

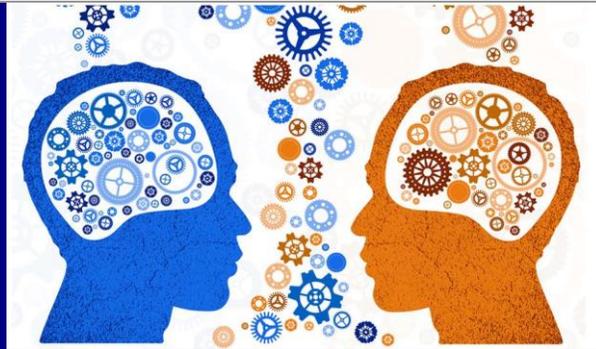


GREETINGS FROM
CRAIG BROWN
GALVESTON CITY COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 2



April 2017 Issue

District 2 Newsletter



It has been almost three years since I first had the honor of representing District 2 as your Council representative and I can truly say it has been enlightening and very enjoyable.

As I look back on these last three years I have been inspired by the input, guidance and questions that so many of you have given me as it relates to the many topics that Council has addressed.

Yes I cast my vote but in doing so it is many times formed, either consciously or unconsciously, by the input I receive.

It was interesting that this concept was confirmed by a new book *The Knowledge Illusion : Why We Never Think Alone*.

The book mentions that even the greatest thinkers do not think in a vacuum; we all rely on a "hive mind" - not just our own intellect, even if we don't realize it.

The authors, Steven Sloman and Philip Fernbach go on to conclude that "the contributions we make as individuals depend more on our ability to work with others than on our individual mental horsepower."

Thank you for all your thoughts and comments and it may sound a little outdated but "keep those cards and letters coming in."

Have a great April !

CRAIG

Increased Hotel Height on the Seawall

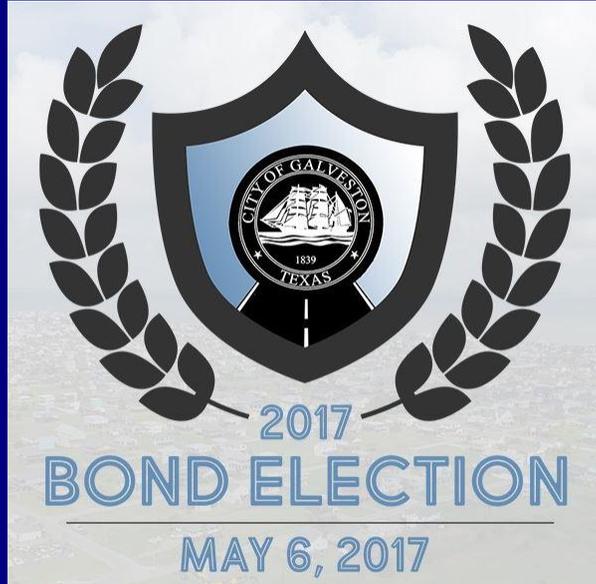
There has been much discussion lately concerning the future of Galveston's Seawall. Of all the topics discussed the one that guides all the others, is the permitted Height of Hotels. At the March 23rd City Council Workshop a proposed Ordinance was presented with the purpose of increasing the Height of Hotels on the Seawall.

As many of you know the current maximum height of Eight Stories (Galvez Hotel Height) was approved by the City in 2009 after a year of Public Engagement and input from Professional Consultants.

This new proposed Ordinance would allow almost a doubling of the allowable Height to a High Rise Level of Fifteen Stories.

I know this topic is so very important to many District 2 residents and as these discussions move forward please feel free to let me know your thoughts on this subject.

Please call, text or email me and if you would like to meet with me personally to state your opinion I will be happy to make myself available.



May 6th Bond Election

As reported earlier, the City has approved a 62 million dollar Bond Election for major Street and Drainage Reconstruction. The Election will be Saturday, May 6th and if approved it will require a 3.5 cent increase in the tax rate.

This is a very important topic for our community and I have scheduled a meeting for residents and City Staff to discuss the details of the Election for Wednesday, April 5th at 6:00 pm at the Galvez Hotel. Please stop by to learn more about this proposal and have your questions answered.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view more specifics.

Roundtable of Foundations

Recently I represented District 2 at a luncheon given by the Roundtable of Foundations here in Galveston. The Roundtable is composed of representatives of the many Philanthropic Foundations on the Island and the luncheon was designed to

present the most recent findings of a Moody Foundation survey of Galveston which addressed education, housing, economic status and demographics.

From this data a strategic plan will be developed to assist Galveston, via philanthropic endeavors, in its growth and development. I think you will find the results of the survey very enlightening and it will give you an even deeper understanding of what is working and what needs improvement.

[CLICK HERE](#)



Galveston Legislative Day

Recently I and four other City Council members joined with dignitaries from Galveston County to visit with Texas Legislators at the Capital in Austin. Numerous subjects that directly have an effect on our City were discussed. Tax Cap, Short Term Rental, Beach Nourishment, Transportation Network Companies and Coastal Insurance Legislation were just a few of the topics that were discussed.

To learn more about the specifics of Galveston's viewpoint on the many and varied Bills before the Texas Legislature

[CLICK HERE.](#)

Question of the Month

Would you be in favor of increasing the Height of Hotels on the Seawall ?



West Market

At the March IDC meeting the Board voted to approve \$150,000 for the design phase of improvements of Market Street from 25th to 33rd Street. This new area has been named "West Market" and is already starting to develop as a new Entertainment and Restaurant area.

This approval, which has to be finalized by City Council, will employ a Design Firm to put together an infrastructure package for improvements along this corridor.

In this discussion, the concept of providing incentives for new businesses who locate in the area was discussed. Look for this to be a prime item of discussion at the next IDC meeting April 4th.

[CLICK HERE](#) to familiarize yourself with this proposal.

Special City Council Meetings

On April 13th City Council will hold a Special Meeting at the Galveston Island Convention Center. This meeting will be a joint meeting with the Wharves Board at 10:00 am followed by the Park Board at 1:30 pm. Both meetings are to take place in the Galleon Room of the Convention Center.

These two very important meetings are to begin a dialogue with the Port concerning their Future Strategic Plan and Park Board concerning a Comprehensive Approach to Increasing the High Value Visitor.



Galveston's Logo and Branding Project

After many months of deliberation by an Ad Hoc Committee the Logo and Brand for the City has been finalized. This new Brand will be utilized on all City marketing and communication tools. This was initiated by the IDC Committee and as you will be able to see this new Logo and Brand compliments the Park Board and Port's logos.

[CLICK HERE](#)

City Manager Report

Do you think you are up to date in your knowledge of the current workings of the Island ? Test your knowledge by reading the

most up to date City Manger Report.

[CLICK HERE](#)

City Council Tidbits



Yes, one of the best events of the year is here again and I would highly recommend you consider Feather Fest as the place to be April 6-9. Please acquaint yourself with this wonderful event and thank you to the Galveston Island Nature Tourism Council for their wonderful sponsorship and management of this International event.

Port of Call

On March 7th representatives of the City, Port and Park Board met to discuss the details of pursuing a Port of Call for the City. The discussions centered around the legalities and logistics of making this a reality and one point quickly became abundantly clear - to be successful requires a very well thought out strategic plan with all entities working together.

The first step will involve the City and the Port Administrations researching the Federal, State and Local regulations and logistics that are involved with this subject. Once the group receives the findings from this research then a more formal Action Plan can be developed. I will keep you updated as this group continues to move forward.

CityWide Clean Up

Spring is here and the City of Galveston is ready to assist all residents with their Spring Cleaning. During the entire month the City has pick ups and other programs available to help you discard of all those unwanted items. If you think you are a hoarder then April in Galveston is your time to make the change. [CLICK HERE](#) to acquaint yourself with all the activities the City has to offer.

Tree Committee Educational Program

The Tree Committee of Galveston is composed of many dedicated individuals and has been instrumental in successfully advocating for keeping our Island a Tree Friendly community. I had the opportunity last week of attending one of their newest projects, an educational presentation to school age children. Ray Hensarling, Ruth Ruiz, Allison Brown, and John Brown gave a marvelous presentation at Ambassador Prep about the importance and science of trees and their effect on our community. Thank You and Congratulations to all those who participated.

New Corridor Projects

Recently the Industrial Development Corporation approved over one million dollars in Design Funding for the reconstruction of 45th Street from Broadway to Seawall. This project is similar to the already funded 27th Street Corridor Project and will supply much needed improvements to one of our most highly traveled north- south thoroughfares.

At the same meeting the IDC Board also received a presentation on a plan for the reconstruction of Harborside from 53rd Street to UTMB. These much needed improvements are to accommodate the ever increasing congestion associated with the Cruise Terminals and to allow for a more user friendly interchange between the Harbor Area and Downtown.

Broadway Design

At the last City Council meeting in March, City Staff presented the final recommendations of the Broadway Design Ad Hoc Committee. The Committee has recommended the hiring of a consultant to develop a comprehensive design plan for Broadway and also establishing a moratorium on development for Broadway from 6th Street to 27th Street. This moratorium would be for six months to allow for the development of the new Design Guidelines. City Council discussed extending this moratorium for all of Broadway to the Causeway. This discussion will continue at our April City Council meeting.

Don't Forget - Bond Election Discussion, Wednesday, April 5th - 6:00 pm at the Galvez Hotel.

[Contact Me](#)

Proudly Representing the Citizens of:

San Jacinto

Kempner Park

Silk Stocking Historic District

Lost Bayou Historic District

Lasker Park

Williams - Borden

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