

Media Contact

Ivette Wilhelm
Public Relations Coordinator
Park Board of Trustees
Office: 409-797-5124
Email: iwilhelm@galvestonparkboard.org



Galveston Park Board Update: September 26, 2014

The Galveston Park Board of Trustees held its regularly scheduled meeting at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 23 at Park Board Plaza. Below is an update of news from the boardroom.

Park Board Approves 2014-2015 Fiscal Year Budget

During Tuesday's regularly scheduled meeting, the Park Board unanimously approved the organization's operating budget for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. The \$14,308,583 budget is a 6.19% percent increase over the previous fiscal year. The Park Board manages various funds, including tourism development, beach cleaning, beach patrol, debt service, grants, beach nourishment, sand replenishment and general administration. The Park Board is funded 57.61% by state Hotel Occupancy Tax revenue and 26.87% by beach user fees. Additional funding comes from various grants and reimbursements. The organization receives no ad valorem taxes from the City of Galveston.

Board Approves \$60,000 Renewal Contract with Legislative Consulting Firm

The board Tuesday approved to renew a \$60,000 contract with D.C.-based legislative consulting firm Van Scoyoc and Associates. The Park Board originally hired Van Scoyoc in 2013 to assist with outreach to legislative representatives and national agencies in Washington, D.C. Upon contracting with the firm last year, Van Scoyoc representative Greg Burns facilitated the development of a legislative agenda for the Park Board and successfully helped to progress the agenda which will positively benefit the organization and the wider Texas coast. The board expects to see continued success with the firm in the new fiscal year.

Board Awards \$60,000 Transportation Study Contract

The board Tuesday approved a \$60,000 contract with Houston-based planning firm Knudson Consulting to conduct an island-wide transportation study through an interlocal agreement with the City of Galveston. While the transportation study will cost a total of \$60,000, both parties have agreed to split the cost evenly. The study conducted by Knudson will identify ways to alleviate existing traffic congestion issues that impact economic development and community improvement. It will also examine the role of transportation in supporting economic growth, job creation and business accessibility and visibility. The plan is intended to guide the Park Board and the City of Galveston in developing short-term and long-term solutions to traffic congestion, recommend options for intra-island connectivity and the development of an action plan to implement the recommendations. The study is expected to be complete by summer 2015.

Board Approves Task Order with Louis Berger for Administrative Support of Ike Projects

The board Tuesday approved to hire Louis Berger Group to provide technical and administrative support to the Park Board for Hurricane Ike related recovery projects. The Park Board works with Louis Berger through the approval of task orders which authorize work up to the predetermined amount of \$38,828. The current task order will engage Louis Berger representatives Teresa Carter, Steve Rock and Rich Peters in a 3-6 month plan that will address quarterly updates, project amendments, close-out of completed projects, solicitude of reimbursements and clarification of insurance issues.

Announcements:

- On Tuesday, the board recognized Dellanera RV Park manager Joe Romero for his 30 years of service with the organization. Park Board deputy director Mario Rabago spoke to Romero's work ethic and dedication through the years.
- On Tuesday, the board granted permission for the Cavalla Historical Foundation and Haunted Mayfield Manor to utilize Seawolf Park facilities to host a new special Halloween event on Oct. 24-25 and Oct. 31- Nov 1. The board agreed to waive parking fees for the special event. Admission into the event is \$4, with a portion benefitting CHF. For details, visit www.galveston.com.
- On Tuesday, the board awarded a \$76,265 contract to Galveston-based Gautier Remodeling and Restoration Company to construct a dune walkover structure at Dellanera Park. The walkover is expected to begin next month and will allow the public to access the beach and park amenities.

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.

###