

## **Media Contact**

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## **Galveston Park Board Update: May 15, 2013**

The Galveston Park Board of Trustees held its regularly scheduled meeting at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 14 at Park Board Plaza. Below is an update of news from the board room.

### **Park Board Partners with UTMB on Medical Tourism Initiative**

The Galveston Park Board of Trustees and the University of Texas Medical Branch are teaming up to develop a new medical tourism initiative. The concept will be discussed this Thursday in a seminar led by Dr. David Vequist, director of the Center for Medical Tourism Research (CMTR) at the University of the Incarnate Word. Vequist presented to the board during Tuesday's meeting to give an introduction on medical tourism before the seminar, which will be held from 9:30 a.m. to noon May 16 at the UTMB Open Gates facility at 2419 Sealy Avenue in Galveston. Local tourism and medical professionals will attend the seminar by invitation.

### **Park Board Approves Splash of the Titans Event at East Beach**

The Park Board of Trustees unanimously approved a contract with Cypress-based Mission Tent LLC to sponsor and promote a new Splash of the Titans event to be held at East Beach this summer. The event will feature a 5k obstacle course from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 13.

### **Park Board Celebrates 50 Year Anniversary**

The Park Board of Trustees hosted a celebration of the organization's 50th anniversary during Tuesday's regularly scheduled meeting, which fell on the exact date the Park Board was officially created in 1963. The celebration included a brief speech from Park Board Chairman Dr. Craig Brown. Councilwoman Marie Robb presented the board with an official proclamation from the City of Galveston to congratulate the organization on its accomplishments.

### **Park Board Appoints News Reps to TDAC and BMAC**

During Tuesday's meeting, the Park Board appointed several new representatives to the Tourism Development Advisory Committee. Steve Cunningham, general manager for Hotel Galvez, Tremont House and Harbor House, was named the new vice chair. Buzz Elton was appointed as the Park Board representative, and Erin Kay was appointed the new Chamber of Commerce representative. The Park Board also appointed Councilwoman Marie Robb as the new Park Board representative for the Beach Maintenance Advisory Committee (BMAC). Robb has served as a resource member of the Park Board of Trustees since August 2012.

### **New Concessionaires Coming to East Beach and Seawall**

Three new concessionaire contracts were approved during Tuesday's meeting. In June, Louisiana-based Bam Bam's Concessions will operate a food trailer in Fort Crockett Park, offering hamburgers, hotdogs, candy, nachos and soft drinks. Galveston-based Barrie Cold Drinks will soon offer soft drinks, water and packaged snacks on Seawall Boulevard between 35<sup>th</sup> and 38<sup>th</sup> streets. Yaga's Entertainment will begin selling beer and wine out of a mobile trailer at East Beach beginning Memorial Day weekend.

### **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](http://www.galvestonparkboard.org).

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