

Media Contact

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Galveston Park Board Update: March 12, 2015

The Galveston Park Board of Trustees held its regular meeting at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 10 at Park Board Plaza. Below is an update of news from the boardroom.

West End Beach Nourishment Nears Completion

Park Board executive director Kelly de Schaun reported Tuesday that the beach nourishment project on Galveston's west end is expected to be completed March 15. The \$4.5 million dollar project placed 118,000 cubic yards of sand on the half-mile stretch just west of the Seawall. Nourishment work began in December when the first of 12,000 trucks brought beach-quality sand to the island's west end. The result is an expanded beach and a protective dune. With cooperation from Artist Boat, the dune has been planted in order to strengthen it and enhance its protective qualities.

Park Board Promotes Importance of Tourism at State Capital Summit

Members of the Galveston Island Convention and Visitors Bureau (GICVB) and several Park Board Trustees recently returned from Austin where they and other tourism professionals met with state legislators to promote the economic benefits of tourism. The event, Converge on the Capital, brought more than 800 tourism professionals from throughout the state to shed light on issues including appropriating state hotel taxes for tourism promotion and maintaining the fourth Monday in August as the school start date. According to the Texas Hotel & Lodging Association, the tourism industry generates more than \$4.5 billion in state and local taxes in Texas and supports more than 601,000 jobs.

Park Board Appoints Representative to Trolley Advisory Committee

The Park Board Tuesday appointed Trustee Buzz Elton to the City of Galveston's trolley advisory committee. The committee was established by the city to devise a business plan for the return of Galveston's historic trolleys and to address expected operational deficits. Elton will be one of nine representatives from the community to serve on the committee. Galveston's City Council and the Galveston Park Board recently pledged their support to bring back the trolley system that has been out of service since Hurricane Ike in 2008. Galveston has received federal funding to restore the trolley system that connected the Seawall, downtown and the University of Texas Medical Branch campus.

Park Board Recognizes Seawolf Park Manager John McMichael

At its meeting Tuesday, Park Board trustees and staff recognized Seawolf Park Manager John McMichael for his 16 years of service as he plans to retire from the position this year. During his career, McMichael worked tirelessly to assist in the restoration of historic monuments at Seawolf Park's American Undersea Warfare Center, including the USS Cavalla WWII era submarine and the USS Stewart destroyer escort ship. His efforts also resulted in the National Park Board certifying the USS Cavalla as a national historic site in 2008.

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.

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