



News from the Board Room

Oct 24, 2023

These updates highlight the key decisions and reports from the meeting of the Park Board of Trustees held on October 24, 2023.

Park Board Honors Seawall Urban Park Maintenance Team for Outstanding Dedication and Rapid Response Efforts

During the October 24 Park Board meeting, the Park Board honored the Seawall Urban Park Maintenance Team, led by Corey Holcomb, for their exceptional dedication to the maintenance of the Seawall and exceptional rapid response efforts during an isolated incident earlier this month. Over the past year, the team has taken a proactive approach to maintain Seawall's assets, including refurbishing the lighting system, refinishing seating and bus stops, implementing new irrigation and seasonal plantings, and enhancing guest relations through an interactive feedback portal. Their hard work and commitment have significantly improved the park's appearance. Several trustees spoke out individually to acknowledge the impact generated by this crew for both themselves, visitors, and residents.

CFO Outlines Park Board's Proactive Approach to Cybersecurity Measures

During the October 24 meeting, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Bryson Frazier delivered a thorough update on the organization's cybersecurity efforts. Frazier highlighted key initiatives, including the auditing of network security, web application security, and social engineering security involving staff. The audit encompassed all websites, such as those of the park board, beach patrol, and Visit Galveston. To bolster cybersecurity, staff members underwent social engineering and phishing tests, with annual cybersecurity training mandated for all personnel. Frazier also outlined past and ongoing security practices, such as attentive monitoring by Moody Bank, limited staff approval of checks, and the verification of financial transfers through phone calls. Additionally, the Finance and Operations Committee (FOC) is set to review and recommend policy updates in areas such as travel, cybersecurity, and cash controls.

Park Board Unanimously Approves Committee Appointments

At the October 24 meeting, trustees voted to approve the appointment of the following committee members to various Park Board advisory committees:

Beach Maintenance Advisory Committee (BMAC)

Reappointments:

- Hal Needham – Scientific
- Willis Gandhi – Galveston Hotel & Lodging Association
- Heidi Whitehead – Volunteer Organization

- Jen Johnson – Business on the Beach

New Appointments

- Chris Lauer – Citizen at Large
- Scott Gordon – Citizen at Large
- Dr. Larry Denner – Citizen at Large

Parks and Amenities Committee (PAC)

Reappointments

- Lisa Carnes – Park Board Concessionaire
- Alyson Poston – Citizen at Large
- Anna Deichman – Environmental

Change in Position

- Trustee Sara Godwin to Chair
- Trustee Jason Hardcastle to Vice-Chair

New Appointments

- Damian McDonald – Citizen at Large
- Shane Cantrell – Tourism Business
- Anna Weiss – Environmental

Tourism Development Advisory Committee (TDAC)

Reappointments

- Claire Reisweg – Galveston Hotel & Lodging Association
- Richard See -- Galveston Hotel & Lodging Association
- Craig Corbell – Attraction
- Theresa Elliott – Chamber of Commerce

New Appointments

- Spencer Priest -- Galveston Hotel & Lodging Association
- Melissa Williams Murphy – Attraction
- Trey Click – Visual Arts

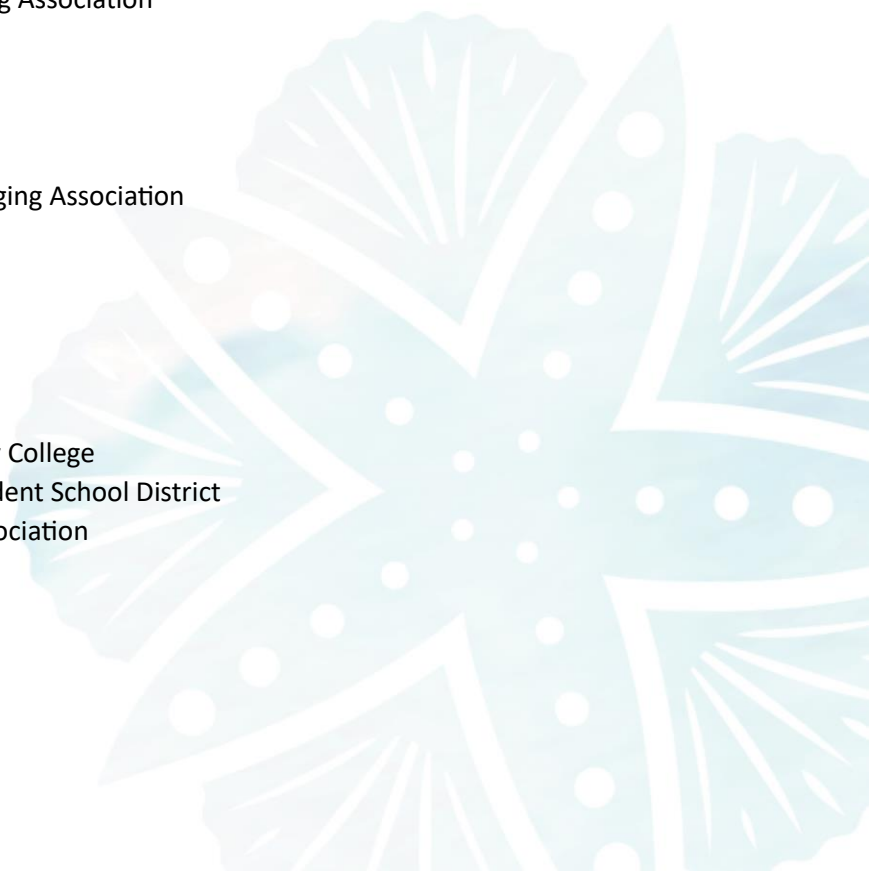
Workforce Development Committee (WDC)

Reappointments

- Cissy Matthews – Galveston Community College
- Jennifer Edenfield – Galveston Independent School District
- James Clark – Galveston Restaurant Association

New Appointment

- Brenda Lambright – Cruise Industry



2023 Babe's Beach Expansion Put on Hold

During the October 24 meeting, Sheryl Rozier, Park Board Project Manager, shared important updates regarding the 2023 Beneficial Use of Dredge Material (BUDM) project at Babe's Beach. The project involves collaborative efforts between the Texas General Land Office (GLO), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and the Park Board. While the USACE leads the project, recent surveys revealed a shortfall in beach-quality material necessary for the beach portion of the project, making it financially unviable to proceed with the planned 15,000 cubic yards of material placement in 2023. Despite this setback, the Park Board is committed to exploring alternative solutions and continuing to collaborate with USACE and GLO to ensure the best outcomes for the Galveston community.

City of Galveston to Rebuild Beach Patrol Headquarters at Stewart Beach

During the October 24 meeting, Chief Peter Davis, Head of Beach Patrol, shared with trustees that the city is committed to constructing a new, permanent structure for the Beach Patrol Headquarters. This development follows the passage of resolution 23-001 by the city council on April 27, 2023, which called for the demolition of the existing pavilion at Stewart Beach and the determination of a new location for the Beach Patrol staff and equipment. City and Park Board staff have met several times since to collaborate on plans for the new permanent structure. Temporary trailer facilities have been approved, and preparations for site engineering, fencing, and utility hookups are underway. Additionally, the city is in the process of selecting an architecture firm for this vital project, with a recommendation to the city council expected shortly.

Park Board Explores Liabilities Regarding Alcohol Sales at Dellanera RV Park

During the meeting, Vince Lorefice, General Manager of Parks, provided updates on the Park Board's exploration of alcohol sales at Dellanera RV Park. A legal review has confirmed the Park Board's ability to sell alcohol, and discussions have revolved around various options for alcohol sales, including third-party concessionaires, self-performing, and other delivery models such as over-the-counter sales or full bar and drink services on the beach. These discussions also covered the types of alcohol regulations by the Texas Alcohol and Beverage Commission, distinctions were highlighted between a beer and wine license versus the more rigorous liquor and mixed drink licensing process. The board deliberated presenting multiple options to the City Council for their guidance and recommendations. Lorefice and trustees emphasized that the vision is not to create a "party bar" but to enhance the guest experience, making the facility unique and distinctive from others on Galveston Island.

In addition to the above updates, Park Board Interim CEO Kimberly Danesi made several announcements including:

- The Park Board of Trustees will meet a week sooner than usual next month on November 14 to accommodate for the holidays.
- Elizabeth Schneider, Environmental Coordinator, will be accepting an award this week at the National Association for Interpretation annual meeting for staff's work on the Women in Coastal Science speaker series initiative.
- Sheryl Rozier, Project Manager, was elected as a board member to the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association Texas chapter.

- Chief Peter Davis presented at the Texas Water Safety Coalition in Austin on the importance and necessity for creating a Texas Water Safety Plan.
- Visit Galveston announced that the Washed Ashore sculpture attraction will return to Galveston in the coming months. Placement and dates to be announced.

For more information and updates, please visit our official website at 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.

