



Media Contact

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Galveston Park Board Update: February 14, 2014

The Galveston Park Board of Trustees held its regularly scheduled meeting at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 11 at Park Board Plaza. Below is an update of news from the boardroom.

Board Approves Proposal for Parking Cooperation with City of Galveston

Tuesday, the board unanimously approved the first draft of an interlocal agreement with the City of Galveston that will honor annual parking passes on Seawall Boulevard and the island's beach parks. The proposal was drafted at the request of the Texas General Land Office (GLO) to come into compliance with the City of Galveston's beach access plan. The proposal states that while the Park Board and City of Galveston will continue to sell \$25 annual parking passes separately, annual passes bought from either the City or the Park Board will be honored on Seawall Boulevard and at the beach parks managed by the Park Board. The proposal will be sent to Galveston City Council for review, and then drafted into an official interlocal agreement to be voted on again by both groups.

Board Approves \$12,000 Contract for Economic Impact Study

The Park Board of Trustees Tuesday awarded a \$12,000 contract to Philadelphia-based tourism consulting company Tourism Economics for a 2013 economic impact study of tourism in Galveston. Last spring, the Park Board contracted Tourism Economics to complete a \$20,500 economic impact study for 2012. The study assessed the overall economic contributions of tourism to the City of Galveston including sales tax, employment, hotel occupancy tax, indirect benefits and more. The 2012 study validated the importance of tourism for Galveston and the statistical data proved to be an invaluable resource, as it assisted the Galveston Hotel & Lodging Association (GHLA) in securing an additional \$400,000 from trickle down funds for the Galveston CVB's 2013-2014 marketing budget.

Planning Firm to Build Master Plan for Galveston Beach Parks

The Park Board of Trustees Tuesday awarded a \$70,000 contract to Houston-Based planning firm Knudson Services to assist in building a master plan that will facilitate the development of R.A. Appfel Park and Stewart Beach. Knudson Services will produce a vision and business plan for the two parks that identifies opportunities, constraints and funding for future capital investments and improvements. The plan will also facilitate collaboration with private sector developers. The Park Board expressed particular interest in the detailed transportation analysis of Galveston that Knudson Services will incorporate within the master plan. A draft of the master plan is expected to be complete within four months.

Park Board Welcomes New Human Resources Director

On Tuesday, Park Board Executive Director Kelly de Schaub introduced Jill Dworsky as the new human resources manager for the organization. Dworsky is a human resources specialist with sixteen years of personnel and supervision experience in the public sector. Dworsky's objective is to lead stakeholders in the design, implementation and evaluation of human resource policies, procedures and practices. She has a Master of Education degree from The University of Houston-Victoria and is certified as a human resources specialist, Texas public school superintendent, principal and teacher. Dworsky moved to Galveston from Kerrville, Texas to join her husband who has served as the Chief Financial Officer of the Galveston Island School District since 2009. Dworsky is eager to play an important role in the Park Board's continuing efforts to foster accountability and transparency among employees, residents and stakeholders.

Board Approves the Renewal of Two Concessionaire Agreements

The Park Board of Trustees on Tuesday approved the renewal of two concessionaire agreements with Randall Bowers of Galveston-based Beach Services LLC to occupy vendor areas along Seawall beach. Beach Services LLC will operate an umbrella rental stand at 47th Street and a Jet Ski rental stand at 47th Street.

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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