

Media Contact

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Galveston Park Board Update: December 14, 2016

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

Consultant: Galveston is Ripe for Sports Tourism

Galveston's natural assets, its convention centers and attractions make the island a great place for increased sports tourism. This was the conclusion from consultant, Don Schumacher, president of the National Association of Sports Commissions. Schumacher presented his findings during the Park Board meeting Tuesday. He offered what he considers Galveston's strengths and weaknesses when it comes to drawing sports teams and their families to the island. He also outlined the next steps to take in order to drive business from this market segment, including improving existing sports facilities in Galveston.

Park Board Joins City of Galveston Health Insurance Plan

At its meeting Tuesday, the Park Board approved an interlocal agreement with the City of Galveston that will place Park Board employees on the City's health insurance plan. The new plan will make available additional benefits to Park Board employees and will take effect in Jan. 2017.

Board Approves Contract with Survey Firm for Work at East End Lagoon

On Tuesday, the Park Board approved a \$60,000 contract with Crystal-Beach based Coastal Surveying of Texas, Inc. for survey work at the East End Lagoon. The firm will determine boundaries and delineate wetland and upland areas. The work will produce a topographical survey, a map that can be used as a basis for the location and development of a planned ADA accessible interpretive trail and other projects at the lagoon. Work is expected to begin in early 2017.

Board Approves Overnight Camping at East Beach for Jeep Event

At its meeting Tuesday, the Park Board approved overnight camping at East Beach during Jeep Go Topless Day, a national event that brings together Jeep enthusiasts for outdoor recreation. Citing a successful 2016 event that brought more than 250 vehicles to East Beach, the promoter plans to expand the event to include live music, vendors, obstacle courses and other activities, plus overnight camping. Campers will have the option to rent a 20-by-20 space for \$75 or a 20-by-50 space for \$125. Park Board staff will seek a temporary waiver of the no-camping policy from the City of Galveston for the event. If approved, Park Board staff will hire overnight security for the event that takes place May 19-20, 2017.

Board Approves Organization's 2017 State Legislative Agenda

The Park Board of Trustees Tuesday approved the organization's 2017 state legislative agenda after hearing an update from executive director Kelly de Schaun. Areas of interest include supporting funding for the state's tourism agency, Texas Tourism; local regulation of the short-term-rental industry; funding for the state event trust fund; a uniform school start date; the establishment of the Lone Star National Recreation Area; funding for Texas General Land Office coastal programs and securing RESTORE funding for Park Board projects.

Board Makes Committee Appointments

On Tuesday, the Park Board approved appointments to its committees. John Zendt will serve as a board member of the Tourism Development Advisory Committee and Ron Sutula, was appointed as an at-large attractions representative. Lauren Desomeaux, Clyde Steddum, Marie Robb and Jerry Mohn were appointed to the Beach Maintenance Advisory Committee. Spencer Priest, Jeff Nielsen, Josh Hargrove, Hal Needham and Kristen Vale were appointed to the Parks and Amenities Committee.

Park Board Approves Galveston Island Convention Center Budget

On Tuesday, the Park Board approved the 2017 budget for the Galveston Island Convention Center. The budget amount is \$1,674,123.

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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