



NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING  
Park Board of Trustees of the City of Galveston  
Beach Maintenance Advisory Committee  
Friday, February 16, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.  
Park Board Plaza, Board Room - First Floor  
601 Tremont Street, Galveston, Texas 77550

- I. Call Meeting To Order
- II. Pledge Of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call And Declaration Of A Quorum
- IV. Conflict Of Interest Declarations
- V. Requests To Address The Committee  
***The public shall be allowed to address the Committee regarding one or more agenda or non-agenda items. All requests to address the Board must be submitted in writing to the Board Reporter the day of the Board meeting. Each person shall be limited to three (3) minutes regardless of the number of items addressed.***
- VI. Discuss And Consider Approval Of Meeting Minutes  
  
Documents:  
  
BMAC MEETING MINUTES.1-19-2018.PDF
- VII. Update On Sargassum Early Advisory System (SEAS) Forecast Model And Website (10 Minutes)  
  
Documents:  
  
UPDATE ON SEAS.PDF
- VIII. Discuss And Review Galveston's Park Board Beach Maintenance Guidelines And Any Potential Needed Updates (Reuben Trevino, 20 Minutes)  
  
Documents:  
  
GPB MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES OVERVIEW.PDF  
PB BEACH MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES 2017 VS 2018.PDF
- IX. Beach Maintenance Report Card Update (Reuben Trevino, 20 Minutes)  
  
Documents:

BEACH MAINTENANCE REPORT CARD OVERVIEW.PDF  
BEACH MAINTENANCE REPORT CARD.PDF

- X. Update On Status Of U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers (USACE) Beach Maintenance Permit Transfer And Consider Recommendation To The Board Of Trustees On Continuing Established Program To Assist Third Party Vendors Through The Upcoming Season (Reuben Trevino, 30 Minutes)

Documents:

USACE BEACH MAINTENANCE PERMIT OVERVIEW.PDF  
BEACHCLEAN MEMO.PDF

XI. Future Agenda Items

XII. Announcements

XIII. Adjournment

*I certify that the above Notice of Meeting was posted in a place convenient to the public, in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas government Code, on February 12, 2018 before 5:00 p.m.*

Approved

*Via Email*

Dr. Victor Viser

Chair, BMAC

*Via Email*

Joyce Calver McLean

Chair, Park Board of Trustees

Approved as to Format

*Verbal*

Kelly de Schaun

Park Board Executive Director

**Please Note Members of the City Council may be attending and participating in the discussion.**

In accordance with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons in need of a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding shall, within three (3) days prior to any proceeding, contact the Park Board Administration

Office, 601 Tremont, Galveston Texas 77550 (409-797-5147)



Park Board of Trustees of the City of Galveston  
Beach Maintenance Advisory Committee  
601 Tremont Street, Galveston, Texas 77550

1/19/2018 - Minutes

I. Call Meeting To Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:31 a.m.

II. Pledge Of Allegiance

The pledge was recited by those present.

III. Roll Call And Declaration Of A Quorum

Roll was called and a quorum declared.

**Committee Members Present:** Victor Viser, Rocky Sullivan, Craig Vance, Jerry Mohn, Dustin Henry, Rhonda Gregg-Hirsch, Peggy Zahler, Mary Warwick, Clyde Steddum, Dr. Jens Figlus, Marie Robb, and Gregory Pappas.

**Committee Members Absent:** T'Noya Thompson, Ben Ritt, and Lauren Desomeaux

Staff Present: Reuben Trevino, Kelly de Schaun, and Michelle Hollins

IV. Conflict Of Interest Declarations

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

V. Requests To Address The Committee

There were no requests to address the committee.

VI. Discuss And Consider Approval Of Meeting Minutes

**Motion:** Maria Robb motioned to approve the meeting minutes for the November 13, 2017 meeting.

**Second:** Rhonda Gregg seconded.

**Vote:** Approved (12-0)

VII. Report On Change Of County Pocket Parks 1 And 2 (Reuben Trevino, 5 Minutes)

Reuben Trevino gave an overview of the change in management of the County Pocket Parks 1 and 2 from the Park Board to the City of Galveston.

VIII. Update And Discussion On The Sand Study Undertaken With The General Land Office And Atkins (Rhonda Gregg-Hirsch, 30 Minutes)

Rhonda Gregg-Hirsch updated the committee on the sand study undertaken with the General Land Office and Atkins.

IX. Presentation On Seawall Parking Program To Date And Forecast (Chris Saddler, 15 Minutes)

Chris Saddler gave a presentation on the Seawall Parking Program to date and the forecast for the season.

X. Discussion On Efforts To Develop Key Performance Indicators For Beach Management Utilizing Report Card Format, With A Focus On Data Collection Relative To Beach Maintenance Costs (Reuben Trevino, 15 Minutes)

Reuben Trevino discussed efforts to develop key performance indicators for beach management utilizing the report card format, with a focus on data collection relative to beach maintenance costs.

XI. Recap Of Texas American Shore And Beach Preservation Association Chapter Luncheon (Jerry Mohn, 5 Minutes)

The Texas American Shore and Beach Preservation Association Chapter Luncheon was cancelled and rescheduled for February 1, 2018.

XII. Update On The 2018 National American Shore And Beach Preservation Association Coastal Conference (Reuben Trevino, 5 Minutes)

Reuben Trevino gave an update on the 2018 National American Shore and Beach Preservation Association Coastal Conference.

XIII. Future Agenda Items

- . Beach Cleaning Policy
- . U S Army Corps of Engineers Permits

XIV. Announcements

Kelly de Schaun announced the annual report showing Coastal Zone Management, Jesse Ojeda and team collected 2.2 million pounds of trash off Galveston beaches last year.

Seawall parking revenue was up 15% percent from last year.

XV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

**Agenda Item:** Update on Sargassum Early Advisory System (SEAS) Forecast model and website (Reuben Trevino, 10 minutes)

**Background:** The SEAS program was created in 2013 to help with forecasting large Sargassum landings for Texas.

**Agenda Item:** Discuss and review Galveston's Park Board Beach Maintenance Guidelines and any potential needed updates. (Reuben Trevino, 20 minutes)

**Background:** With new members on BMAC and the recent change in responsibilities due to the contract termination with the County, staff will be reviewing the document with the committee.



**GALVESTON**  
★ ISLAND ★  
*Park Board of Trustees*

## **Park Board Beach Maintenance Policy**

The Galveston Park Board undertakes coastal zone management and beach maintenance for the Galveston coast as required by the Texas Natural Resource Code, Chapter 61: Use and Maintenance of Public Beaches.

The Natural Resource Code defines “public beach” as “any beach area, whether publically or privately owned, extending inland from the line of mean low tide to the line of vegetation bordering on the Gulf of Mexico to which the public has acquired the right of use.”

The Code further defines “clean and maintain” as the “collection and removal of litter and debris and the supervision and elimination of sanitary and safety conditions that would pose a threat to personal health or safety if not otherwise corrected and includes the employment of lifeguards, beach patrols and litter patrols.” *Sargassum* removal or relocation is not included in the definition of “clean and maintain” and is not required as a function of beach maintenance and is therefore an optional service that may be provided.

*Sargassum* removal or relocation requires specific permits from both the City of Galveston (Beachfront Construction Permit) and the US Army Corp of Engineers (Beach Cleaning Permit to conduct work in Federal waters). No seaweed removal or relocation can be undertaken without the appropriate permits in place or outside the approved terms and conditions, which are tied to geographic boundaries on the ground.

Park Board obtains the necessary City Permits on annual basis and just recently completed the two year process of obtaining its federal permit valid till 2022. US Army Corp of Engineers permit SWG# 2014-00448 permits the Park Board to conduct beach maintenance activities including:

1. Grooming the beaches, including the removal of all non-natural material such as trash and debris including lumber, plastic, bottles, cans, etc., from the beach and disposing them appropriately.
2. Use mechanical equipment for the relocation of *Sargassum* or seaweed during extraordinary circumstances determined by the TAMUG Wrack Scale greater than 3.0, or at least 10% of the template described in the Biological Assessment.

To undertake the above mentioned activities, the City of Galveston and the State of Texas dedicate portions of the locally collected Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) to these activities. The City of Galveston allocates 11% of all locally collected HOT, while the State of Texas dedicates 33% of the total locally collected HOT. These funds are supplemented in some areas with Beach User Fees (BUF) generated by gate admissions at Galveston’s popular beach parks.

### **TRASH CAN MAINTENANCE, LITTER and DEBRIS REMOVAL**

The Park Board provides litter and emergency debris removal for the entire 32 miles of Galveston beaches, with the exception of the beachfront contained within the Galveston Island State Park and Jamaica Beach. Handpicking of litter is undertaken daily, unless prohibited by climatic conditions.

Board Approved June 2017

\*Administrative update to reflect operational changes Jan. 2018

The Park Board empties or “tips” waste barrels on the beach and in the beach access points regularly. During the summer season (March to October), cans are tipped daily as needed along the seawall beach and four times weekly on the west end access points and atop the Seawall. During the off season (October to February), cans are tipped up to three times weekly on the seawall and twice weekly at west end access points.

All barrels located at the beach parks and along the seawall are tipped each morning by the Coastal Zone Management team and then maintained throughout the day by park board staff. All beach parks and the seawall now offer recycling options for beachgoers. Data on the amount and type of recyclables is being recorded for reporting purposes.

## **SARGASSUM RELOCATION**

Seaweed, also known as gulfweed or *Sargassum*, is a free-floating algae found in warm coastal waters. Seaweed provides an essential habitat for a wide variety of marine animals in the open ocean as well as onshore for animals like sea turtles and marine birds.

Seaweed season on the Gulf Coast fluctuates as Mother Nature sees fit. However, seaweed typically washes up on Galveston’s beaches May through July.

Seaweed has many environmental benefits, including helping to retain sand on Galveston’s beaches and providing an environment for natural dune formations.

Seaweed maintenance crews operate as needed depending on seaweed levels, which can be daily during peak season if necessary. For safety reasons, the crews operate at low-traffic times for the beach parks, typically in the early predawn hours through mid-morning.

In determining *Sargassum* relocation policies, the Park Board follows a “Best Practice Guide” and considers the following factors:

- A. Necessity of proposed action,
- B. Seasonal and species impacts of proposed actions,
- C. Least intrusive method possible,
- D. Protection of native vegetation,
- E. Public Safety.

The Park Board will only relocate *Sargassum* on those beaches that are;

1. Currently permitted in US Army Corp of Engineers permit SWG# 2014-00448 and are
2. Clearly within the public domain and have been assigned to the Park Board for management or, are
3. Engineered beaches on which the City of Galveston or Park Board of Trustees have
  - a. made public investments, and
  - b. where private land owners have assigned dedicated or prescribed easements, and
  - c. where the private land owners have given written consent expressly to the Park Board to undertaken cleaning and maintenance, and
  - d. where the private land owners agree not to undertake any cleaning efforts on their own and have assigned the City of Galveston Beachfront Construction permit to the Park Board.

Public beaches under the jurisdiction of the Park Board of Trustees on which *Sargassum* relocation will be undertaken are RA Appfel Park (East Beach), Stewart Beach, Seawall Urban Park (public ownership only), Dellanera RV park and ~~County Pocket Parks 1 and 2\*~~ on Galveston Island’s west end.

Board Approved June 2017

\*Administrative update to reflect operational changes Jan. 2018

Public beaches which are engineered beaches and have specifically dedicated or prescribed easements on them include End of Seawall to Dellanera RV Park.

When the Park Board does determine the need to relocate seaweed is present we will do so as outlined in our terms and conditions of our permit.

1. Implement all Conservation Measures in the permit as agreed upon;
  - a. all personnel involved in beach maintenance activities to receive training each year, on how to recognize and avoid impacts to sea turtles and shorebirds
  - b. require all Wildlife Monitors to receive an initial training and refresher course each year from Service-approved trainers. Monitors must stay on site and with the equipment at all times
  - c. use the Wrack Scale to determine thresholds for commencing seaweed maintenance activities along with the *Sargassum* (Seaweed) Cleaning Policy
  - d. staff will use the appropriate and authorized equipment to perform necessary work.
  - e. a wrack line will remain after beach grooming is complete for the day
  - f. beaches will not be scraped, gouged or scoured.

**-End-**

**Agenda Item:** Beach Maintenance Report Card Update

**Background:** Part of the BMAC Work Plan is to develop a beach maintenance report card.

The draft for discussion has is included.

Beach Maintenance Report Card		2017	Source	Notes
<b>Environmental Management</b>				
# of spottings	Tar on Beach			
	Turtle Nestings/ Sightings			
% of Total Linear Foot	Presence of Dunes along PB Managed Areas			
	Existence of natural or groomed vegetation			
% of Beach Surveyed	Beachfront surveyed and monitored			
	Erosion			
	Accretion			

<b>Solid Waste Management</b>				
Tons/ Month	Waste Collected			
	Recyclables Collected			
	Recycling Bins on Beachfront			

<b>Seaweed Management</b>				
Hours/Months	Hours spent moving seaweed			
	% of FT staff Wildlife Monitor Certified			

<b>Amenities and Services</b>				
	Showers			
	Restrooms			
	Fountains for visitors			
	Fountains for pets			
	Concessionaires			

<b>Beach Patrol / TOP Enforcement</b>				
Contacts/Month	Enforcement			
	Tourist Contacts			
	Water Safety Contacts			
Public Dissemination	Preventative Actions			
	Rescues			
Internal Use	Drownings			
	Near Drowning			

<b>Community Outreach</b>				
	Presentation, press release, community meetings			
	Materials distributed			
	Outreach projects			
	Unique visitors per month on BeachInfo.com			
	Strategic Partnerships			
	Students exposed to Water Safety presentations			
	Junior guards			

<b>Coastal Program</b>				
Construction Projects	Local Dollars Provided			
	External Funding obtained			
	Projects completed			
	Projects Initiated			
	Cubic Yards of Sand Placed on Beaches			
Research Projects	Awards Won			
	Local Dollars Provided			
	External Funding obtained			
	Studies completed			
	Studies Initiated			
	Awards Won			

**Agenda Item:** Update on status of USACE Beach Maintenance Permit transfer and consider recommendation to the Board on continuing established program to assist 3rd party vendors through the upcoming season

**Background:** Staff will provide an update on the delays with the effort to transfer permit ownership to 3<sup>rd</sup> parties.

Staff will also seek guidance on a recommendation for the Board of Trustees to renew last summer's program into this season.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff supports moving forward with the existing program while a long-term solution is pursued.

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## **Required Beach Cleaning Permits, by Kelly de Schaun, Executive Director of the Galveston Island Park Board of Trustees**

In March of this year, two and half years after submitting an “after the fact” permit application, the Park Board was awarded an US Corps of Army Engineers permit to operate heavy equipment in federal waters for the purpose of removing seaweed. The impetus to obtain this necessary permit was twofold; increasing pressure by local environmental groups and a Statewide effort by regulatory agencies to bring all municipalities working in the coastal zone into compliance with federal requirements. The discussion regarding the required beach cleaning permit has been a topic between the USACE, Park Board and other local governmental entities dating back to the late 1990s. What brought the issue to the forefront however, was the “summer of seaweed”.

The massive rafts of seaweed that littered our shoreline during the summer of 2014 brought with it a very special visitor, baby green turtles. These young turtles floated ashore atop clusters of *Sargassum* and as the waves of seaweed continued to roll in, they became entrapped in the mounds of organic material and some even perished. Given the stringent coastal zone management practices the Park Board has implemented over the past several years, including turtle monitors with heavy equipment, regular staff training and new equipment, the Park Board was not responsible for any fatalities. However, the phenomena of the arriving turtles combined with the use of heavy equipment in sensitive coastal environments caused concern for local environmental groups who reached out to the USACE. The USACE serves as the coordinating body for seven (7) regulatory agencies whose authority includes the coastal zone and a letter of ‘non-compliance’ was sent to the Park Board notifying us officially that we were in direct violation of the Clean Water Act. This started a formal investigation which resulted in the Park Board having to ‘cease and desist’ any further relocation of seaweed until such time as the permit was authorized. Fortunately, the following two summers did not require the deployment of heavy equipment for seaweed relocation, which ultimately regulated the item to a ‘back burner’ and stopped the process of identifying and enforcing compliance for other organizations along the coast.

This summer, the Park Board received the long awaited “after the fact permit”, together with the first landings of *Sargassum*. In recognition that the Park Board was the only local entity with authority to relocate seaweed along the coast, the Beach Maintenance Advisory Committee began immediately to identify a manner in which others could also utilize the permit- under the specific terms and special conditions established by the permit. This discussion has resulted in a short term solution (this summer only). The approved framework establishes 1.) a one-time registration fee for the vendor or homeowner association based on the number of properties to be cleaned and 2.) a one-time fee based on the linear foot length of the area to be cleaned. The registration fee is delineated below, while the per linear foot cost will be \$00.42.

<b>Tier Number</b>	<b>Basic and Graduated Registration Fees</b>	<b>Service Areas</b>	<b>Calendar Year Fee</b>
1.)	Tier 1 or Basic Registration Fee	0 - 5	\$ 500.00
2.)	Tier 2 Registration Fee	6 - 10	\$ 1,000.00
3.)	Tier 3 Registration Fee	11 - 15	\$ 1,500.00
4.)	Tier 4 Registration Fee	16 - 20	\$ 2,000.00
5.)	Tier 5 Registration Fee	21 - 25	\$ 2,500.00
6.)	Tier 6 Registration Fee	26 - 30	\$ 3,000.00
<b>Plus a linear foot cost based on its beach frontage per service area of:</b>			\$0.42 LF

So, for example, a homeowner association which is responsible to clean a 1,000 linear feet and owns and operates their own equipment would pay \$500.00 registration fee plus \$420.00 for the beachfront area to be cleaned for the season. That same homeowners association may pay less if the work is contracted out to a vendor who has several contracts and will pay a pro-rated rate based on the number of contracts submitted.

The Park Board has been invited to the upcoming WGIPOA meeting on July 22<sup>nd</sup> and will present this item in greater detail. Hope to see you there.