



Park Board of Trustees of the City of Galveston

7/27/2021 - Minutes

I. Call Meeting To Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:31 p.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.

Trustees Present: Spencer Priest, Will Wright, Dave Jacoby, David Collins, Steven Creitz, Marty Fluke, Maureen Patton and Jason Worthen.

Trustees Absent: Jason Hardcastle.

IV. Conflict Of Interest Declarations

There were no conflicts declared.

V. Requests To Address The Board

Mary Branum addressed the board regarding agenda item XI-C.

Richard C submitted an online comment regarding agenda item XI-B.

VI. Employee Spotlight - Natalie Paul (Susan Keeble, 5 Minutes)

Susan Keeble introduced Marketing Strategist Natalie Paul to the Board and gave an overview of her history since joining the organization in 2018. Michael Woody thanked Natalie for her many contributions to the team.

VII. Discuss And Consider Approval Of Park Board Of Trustees 2021-2025 Strategic Plan (Tammy Canavan, 10 Minutes)

Tammy Canavan reviewed the process that was taken to create and finalize the Strategic Plan. She gave an overview of the Vision, Mission and Core Values and outlined the strategic goals: Destination Experience and Engagement, Destination Stewardship, Community Alignment and Industry-Leading Practices.

Motion: Will Wright motioned to approve the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan.

Second: Maureen Patton seconded.

Vote: Approved (8-0).

VIII. Presentation Of Employee Survey Results (Tammy Canavan, 10 Minutes)

Tammy Canavan shared that of the 102 regular full-time and part-time employees invited to complete the survey, 92 responded and the results show that the Park Board works to have an engaged and healthy working environment. She gave a brief overview of the recommendations based on the results which included the continuing to address the staffing levels, having systems in place to support staff processes, developing ways to collaborate across the organization, continuing to find ways to build trust and shared values and increasing communication across the teams..

IX. State Legislative Agenda Update (Ryan Brannan, 15 Minutes)

Ryan Brannan reported that the Park Board achieved all of the legislative priorities scheduled for the 2021 legislative session. He gave a short overview of several of these which included funding for Texas Tourism, securing a rider that requires the Texas General Land Office to provide \$300,000 for beach patrol, protection of the hotel occupancy tax current collections and favorable windstorm insurance legislation.

X. Standing Committee Monthly Updates (Committee Chairs, 15 Minutes)

Each chair provided updates on their committees current activities. These included the endorsement of the "Let's Talk Trash" Initiative, Capital Improvement Plan, FY 22 Budgets, the Juneteenth Freedom Walk and RESTORE funding for the East End Lagoon.

XI. Administration

A. First Reading Of Proposed Bylaw Amendments Concerning Article XI - Committees (Carla Cotropia, 5 Minutes)

Motion: Marty Fluke motioned to delay the first reading of the proposed bylaw changes portion covering the creation of a workforce development committee and do only the first reading of the changes to the East End Lagoon Advisory Committee.

Second: David Collins seconded.

Vote:: Failed (2-4-1, Jacoby, Creitz, Wright and Priest opposed, Worthen abstained and Patton was not present at time of vote)

David Collins shared that he did not believe the workforce development committee fell under the Park Board's mission. Kelly de Schaun shared that this idea has been vetted by the Galveston Hotel and Lodging Association and would be to align resources in Galveston, (schools and industries) to develop a tourism industry workforce.

Motion: Spencer Priest motioned to have the first reading as presented.

Second: Dave Jacoby seconded.

Vote: Approved (5-2, Collins and Fluke Opposed, Patton not present at time of vote).

Carla Cotropia reviewed the proposed changes to the bylaws regarding the elimination of the East End Lagoon Advisory Committee and adding three of the members to the Parks and Amenities Committee

and the creation of the Workforce Development Committee.

- B. Discuss Recommendation To Remove ByLaw Requirement To Bid Out Concessions In Article XVIII - Concessionaire Policy (Kimberly Danesi, 10 Minutes)

Kimberly Danesi reported that staff would like to remove the language in the bylaws allowing only one renewal for concessionaire agreements and then requiring the areas to be put out for public bidding. She stated that the concessionaire partnerships are valuable to the Park Board and they require an investment by these small businesses which can be a risk if they are not allowed to renew. Mrs. Danesi shared that staff is working on defining a rate structure and finalizing standards which will be required for all concession agreements and would like to give current concessionaires the choice to re-contract their current area, with these new rates and standards, before putting out for bid.

Motion: David Collins motioned to proceed with a first reading of the proposed bylaw change.

Second: Dave Jacoby seconded.

Vote: Approved (7-0, Patton not present at time of vote).

- C. Discuss And Consider Approval Of A Task Force To Review And Recommend An Online Hotel Occupancy Tax Registration, Payment And Reporting System (Bryson Frazier, 15 Minutes)

Bryson Frazier reported that with the recent changes approved by City Council to the ordinance regulating short term rentals (STR), staff is recommending the formation of a task force to review and make recommendations on the registration, payment and reporting systems. He then reviewed a preliminary list of resources that the Park Board may need which includes a consultant, upgrading of the current reporting and payment system and the registration system, STR owner education, identifying invalid and unregistered STR listings, audits, City enforcement and a hotline.

Motion: David Collins motioned to approve the formation of the task force.

Second: Marty Fluke seconded.

Vote: Approved (7-0, Patton not present at time of vote).

- D. Discuss And Consider Approval Of Formalization Of Stewart Beach Selection Committee For Public-Private Partnership (Spencer Priest, 10 Minutes)

Spencer Priest shared that the request for qualifications for interested developers in a Stewart Beach Public-Private partnership was distributed on July 13th with a due date of August 27th. He is asking for a selection committee to be formed to review the responses received and identify the top options to present to the Board of Trustees and the City for final selection. Mr. Priest proposed the following trustees as members of this committee: Marty Fluke, Chair, Jason Worthen, Jason Hardcastle and David Collins.

Motion: Spencer Priest motioned to approve the selection committee and proposed members.

Second: David Collins seconded.

Vote: Approved (6-0, Jacoby abstained, Patton not present at time of vote).

- E. Discuss And Consider Approval Of Park Board Trustee Representative For Discussions Of Battleship

Texas Plans (Spencer Priest, 10 Minutes)

Spencer Priest shared that discussions on the Battleship Texas being berthed in Galveston have been re-initiated. He reported that he has asked Jason Hardcastle to be part of these conversations and is seeking ratification by the Board. David Collins shared that while he appreciates the support for this by several Galvestonians, the Board has previously made it clear that they are not supportive of this initiative since there is no current plan for funding.

Motion: Spencer Priest motioned to approve having Trustee Jason Hardcastle as the representative for the Park Board at the Battleship Texas Galveston meetings.,

Second: Marty Fluke seconded.

Vote: Failed (1-5-1, Fluke, Collins, Wright, Creitz and Jacoby opposed, Worthen abstained and Patton not present at the time of vote).

XII. Operations

A. Presentation Of Third Quarter Capital Improvement Plan (Sheryl Rozier, 10 Minutes)

Sheryl Rozier thanked the park managers for all of their work on their capital plans and provided an update on the Babe's Beach nourishment project. She shared that the goal is to begin pumping sand on the beach Friday, July 30th.

XIII. Consent

Motion: Marty Fluke motioned to approve the consent agenda items.

Second: Maureen Patton seconded.

Vote: Approved (8-0).

- A. Discuss And Consider Approval Of Meeting Minutes
- B. Discuss And Consider Approval To Award Bid To Lucas Construction For Slab Repair Work At Seawolf Park (Corey Holcomb)
- C. Discuss And Consider Approval Of Fiscal Year 2021 May Unaudited Financial Statements (Bryson Frazier)
- D. Discuss And Consider A Resolution Of The Park Board Of Trustees Of The City Of Galveston Authorizing Staff To Apply For And Obtain Funding From The Texas General Land Office For State Assistance Through The Beach Maintenance Fund (Stuart Smith)
- E. Discuss And Consider Approval Of Tourism Development Expenditures (Michael Woody)
- F. Discuss And Consider Approval Of Additional Visitor Center Upgrades (Jacquelyn Helton)
- G. Discuss And Consider Certified Tourism Ambassador (CTA) Gap Event Funding (Jacquelyn Helton)
- H. Discuss And Consider Mobile VICi Enhancements (Jacquelyn Helton)

XIV. Executive Session

The meeting entered executive session at 3:45 p.m.

- A. Pursuant To Texas Government Code Section 551.071 - Consultation With Attorney On A Matter In Which The Duty Of The Attorney To The Governmental Body Under Texas Disciplinary Rules Of Professional Conduct Of The State Of Texas Clearly Conflicts With This Chapter - Legal Matters Concerning Litigation - Sonya Poretto V The City Of Galveston Park Board Of Trustees Et Al

XV. Action Item (S) Resulting From Executive Session

The open meeting resumed at 4:24 p.m.

- A. Discuss And Consider Action For Any Executive Session Item Listed On The Meeting Agenda

There was no action taken.

XVI. Monthly Report

The monthly report for June is available in the Board briefing papers.

XVII. Future Agenda Items

- Sustainability Plan approval
- Federal Advocacy Update
- NEA Grant Interlocal with City
- Windstorm Coalition membership
- Committee Appointments
- Draft of FY 22 Budget and workplans
- Concession plans
- Task force recommendations

XVIII. Announcements

XIX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

Schel Heydenburg
Board Reporter

Dave Jacoby
Board Secretary