



### **Media Contact**

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## **Galveston Park Board Update: February 12, 2015**

The Galveston Park Board of Trustees held its regular meeting at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 10 at Park Board Plaza. Below is an update of news from the boardroom.

### **Beach Parking Ambassadors to Assist Tourists on Seawall**

The Park Board on Tuesday announced plans to place beach parking ambassadors along the Seawall to assist visitors and facilitate the collection of parking fees. A manager and a staff of parking ambassadors will patrol portions of the Seawall by car and on Segways equipped with license plate readers. They will be trained as Certified Tourist Ambassadors, wildlife monitors and will receive limited cardio-pulmonary resuscitation training. They will not issue citations, but will place warning stickers on cars belonging to those who haven't paid. Those who fail to pay and leave the Seawall will be issued an after-the-fact citation from the City of Galveston. Patrols will occur every day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and are expected to begin March 1.

### **Park Board Establishes East End Lagoon Advisory Committee**

At its meeting Tuesday, the Park Board announced the establishment of the East End Lagoon Advisory Committee. The East End Lagoon is a 700-acre nature preserve located on the east end of the Seawall along Boddecker Drive. The purpose of the committee is to protect the wetland environment while creating economic and recreational opportunities for the area. In addition, its members will review and recommend policy as it relates to the vision, resource allocations and overall operation of the East End Lagoon development and related activities. The committee will be comprised of nine individuals elected by the Park Board of Trustees and they will begin meeting in August. Former Galveston mayor Lyda Ann Thomas has been named committee chair and Moody Gardens president John Zendt will be the vice-chair.

### **Park Board Receives Loan for Beach Nourishment Project**

Four local banks have collaborated to lend \$1.5 million to the Park Board for a beach nourishment project that will take place along the Seawall from 61<sup>st</sup> to 103<sup>rd</sup> streets. At a meeting Tuesday, representatives of Moody National Bank, Frost Bank, Hometown Bank and Texas First Bank presented details of the loan that represents the Park Board's share for the project. The City of Galveston, through its Industrial Development Corporation contributed \$3 million toward the project and the Texas General Land Office contributed \$500,000. The guarantee for the loan comes from a portion of the money collected at Park Board managed facilities that are specifically earmarked for beach nourishment.

### **Announcements**

- At its meeting Tuesday the Park Board approved to spend \$79,902.38 for playground equipment from Fun Abounds to be placed at East Beach.
- At its meeting Tuesday the Park Board approved to spend \$47,605.50 for three Segways, accessories and freight charges from the Segway Inc. to be used by Park Board parking ambassadors.
- At its meeting Tuesday, the Park Board approved entering into a lease agreement with Kansas State Bank in the amount of \$611,690.66 for the purchase of equipment previously approved by the board. The equipment includes surf rakes, trailers and trucks for use by Coastal Zone Management and Beach Patrol staff.
- On Tuesday, the Park Board approved to spend \$58,109.04 for nine all-terrain vehicles from Texas Yamaha South to be used at Stewart Beach and East Beach.
- On Tuesday, the Park Board approved to spend \$54,108.84 for two Ford F250 crew trucks from McRee Ford to be used by Coastal Zone Management staff.
- On Tuesday, the Park Board approved to spend \$144,295.04 for four Massey Ferguson tractors to be used by Coastal Zone Management staff and for use at Stewart Beach and East Beach.

- At its meeting Tuesday the Park Board approved to spend \$28,660 for a Ford Edge from Classic Ford to be used by the Park Board Executive Director.

**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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