



Media Contact

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

Galveston Park Board Update: January 15, 2015

The Galveston Park Board of Trustees held its regular meeting at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 13 at Park Board Plaza. Below is an update of news from the boardroom.

Galveston Park Board Expands Staff

During the Park Board's Jan. 13 regular meeting, Human Resources Manager Jill Dworsky announced the addition of two new employees to the organization's staff. Kay Terry will serve as the organization's staff accountant while Larry Jackson will serve as Beach Ambassador Supervisor. Among Terry's responsibilities are maintaining and processing hotel occupancy tax collections and reporting, and maintaining and processing citations for Seawall parking violations. Jackson's duties include enforcing Seawall parking regulations, resolving complaints and conflicts and supervising Seawall parking personnel. The new staff positions were formed to manage additional work loads created when the Park Board took over the logistics of collecting hotel occupancy taxes and Seawall parking fees from the City of Galveston.

Park Board Approves Work Plan for 2015

On Jan. 13, the board approved a work plan outlining major projects to be completed during the 2015 fiscal year. The plan's scope includes projects in all Park Board departments as well as their budgets and funding sources, and designates staff responsible for completing them. The plan serves as a template for each Park Board department and sets annual goals.

CVB to Host Strategic Planning Session, Tourism Summit

The Park Board on Jan. 13 received an update from Meg Winchester, director of the Galveston Island Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB). She told the board that the CVB plans to hold a strategic planning session on Feb. 20 that will include hotel general managers, sales directors and revenue managers. California-based industry consultant Cindy Novotny will facilitate the session that aims to encourage collaboration between the CVB and its partners. Winchester also told the board that the CVB will host a tourism summit on May 5. Those involved in the tourism industry are encouraged to attend the free event that will be held at the San Luis Convention Center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Topics to be presented at the summit include social media, tourism trends, marketing and public relations and tourism technology.

Park Board Presents Stewart Beach Master Plan

At its Jan. 13 meeting, the Park Board heard a presentation outlining the final draft of the Stewart Beach master plan. The Park Board worked with Houston-based design and planning firm Knudsen LP to draft the plan. Once the Park Board approves the plan, Park Board staff can begin to look for funding sources for the short-term and long-term projects. Short-term projects include adding rinse-off and changing stations, landscaping, shade structures, bike racks and toll booths to Stewart Beach. Long-term projects include space for retail and restaurants, a new pavilion, an RV park and boardwalks. Also included in the list of long-term projects is an area that is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and includes a playground. The master plan also calls for roundabouts to be constructed on Seawall Boulevard at Ferry Street and Broadway Street to ease traffic congestion at those intersections. A copy of the plan is available for viewing at www.galvestonparkboard.org.

Park Board Approves Seawolf Park Master Plan

On Tuesday, the Park Board approved a master plan for Seawolf Park. The Park Board worked with League City-based Randall-Porterfield Architects to draft the plan. The plan proposes improvements and added amenities to the park, including repaving the entry way and west side of the parking lot and installing new lighting, signage, landscaping and a gazebo that will provide shade and possible rental space. Other improvements outlined in the plan include the addition of a water taxi service, boardwalk, restaurant pad, basketball court and sand volleyball court as well as an extension of the fishing pier. Park Board staff will seek funding for these projects, some of which may be allocated through the Federal Emergency

Management Agency (FEMA) hurricane recovery money. A copy of the plan is available for viewing at www.galvestonparkboard.org.

Park Board Approves Employment Contracts for Executive Director and Controller

On Tuesday, the Park Board approved employment contracts for executive director Kelly de Schaun and controller Michael Moser. Both contracts are for four-year terms and are subject to renewal in January 2019.

Announcements

- The board approved to spend \$15,777 for the purchase of GovCollect Software.
- The board approved to spend \$93,959 for four Chevy Colorado trucks for Beach Patrol from Classic Auto Group in Galveston.
- The board approved to award \$69,685.45 to Artist Boat for dune planting at Dellanera Beach.
- The board approved to spend \$203,943 for the purchase of four surf rakes for the beach maintenance department from Barber & Sons, Inc.
- The board approved to spend \$162,648.86 for the purchase of four Case IH Farmall tractors for the beach maintenance department from BuyBoard.
- The board approved to spend \$10,000 in special event funding for the 2015 Corvettes Cruisin' Galveston.
- The board approved to spend \$10,272.93 for the purchase of a new Jet Ski and trailer for the Beach Patrol from Texas Yamaha in Texas City.
- The board approved to spend \$10,500 for Mardi Gras transportation.
- The board approved a concessionaire agreement with Austin Kimbrough to operate the snack bar and gift shop at Stewart Beach for the base amount of \$29,000 per year or 10% of gross sales, whichever is greater.

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.

###