

Media Contact

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Galveston Park Board Update: December 24, 2014

The Galveston Park Board of Trustees held its meeting at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 16 at Park Board Plaza. Below is an update of news from the boardroom.

Park Board Moves Forward with Largest Beach Nourishment Project in Texas

During its Dec. 16 regular meeting, the Park Board approved collaboration agreements that will allow the island to move forward with a 10-mile beach nourishment project – the largest in the state. The first portion of the project will cost \$19.5 million and will place sand on Galveston's Seawall beaches between 16th and 61st streets. The project is being funded through resources available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the City of Galveston's Industrial Development Corporation (IDC). The Texas General Land Office (GLO) will administer the project, slated to begin in September 2015. The second portion of the project will place nearly 100 million yards of beach-quality sand dredged from the Houston Ship Channel along Seawall beaches between 61st and 103rd streets. This project will cost \$5 million. Galveston's IDC will contribute \$3 million, the Park Board will contribute \$1.5 million and the Texas GLO will contribute \$500,000 toward its completion. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredges the channel every 18 to 24 months and the sand will be replenished accordingly. These projects will widen Galveston's beaches to help protect the island from future storm damage and to enhance recreation opportunities for visitors and residents.

Park Board Approves Employee Policy Change

On Dec. 16, the board approved a new human-resources policy aimed to balance the workload for some employees. The policy will allow exempt employees working for the Beach Patrol, beach cleaning and parks departments to have 32-hour work weeks during the off-season. The board approved this change after considering the schedule of these employees during high tourism season, during which they often work 60 to 70 hours per week. The policy will take effect January 1, 2015.

Board Approves Contract with Atkins Consulting Engineers

The board on Dec.16 approved to spend \$78,500 on a contract with Austin-based Atkins Consulting Engineers. The firm will guide the Park Board through a permitting process in 2015 in order to comply with relatively new requirements for beach maintenance. Atkins has worked on behalf of the Park Board on similar projects and will help negotiate permit parameters that are beneficial to the island's environment, visitors and residents.

Announcements

- The board approved to spend \$10,000 in special event funding for the 2015 Red Cat Jazz Festival.
- The board approved to spend \$4,000 in special event funding for the 2015 Miss Galveston pageant.
- The board approved to spend \$13,800 for landscape services at Seawolf Park from Associated Landscape Services.
- The board approved the 2015 budget for the Galveston Island Convention Center.
- The board approved to spend \$15,000 for materials for pier repairs from Galveston Wholesale Building.
- The board approved to spend \$6,000 in special event funding for the 2015 Yaga's Chili Quest and Beer Fest.
- The board approved to spend \$27,548 for security fence replacement at Stewart Beach from A to Z Fence.
- The board approved to spend \$257,465.74 for two wheel loaders for the beach maintenance department from Associated Supply Company, Inc.

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.

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