

Media Contact

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Galveston Park Board Update: January 28, 2015

The Galveston Park Board of Trustees held its meeting at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 27 at Park Board Plaza. Below is an update of news from the boardroom.

Park Board Plans \$12 million in Improvements to East Beach

The Park Board plans to make \$12 million in improvements at East Beach. At its meeting Tuesday, the Park Board heard a presentation outlining the final draft of the East Beach master plan that includes amenities like showers and restrooms, shade structures, signage, landscaping, a playground and bike racks to the beach park. A key priority is to improve Boddeker Drive, the beach park's primary access road. Houston-based design and planning firm Knudsen LP drafted the plan and will present the final version to the Park Board at its meeting Feb. 10. The board is expected to approve it. Once the plan is approved Park Board staff can begin seeking funding sources for the short-term and long-term projects. Work is expected to begin this summer.

Park Board To Make Audio Casts Available to the Public

In an effort to increase transparency and public access, the Park Board on Tuesday approved making audio casts from regular board meetings available on its web site. The board will spend \$200 for equipment that is necessary to place the audio casts at www.galvestonparkboard.org. The first audio cast is expected to be available in February. The Park Board plans to research investing in equipment that would allow for live-streaming of the meetings. It is expected to be a budgeted item for fiscal year 2015.

Galveston Park Board to Explore Grant Opportunities

The Park Board on Tuesday announced plans to explore grant opportunities to fund beach improvements and preservation-based projects on the island. Board staff recently met with representatives from island philanthropic groups to discuss hiring a consultant to identify grant funding sources. The move comes as funds from the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities and Revived Economies (RESTORE) Act funds have recently become available coastal states impacted by the Deepwater Horizon explosion in 2010.

Board Approves Organization's 2015 Legislative Agenda

The Park Board of Trustees Tuesday approved the organization's 2015 legislative agenda after hearing an update from executive director Kelly de Schaun. Greg Burns of D.C.-based Van Scoyoc and Associates prepared the agenda and will assist with outreach to legislative representatives and national agencies. Areas of interest include federal engagement in beach management, coastal restoration and tourism promotion.

Park Board Approves Land Lease from the Texas General Land Office

On Tuesday, the Park Board approved a land lease from the Texas General Land Office (GLO) for state submerged lands south of the Seawall. The Park Board needs to obtain the lease before it can proceed with a \$19.5 million beach nourishment project that will stretch from 61st to 103rd streets and is expected to begin this summer.

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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