

BEACH REPLENTISHMENT

(Rebuilding beaches in front of the Seawall.)

LONG TERM GOAL

The Galveston City Council should establish beach replentishment in front of the Seawall and on West Beach as a priority project of the city. Our beaches must be preserved for the sake of our economy, our quality of life, our children, and our homes. The viability of our island as a tourist destination will be greatly enhanced by beach nourishment. Beaches will encourage development. Development is the difference between an acre of land presently carried on the tax rolls at \$150,000 as compared to a condominium or a hotel that is on the tax rolls for \$5,000,000.

Beach quality sand is constantly being dredged and dumped out in the Gulf by the Army Corp of Engineers and other parties. Offshore dumping of this valuable resource can not be tolerated. The city must aggressively pursue state, county, and local sources for funding a dredged beach renourishment project. \$5 million is required to raise the beach level 5 feet, extend it out 200 feet, and fill in the groin field from 10th Street to 68th Street. Studies are presently being conducted to complete the job to the end of the Seawall.

SHORT TERM GOAL

The city should use available trucks and equipment to move sand from East Beach where it is surplus to beaches on the Seawall each year. The public's enthusiasm and support could be gained if the city builds a new beach each year while supplementing existing beaches with additional sand as required.

The first pilot project area should be designated for the groin field between 24th and 29th Streets. This area is serviced by the trolley. There is an abundance of private parking space available in this area. 25th Street is highlighted in the master plan as a major entrance to the Seawall and as such it should be enhanced. The city owns the hotel and the property under the Flagship Pier. It will serve as a rallying feature to help improve Menard Park. And lastly, this area has vacant land presently on the tax rolls that can be developed.

The Galveston County Beach and Shore Committee has been formed with representatives from the community, the city, the county, and the state. The Army Corp of engineers has a representative who serves in an advisory capacity. The goals as outlined above are being addressed. The full support of the council members is sought and appreciated. The task force feels that this project has the support of the entire community and that its completion would help unify and solidify Galveston's commitment to improving the Seawall.

PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC

PEDESTRIAN LIGHTS are too short for the average (laid back/retired) person to cross safely.

There is a need for more PROTECTED CROSSWALKS on the Seawall. This problem should be addressed this winter because it will become much more important next summer when parking is removed from the south side of the Seawall.

All PROTECTED CROSSWALKS should be painted with ZEBRA STRIPES.

SEAWALL MERCHANT QUESTIONNAIRE SUMMARY

During the month of September, 81 questionnaires were distributed to all merchants from 6th Street to 63rd Street. Thirty (30) questionnaires were returned with the attached results. The opinions of the merchants were considered in the formulation of the final report. They were, however, diverse in their answers.

THERE WAS GENERAL SUPPORT FOR THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

Creating beaches in front of the seawall....

Increased promotion of the Moody Center parking facility.

A Seawall Merchants Association should be formed.

More effort should be spent keeping Seawall Blvd. neat and clean.

There was general disagreement on the other issues:

Sixty percent (60%) of the merchants reported that their business had improved over last summer.

The most general comment cited as the number one priority problem on the Seawall was ROUDY GROUPS GATHER ON THE SEAWALL.

SEAWALL TASK FORCE
Merchant Questionnaire -- September 12, 1988

The Seawall Task Force needs your help. Please take the time to fill out this questionnaire. Your comments will be presented to the Mayor and City Council to help them make important decisions regarding the seawall this year. Return the completed survey to: Russell Eitel, Chairman, Seawall Task Force, 4807 Sherman, Galveston (77551)

1. Do you think the city should pursue a ban of public consumption of alcohol on Seawall Blvd? 11 14
YES NO UNCERTAIN
2. Do you feel parking should be banned on the south side of Seawall Blvd?
If so, between what streets? 8 17
YES NO UNCERTAIN
3. Should the city encourage private individuals who own vacant lots on or near the seawall to use them for paid parking during the summer? 15 6
YES NO UNCERTAIN
4. Do you think parking meters should be installed on the north side of Seawall Blvd.
If so, between what streets? 10 14
YES NO UNCERTAIN
5. Does the City adequately promote the use of the parking garage behind the Moody Center? 17 4
YES NO UNCERTAIN
6. Do you think a Seawall Merchants Association should be formed to help promote improvements of the Seawall image?
Would you actively participate? 16 6
YES NO UNCERTAIN
7. Do you feel that "beach nourishment" (creating beaches) in front of the seawall should be a priority project for the city, county, and state government entities? 21 2
YES NO UNCERTAIN
8. Do you think that more money and effort should be spent on keeping Seawall Blvd. and sidewalks neat and clean?
If so, how should it be paid for? 19 5
YES NO UNCERTAIN
9. Are you in favor of removing the planter boxes on the south sidewalk of Seawall Blvd? 13 10
YES NO UNCERTAIN
10. Was the police presence on the seawall adequate this summer?
If not, during what period?
Other comments? 16 8
YES NO UNCERTAIN
11. Overall, did your business improve this summer compared to last year? 15 10
YES NO UNCERTAIN
12. In your opinion, what is the city's number 1 priority problem on the seawall that should be solved? How?

(Please use the back of this survey for additional comments.)

THANK YOU

MENARD PARK

ALL CITY PARK IMPROVEMENTS SHOULD QUALIFY FOR A 50% MATCHING GRANT FROM THE STATE PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT IF SUBMITTED BEFORE JANUARY 31!!

Menard Park has become one of the least utilized parks in the Galveston system. This three square city block jewel has become a public eyesore and the problems in an around the park were a motivating force which caused the formation of the Seawall Task Force.

Consider what a visitor to our city would presently see at Menard Park - which also furnishes a residence for a park employee and is the office for the City Parks Department.

- An excellent tennis facility."
- A recreational clubhouse with snack bar, game room, and small gymnasium.
- The clubhouse also has a meeting room that can be used for groups of 25. The bathrooms inside this building are out of date and there are no doors on the toilet stalls.
- The western masonry wall has fallen over and been left to lay there for at least five years.
- An old stack of about twenty concrete light poles has been laying in the park for a similar period of time.
- The outdoor bathroom facilities are poorly lit, unpublicized, dirty, and severely outdated.
- On a recent trip the grass was covered with sticker burrs making the park unusable for recreation purposes. On the street, the grass was growing over the sidewalk and curb.
- A beautiful band shell that is grossly underutilized.

Picture a beautiful three city block park with numerous recreational facilities. It is lined with Palm trees on three sides while numerous shade trees dot the park. In front of the park a renourished beach is enjoyed by bathers gathered around colorful umbrellas. Parking lots are provided on either side of the park for convenient use by bathers, picnickers, and senior citizens.

A sixteen step program is briefly outlined to enhance Menard Park. It is open for review and certainly can be enhanced. However, the first nine steps would cost the City only \$13,000.00, while the first 12 steps would cost approximately \$40,000.00.

The last step would include a parking lot utilized by the Seawall and the park. It's approximate cost would be \$50,000.00.

One important aspect in transforming Menard Park is to involve neighborhood organizations in the rebuilding process. Local groups could be encouraged to participate with work weekends or by volunteering to raise money for a particular project. Menard Park should become a park with recreational facilities for all the people. It should be a source of community pride, and with the proper energy and leadership, it certainly will!!

MENARD PARK ACTION LIST

| | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. Remove old concrete lightpoles stacked along West wall. | \$ 0.00 |
| 2. Paint park keeper's residence | 200.00 |
| 3. Repair broken masonry west wall | 500.00 |
| 4. Create 2 basketball courts on existing concrete pad in front of the band shell. Nets to be placed on east and west ends of pad so they will not hardly interfere with future concerts. | 1000.00 |
| 5. Enhance grass through proper chemical treatment and maintenance program. | 2000.00 |
| 6. Remodel and paint existing bathrooms in rear of park by the tennis courts. | 2500.00- 5000.00 |
| 7. Reposition baseball diamond or remove. | 0 -2000.00 |
| 8. Plant palm trees in the median along the east and west boundaries of the park. 30 @ 150.00 | 4500.00 |
| 9. Plant shade trees in park near picnic areas 10 @ \$200.00 | 2000.00 |
| 10. Install sprinkler system in park. | 10,000.00 |
| 11. Dress up the park with proper signage. | 3000.00- 5000.00 |
| 12. Build additional and remodel existing picnic tables with roofs and outdoor grills. | 10,000.00 |
| 13. Actively promote public use of the park through enhanced recreation and concert programs. | - |
| 14. Build public restrooms near front of the park that would also service the Seawall. | 40,000.00- 60,000.00 |
| 15. Install two outdoor volleyball courts. | 2,000.00 |
| 16. Purchase empty lot adjacent to the park on 28th St. Resurface using Public Works employees and equipment. | 50,000.00 - |
| 17. Consider outside activities for <u>senior citizens</u> , ie. shuffle board, outdoor chess tables, gardening clubs, etc. | - |
| | <u>\$127,700-\$154,200.00</u> |

(All above improvements should qualify for 50% matching grant.)

PARKING

The Seawall and its beaches are one of the largest attractions on Galveston Island. The master plan for the Seawall calls for the introduction of parking centers clustered around small shopping areas on the North side of the Seawall. The Planning Commission should be looking for areas to increase parking in the Seawall area. The Seawall Task Force and each of the Seawall Development Plans believes that it is in the best interest of the community to eliminate parking (in general) on the South side of the Seawall. How then, can these seemingly conflicting goals be achieved?

1. The city must aggressively market the parking garage behind the visitor center. With the introduction of the trolley and other related tourist services at this location, it will now become financially profitable to do so. The City Parks Board is presently in the process of installing a new entrance gate mechanism that will accept dollar bills as well as quarters. A small banner suspended from the traffic light pole at the intersection in front of the Moody Center during the summer months would help market the parking garage. The small banner is suggested as an alternative to a metal sign that may cause wind damage to the light pole and become a projectile in a hurricane. The final piece of advertising that is required is a message on the electronic marquee that flashes every minute during the peak parking hours.
2. A large parking area should be leased or purchased in the area of Menard Park. There are several under consideration at this time that can be leased or purchased for this purpose. The city's objective should be to enhance Menard Park. Addition of a parking lot in this area would be a necessary first step.
3. The next large parking area requirement is in the area of 45th to 53rd Streets. This should be the city's goal after the Menard Park area is solved. This area may be more likely developed by a private owner or, perhaps, in conjunction with the County as this area is adjacent to the County Park (sic) at 47th Street.
4. The South side of the Seawall should be designated a no parking zone with the exception of the area from 20th to 25th. This area has been singled out for exception due to the fact that the trolley has eliminated all parking on the North side in this area. The parking spaces in this area should be metered. The South side parking ban should be extended from 10th to 53rd S this year with a similar exception for metered spaces adjacent to the wide sidewalk area of the County Park from 47th Street to 50th Street.
5. The city should reinstate parking on the North side of the Seawall from 25th to 35th Streets except in the area directly in front of Menard Park.

PARKING
(Con't.)

6. Parking meters should be installed on the North side of Seawall Boulevard and in the areas on the South side where exceptions have been suggested. The initial installation should extend from 6th Street to 53rd. Street. There are several side streets in the East end of the Seawall that are commercial in nature and where meters would be appropriate. All meters should be placed "two to a pole" so as to be both economical and be less of a visual eyesore. The revenue generated from the parking meters (\$100,000/year) should be used for police and sanitation efforts on the Seawall. Following is an analysis of the start up costs and projected revenues from this project.

- *469 Parking spaces available
- *Capital cost of meters \$152 each
- *Enforcement hours of 10 am to 6 pm
- *One enforcement officer required for 56 hours per week
- *Spare parts at \$2.90/meter
- *Man hours to install two meters at a time .8125.

| <u>CAPITAL COST (one time)</u> | | <u>OPERATING COST</u> | <u>ESTIMATED REVENUE</u> | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| METERS | \$71,288. | ENFORCEMENT | \$20,000. | UTILIZATION | \$123,750. |
| INSTALLATION | 3,975. | MAINTENANCE | 12,000. | CITATIONS | 10,000. |
| SPARE PARTS | 1,360 | | | | |
| | <u>\$77,662.</u> | | <u>\$32,000.</u> | | <u>\$133,750.</u> |
| <u>PROJECTED NET ANNUAL REVENUE</u> | | <u>\$101,750.00.</u> | | | |

7. Private parking lots near the Seawall will only prosper on the weekends and holidays during the season. Because they are experimental in nature at this time, it is suggested that normal parking lot codes should be suspended subject to an annual renewal at this time. This one or two year moratorium could be used to encourage private individuals by giving them a specific period of time in which they must bring their lots up to code.

POLICE PATROLS

The city is to be commended for the increased police patrols that were evident on the Seawall this past summer (1988). A major improvement was noted by the Seawall Task Force, the newspapers, tourists, and Seawall merchants. Sixty six percent (66%) of all Seawall merchants surveyed found the police presence to be adequate this past summer. The following issues were sighted by merchants for consideration next year:

- More police presence is necessary in the East End from 6th to 18th Streets. Numerous examples were cited by East End merchants that were almost put out of business in the late afternoon hours, particularly on Sundays.
- The walking patrols were often cited as lacking in authority and less efficient than the cycle patrols.
- At times, officers seemed to be grouped at Menard Park when there were no pedestrians in the area.
- The hours from 3PM to 9PM were most often cited as problem hours.
- The area around 36th Street has received many complaints as youths have begun to gather there in the evenings around their cars.

PADDY WAGON It has been suggested that the police force would be enhanced if the city could purchase an additional paddy wagon for use on the Seawall. It is felt that the walking and cycle patrols would be more efficient if they had a backup "problem solver" that could be minutes away. When a non-lawabiding person is removed from the Seawall and transported to the police station, their friends will often leave the scene in order to arrange bail at the police station. Efficient use of this method has been used to solve similar problems in other communities.

POLICE BUDGET In the parking section of this report it is recommended that meters be placed on the North side of the Seawall. This is a possible source of revenue that may generate \$100,000 or more to help defray the cost of police protection and sanitation efforts. Isolating ticket revenues generated on the Seawall during the weekends and applying them directly to the police budget may help. This may also be an effective monitoring technique to determine the amount of police coverage necessary.

UTMB SEAWALL STUDY and Seawall Task Force investigations indicate that the increased Seawall police coverage will still be necessary next summer. Efficient and authoritative police protection is a great concern to all citizens and merchants on the Seawall.

PUBLIC CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL

The Seawall Task Force agrees that public consumption of alcohol on Seawall Boulevard is a detrimental factor in creating a positive image for Galveston and for its youth. It is our sincere hope that removing parking from the south side of the Seawall will have a positive effect on this controversial issue.

We fully expect the Police Department to vigorously enforce all laws regarding alcohol consumption on the Seawall.

It is our conclusion that the public will support a legislative effort to amend the state law regarding this issue on Galveston Island if our local efforts fail to make a significant improvement.