

Media Contact

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Galveston Park Board Update: January 28, 2020

The Galveston Park Board of Trustees held its regular meeting at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 28th at Park Board Plaza. Below is an update of news from the boardroom.

Emergency Funding Approved for Abatement at the Naval Museum

The Park Board voted unanimously to approve an \$86,000 expenditure for abatement at the Galveston Naval Museum located in Seawolf Park. The Park Board immediately closed both the USS Stewart and the USS Cavalla after being notified by the Cavalla Historical Foundation officials of the presence of asbestos containing materials. Abatement will begin immediately, and the vessels will re-open as soon as the concern for public safety is fully addressed.

Battleship Texas Bid Discussion

The board voted to not submit a bid for bringing the USS Texas to Seawolf Park at this time. The trustees did vote to continue conversations with the Battleship Texas Foundation about the potential of submitting a bid if the deadline is extended. The Park Board heard from several citizens who expressed their support for the vessel to be berthed at Seawolf Park.

Stewart Beach Drainage Project Update

On Tuesday, Park Board officials provided an update on the drainage project at Stewart Beach. The Park Board will continue forward with a \$500,000 project to address drainage problems at Stewart Beach after not receiving funding from the General Land Office (GLO). The bidding process will begin in April and will be presented to the trustees at the May board meeting. Construction of the project will take place in the off season.

2020 Federal Legislative Agenda Approved

The Park Board approved the organization's 2020 legislative agenda. Greg Burns, a representative from Thorn Run Partners and Kelly de Schaun presented an agenda that includes lobbying for Galveston Island beach management, RESTORE funding, offshore energy exploration revenue sharing, development of the Lone Star Coastal Recreation area, tourism legislation and the national flood insurance program.

The Park Board's Beach Patrol wins Big during "Best of the Island" Awards

At its meeting Tuesday, Park Board chairman Spencer Priest shared with the board the Beach Patrol staff, past and present, that took home honors during the "Best of the Island" awards. Beach Patrol Chief Peter Davis was awarded *Best Galvestonian* and the Beach Patrol was voted *Best Place to Work* on the island. The Park Board and its assets placed in the top three of 14 categories in the community voted awards.

Announcements:

- The Park Board approved purchase of six Honda Recon ATV's from Team Mancusso for \$26,717.94 to be utilized at the beach parks
- The trustees approved the contracts for Azavar Government Solutions based out of Chicago, Illinois to conduct an audit of 2020 Hotel Occupancy Tax and to provide identification of non-compliant short-term rentals

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.