



### **Media Contact**

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## **Galveston Park Board Update: August 28, 2013**

The Galveston Park Board of Trustees held its regularly scheduled meeting at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, August 27 at Park Board Plaza. Below is an update of news from the board room.

### **Park Board Approves 2013-2014 Fiscal Year Budget**

During Tuesday's regularly scheduled meeting, the Park Board unanimously approved the organization's operating budget for the 2013-2014 fiscal year. The \$13.47 million budget is a 10% percent increase over the previous fiscal year. The Park Board manages 13 unique funds, including tourism development, beach cleaning, beach patrol, debt service, grants, beach nourishment, sand replenishment and general administration. The Park Board is funded 57% by state Hotel Occupancy Tax revenue and 24% by beach user fees. Additional funding comes from various grants and reimbursements. The organization receives no ad valorem taxes from the City of Galveston.

### **Park Board Appoints Members to New Downtown Oversight Committee**

Tuesday the board approved the establishment of a Downtown Oversight Committee. The new committee will develop promotional strategies for the downtown area and provide recommendations for the allocation of revenue generated from downtown parking and other potential sources. The committee's first meeting is scheduled to take place at 8:30 a.m. Aug. 30 at Park Board Plaza. The following members were appointed to the new committee:

- Dr. Craig Brown, Park Board representative
- Bill Ross, Mitchell Historic Properties representative
- Joyce Calver McLean, Downtown Partnership representative
- Allen Flores, Strand representative
- Kathy Modzelewski, Tourism Development Advisory Committee (TDAC) representative
- Councilwoman Elizabeth Beeton, Galveston City Council representative

### **Park Board Approves Funding for Galveston Island Wild Texas Shrimp Festival**

Tuesday, the Park Board of Trustees agreed to dedicate \$8,000 from its special event fund to support the Galveston Island Wild Texas Shrimp Festival – an annual event showcasing Galveston's fresh Gulf cuisine. This year the event is scheduled to take place Sept. 27-29 featuring an expanded area in Galveston's historic downtown with a free boat & RV show, seafood cook-Off, a 5K run and children's activities.

### **Announcements**

- The Park Board has made a donation of \$1,500 to three island charities in memory of the late George P. Mitchell – the Galveston-born billionaire and philanthropist who played a major role in the development of Galveston's tourism industry over the last several decades. The charities, which were selected by the Mitchell family, include the Galveston Island Nature Tourism Council, the Galveston Academic Excellence Booster Club and the Galveston Sustainable Communities Alliance.
- The Park Board has come to an agreement with the City of Galveston to resolve concerns regarding the lack of designated lifeguard parking spots on Seawall Boulevard. During Tuesday's meeting, Beach Patrol Chief Peter Davis reported that they city has agreed to allow lifeguards to place placards in their vehicles that will grant them parking access in nearby residential areas during their scheduled shifts when Seawall spots are not available. Beach Patrol has purchased 25 annual passes to allow its lifeguards to park on the Seawall in the wake of the city's new paid parking program.

**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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