

Media Contact

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Galveston Park Board Update: January 21, 2019

The Galveston Park Board of Trustees held its regular meeting at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21 at Park Board Plaza. Below is an update of news from the boardroom.

Board Approves for Babe's Beach Nourishment

At its meeting Tuesday, the Park Board approved a contract with the Texas General Land Office (GLO) a beach nourishment project at Babe's Beach. The project is set to begin late spring or early summer and is expected place 800,000 cubic yards of sand along Babe's Beach from 61st to 83rd Street. The project will use sand dredged from the Houston-Galveston ship channel and will cost \$24.5 million. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will contribute \$14,500,000, the GLO will contribute \$7,750,000, the City of Galveston's Industrial Development Corporation will contribute \$2,000,000 and the Park Board will contribute \$750,000. The project is slated to be completed late summer.

Park Board Defers Decision on Summer Fireworks

At its meeting Tuesday, the Park Board voted to defer making a decision on the continuation of fireworks shows on Sundays during the summer season. In 2017 and 2018 the Park Board contracted for 14 shows from June through August on Sunday nights from 37th Street and Seawall Boulevard at a cost of \$60,200. The Sunday fireworks shows are a draw for visitors and have proven to encourage them to stay on the island longer. Park Board statistics indicate Sunday growth in both 2017 and 2018. The Board instructed staff to explore alternate locations, cost sharing opportunities with local businesses, and to research the possible use of environmentally friendly fireworks. The Board is expected to take up the issue at its February meeting.

Board Approves Continued Investment in Seawall Improvements

On Tuesday, the Park Board approved the purchase of 106 new public litter receptacles and liners for \$40,367. They will be placed along the seawall beginning in the spring. The receptacles will replace older units that are no longer attractive. Through a grant awarded to the conservation group Artist Boat from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Park Board will receive 20 recycle stations that are expected be placed on the seawall at bus stops and one six-compartment mobile recycling bin this spring. The grant totaled \$18,000.

Park Board Approves Contract for Erosion Mitigation Project

At its meeting Tuesday, the Park Board approved a \$300,000 contract with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to continue work to establish a structural solution to reduce erosion west of the seawall. This step of the project will estimate the cost and design of a solution for the area that has one of the highest erosion rates on the island and is an evacuation route for west end residents. The continued design work is needed for the project to meet requirements that make it eligible to receive Federal Emergency Management Agency mitigation funding.

Park Board Approves Contract with Consultants for Stewart Beach Drainage

On Tuesday, the Park Board approved a \$102,149 contract with Houston-based Atkins to complete the drainage/engineering/construction documents and specification for drainage at Stewart Beach. The final phase of engineering is expected to begin in February and to be completed sometime late May. Atkins staff is expected to provide engineering documents for bidding and construction that include raising the elevation of the interior park road and areas in the park, providing vegetated swales along the beach front and constructing vegetated ditches along roads adjacent to the park to promote managed runoff. The vegetated components of the project will improve water quality along the beach front. The Board also deferred further work with Rogers Partners for continued design work of the proposed Stewart Beach pavilion until components of the drainage project are further developed and costs are more solidified.

Announcements:

- **Park Board 2019 Business Plan 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.
- **Park Board Authorizes Using Search Firm for New CVB Director:** On Tuesday, the Board approved the selection of SearchWide Global to conduct a national search for the organization's next CVB Director. The Minnesota-based company is an executive search firm that focuses primarily on the travel and tourism industry.

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.