



### **Media Contact**

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## **Galveston Park Board Update: December 20, 2013**

The Galveston Park Board of Trustees held its regularly scheduled meeting at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 17 at Park Board Plaza. Below is an update of news from the boardroom.

### **Park Board Urges Government to Invest in Texas Coast**

Tuesday, the Park Board unanimously approved a resolution supporting the implementation of the RESTORE Act in Texas. With this resolution, the Park Board is urging federal and state agencies to make Texas a top priority when designating RESTORE Act funding for coastal restoration and protection projects. The RESTORE Act dedicates 80 percent of all administrative and civil penalties related to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill to a Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund and outlines a structure for how the funds can be used to restore and protect the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, coastal wetlands, and economy of the Gulf Coast region.

### **Beach Patrol Introduces New Senior Guard**

Tuesday, the Park Board of Trustees recognized lifeguard Mary Stewart for her recent promotion to a full-time senior guard for the Galveston Island Beach Patrol. Beach Patrol Chief Peter Davis spoke about Stewart's growth with the organization, starting as a junior lifeguard at age 11 then becoming a Beach Patrol lifeguard at age 16. Chief Davis said that Stewart's hard work and commitment to the organization for the past nine years set her apart from other candidates. In addition to her daily lifeguard duties, Stewart serves as an instructor for the Junior Lifeguard Program and represents Galveston Island Beach Patrol annually at the United States Lifesaving Association competition. Stewart graduated from Texas A&M University in Galveston last May with a degree in Maritime Administration and a minor in Economics.

### **Board Reviews 2013-2014 Business Plan**

The Park Board of Trustees Tuesday approved the organization's 2013-2014 business development plan, which is intended to streamline goals and define expectations for the organization's budget. Park Board Executive Director Kelly de Schaun said the business plan promotes accountability between staff members and board members as well as between the board and the community. Major goals this year include the completing the Dellanera beach nourishment project, increasing park admissions, leveraging park concessions and securing at least 60 weddings within the Park Board's newly designated private event areas at Stewart Beach and East Beach.

### **Beach Patrol to Upgrade to Digital Radios**

The Park Board of Trustees Tuesday approved the purchase of eight digital radios for Beach Patrol. Beach Patrol has begun a phasing out process of updating its radio fleet from analog to digital. The board approved \$25,545 to purchase the new equipment.

### **Board Approves \$2,000 in Support of The Mummies Contribution**

The Park Board of Trustees Tuesday approved a \$2,000 donation to The Philadelphia Mummies, a group of costumed entertainers that has performed at *Mardi Gras! Galveston* for the last 28 years. The Park Board has made a \$2,000 sponsorship toward The Philadelphia Mummies for the last three consecutive years.

### **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](http://www.galvestonparkboard.org).