



Media Contact

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Galveston Park Board Update: January 16, 2014

The Galveston Park Board of Trustees held its regularly scheduled meeting at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 14 at Park Board Plaza. Below is an update of news from the boardroom.

Board Approves Organization's 2014 Legislative Agenda

The Park Board of Trustees Tuesday approved the organization's 2014 legislative agenda after hearing a presentation from legislative consultant Greg Burns of D.C.-based Van Scoyoc and Associates. Burns was recently recruited by the Park Board to assist with outreach to legislative representatives and national agencies. Burns updated the board on a series of potential programs and initiatives for the organization.

Board Approves Document for Best Practices of Beach Maintenance

Tuesday, the board unanimously approved the General Principles for Seaweed Relocation Activities— a document intended to guide the City of Galveston Planning Department when reviewing permit applications for seaweed maintenance. Last year, the Park Board was approached by the City Planning Department to develop this document. In September 2013, the organization's Beach Maintenance Advisory Committee (BMAC), agreed to assist and assigned a task force committee to create the document. The document is provided as a resource to facilitate coastal stewardship and sustainable, environmentally responsible beach cleaning and maintenance practices along the Galveston coast, including seaweed relocation, litter control and debris removal.

Park Board adds new Environmentally-Friendly Beach Maintenance Machinery to Fleet

The Park Board's beach maintenance fleet will soon expand after the board approved the purchase of \$260,000 in new equipment for beach maintenance. The new equipment includes three Kubota tractors and three Barber Surf Rakes. Last year, the Park Board added a Surf Rake to the fleet as a cost-effective, sand-friendly alternative to its previously used front-end loaders. The Surf Rake is designed to remove seaweed without disrupting sand. Executive Director Kelly de Schaun said the Surf Rake was instrumental in safely maintaining Galveston's beaches, while simultaneously reducing the amount of manual labor and time needed to keep the beaches clean, due to the machine's trash collection capabilities. The decision to purchase the new equipment stems from the organization's continuing efforts to practice environmentally responsible beach maintenance.

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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