



## News from the Board Room

Dear Public Partners,

The Park Board of Trustees for the City of Galveston met Tuesday, May 23 at 1:30 P.M. These updates highlight key decisions made during the board meeting as well as developments that will impact our community and further enhance our shared vision for vibrant and thriving attractions.

### **Galveston to Host Conference of National Travel Journalists in 2024**

The Park Board unanimously approved Visit Galveston's proposed budget to host the North American Travel Journalists Association (NATJA) conference next year. The conference will bring 50+ members of the travel media to Galveston to experience its attractions and hospitality in May 2024. The conference is anticipated to bring significant economic impact to the island while providing extensive destination exposure to renowned travel journalists from across North America.

### **Scientist Reports Major Sargassum Landings are "Unlikely" for Galveston**

Local weather scientist Dr. Hal Needham of Marine Weather and Climate presented a report to the Park Board on Sargassum landings currently affecting certain areas of the Gulf of Mexico. This report forecasted that major Sargassum landings would be "highly unlikely" on Galveston beaches this summer, while areas in Florida are expected to see more significant landings of seaweed on its shores.

### **Park Board Approves Oil Rig Lighting Repairs on Seawall**

The Park Board authorized repairs to the lighting system on the decorative oil rig signage along Seawall Boulevard. The repairs will ensure visibility at night and contribute to the overall visual appeal of the area, enhancing the experience for residents and visitors.

### **Park Board approves bylaws of new Galveston Music Development Advisory Committee**

The Park Board approved the second reading of the bylaws for the Galveston Music Development Advisory Committee. The formation of the GMDA committee was proposed by the Park Board earlier this year along with efforts to be recognized within the state's Music Friendly Texas Program. This committee will play a pivotal role in fostering the growth and development of the island's local music industry, nurturing talent, and collaborating on events that showcase its vibrant music culture.

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**MISSION:** To promote and support tourism on Galveston Island in order to foster an environment that establishes a great place to live, work and visit.  
**VISION:** To create a tourist destination that promises an exciting variety of experiences and a high quality of life for residents.

### **Park Board Approves \$30M CEPRA Grant Submission**

The Park Board approved the submission of a \$30M grant application to the Coastal Erosion Planning and Response Act (CEPRA) Cycle 13 Grant Program to provide sand to Galveston beaches in collaboration with the Texas General Land Office. This grant would provide resources to protect Galveston coastlines and support the Park Board's ongoing efforts to combat erosion while preserving Galveston's natural habitats.

In addition to the above updates, the Park Board shared personnel-related announcements they discussed during the executive session:

- ❖ The Park Board appointed Current Park Board Chief Operations Officer Kimberly Danesi as the Interim CEO, drawing on her extensive experience and leadership to guide the organization through this transitional period.
- ❖ The Park Board recognized now former Chief Executive Officer Kelly de Schaun as the CEO Emeritus, in recognition of her exceptional leadership for more than a decade. State Senator Mayes Middleton will honor Kelly de Schaun for her contributions during her tenure with a special announcement on the Texas Senate floor May 25.
- ❖ The Park Board approved updates to several staff agreements in recognition of their continued dedication and commitment to excellence.

For more information on the park board, visit <https://www.galvestonparkboard.org>.

Park Board meetings are typically held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. at 601 23rd Street.

