacts are calculated.

Park Board to Place Recycling Receptacles on Seawall

At its meeting Tuesday, the Park Board approved the purchase of 20 recycling receptacles and a multi-compartment recycling station. The receptacles will be placed along the Seawall near bus shelters and the station will be placed on the beach in a location to be determined. Local conservation organization Artist Boat obtained \$16,745 in funds for the items through a grant from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. They are expected to be in place in early 2019.

Park Board to Expand Downtown Holiday Lighting Displays

On Tuesday, the Park Board approved funding for expanded holiday decorations in downtown Galveston. The decorations will consist of lighted arches and garlands that will stretch across downtown streets, a replica of a Victorian house in Saengerfest Park that will serve as a photo opportunity for visitors and festive exterior lighting for several buildings along Strand Street. The decorations will cost a total of \$65,764.66. Funds will come from the tourism development marketing budget.

East End Lagoon Update

New trails, plans for a remediated dock area and the construction of a pavilion are among improvements in the works at the East End Lagoon. Park Board Project Manager presented an update about plans for the site on Tuesday. She told the board that in June, crews completed the construction of ADA accessible trails and parking areas. A grant from the Texas General Land Office will fund a cleanup at the site's dock area allowing for safe access for non-motorized watercraft, like kayaks and stand up paddleboards. That project is expected to be completed by summer 2019. Architectural renderings for an open air pavilion at the site have been completed and construction is expected to begin after the receipt of \$1.35 million in RESTORE funds for which the project has been short-listed.

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.

###