

**Agenda Item: Discuss and Consider the Approval to Proceed with Engineering and Permitting Services for an Extension to the Fishing Pier at Seawolf Park**

**Background:**

Seawolf Park is a known “Hot Spot” with local anglers for Flounder, Bull Reds and Snapper. Fishing is the highest earner at the park, generating over 60% of total revenues, which contributes significantly to the revenues from parking. Revenues are limited by available space for fishing, and with only a handful of fishing piers in Galveston, this is a prime location for growth. The Park Board proposes to make improvements to the existing fishing pier located at the northwest tip of Seawolf Park through an Ike FEMA claim. The existing pier is 316’-8” long x 11’-4” wide, terminating in a 98’ long x 24’ wide ‘T-head”. The requested project would extend the existing T-head toward the south and would be approximately 100’ long x 24’ wide. Materials will be equivalent or better than what was utilized to construct the existing pier. The Park Board has engineering documents from the original construction in 1999, which were used to repair the pier after Hurricane Ike and will be used to inform the extension design.



The Park Board will formulate a request for qualifications (RFQ) for Architectural/Engineering (A/E) design services, advertise the RFQ, review respondent qualifications, hold pre-bid meetings, and conduct final selection interviews. The A/E scope of work is expected to include preparation of construction plans and specifications, geotechnical coordination, bathymetric survey coordination, permitting coordination, approvals to construct the pier, and formulation of an engineer's estimate of probable cost. When the A/E work is complete, the Park Board will submit the finalized construction plans, revised scope of work, and regulatory permits to FEMA for review and approval of an additional amendment to the Project Worksheet to construct the extension.

While the increased value is not easily quantifiable, the enhanced guest experience can easily be noticed. This positive experience will result in return visits to the park providing a future monetary value. Furthermore, with the federal share being 90% of the funding, the investment from the park is estimated at only \$24,750. Considering the low cost, a positive return on investment is certain. With the fishing pier extension, the park will also have increased marketing both from press releases as well as through word of mouth. Additionally, a recent parking space analysis showed the park could manage an additional 1,163 linear feet of fishing pier.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Park Board staff recommend proceeding with a Request for Qualifications and hiring a firm to provide engineering & permitting services, with a not to exceed budget of \$247,500.

**Funding Source (if applicable):**

Seawolf Park budget SW-70-5195 FEMA (Ike) \$247,500.00. FEMA 90% and Operational revenues 10% of the project costs.