



Media Contact

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Galveston Park Board Update: May 15, 2014

The Galveston Park Board of Trustees held its regularly scheduled meeting at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 13 at Park Board Plaza. Below is an update of news from the boardroom.

Park Board Elects New Chair and Vice Chair

The Galveston Park Board of Trustees Tuesday unanimously voted to elect Melvin Williams as the new chair of the board. Williams, who previously served as vice chair, will replace Dr. Craig Brown, who is resigning after his recent election to the Galveston City Council District 2 seat. The board also appointed Steve Kalbaugh to serve as vice chair. During the meeting, Brown expressed his gratitude to the board and offered encouraging words for the organization's future endeavors.

East Beach to Receive Art Installation

East Beach will soon be home to a new art installation after the board Tuesday accepted a sculpture donation by resident artist Joe Joe Orangias of the Galveston Artist Residency program. The sculpture, *Pink Dolphin Monument*, depicts a dolphin carved from red sandstone native of coastal regions in Texas. Orangias has dedicated the monument to gender and sexual minority communities to keep in line with the Park Board's mission statement in generating tourism and promoting diversity in Galveston. The monument will be installed next month and unveiled at the June 7 ArtWalk.

Stand-Up Paddleboard and Parasailing Coming to Galveston Beach Parks

Visitors to Galveston's beaches this summer will have the opportunity experience new adventures after the board Tuesday approved a concessionaire agreement with Galveston-based Island Stand Up to operate a stand-up paddleboard attraction at 47th Street and Seawall Boulevard. The board also approved an agreement with Caribbean Breeze Parasailing to operate a parasailing attraction at East Beach. Caribbean Breeze will also offer Jet Ski rentals, boat rides and other water sport equipment rentals.

Park Board Master Planning Project Update

On Tuesday, the board heard an update from Patty Knudson of Houston-Based planning firm Knudson Services regarding the Park Board Master Planning Project for Stewart Beach and East Beach. Knudson presented a slideshow to the board displaying various ideas for possible expansion of the two parks. The board announced it will hold a special called meeting at 8 a.m. May 23 at Park Board Plaza to further discuss the project. The first hour of the meeting will be open to the public to provide comments and insight regarding the vision for the parks. The Park Board hired Knudson Services to produce a vision and business plan for the two parks that identifies opportunities, constraints and funding for future capital investments and improvements, while also facilitating collaboration with private sector developers.

Announcements:

- Galveston CVB Director Meg Winchester presented an update to the board regarding the Certified Tourism Ambassador program stating that 44 individuals have successfully completed the training. Winchester also congratulated the board on their completion of the training and awarded each member with their certificate and pin. The CTA program trainings for members of Galveston's hospitality industry will continue through June 20.
- The Park Board approved a contract with Dallas-based Highland Entertainment to produce a one-day music festival Aug 2 at the East Beach entertainment stage featuring electronic dance music.

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.