THE WOODLANDS TOWNSHIP

The Woodlands, TX



NEWS RELEASE

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The Woodlands Township holds Board meeting, celebrates numerous accomplishments

THE WOODLANDS, TEXAS (December 13, 2013) – The Woodlands Township Board of Directors held its regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, December 12, 2013, at The Woodlands Township Town Hall, 2801 Technology Forest Boulevard, at 9 a.m. The Board acknowledged a number of accomplishments and achievements of the Township and the community, including several national recognitions.

First, the Board of Directors recognized The Woodlands High School Marching Band who won multiple awards at the 2013 Bands of America Grand National Championships in Indianapolis, Indiana, including being named the 2013 Bands of America Grand National Champions. The Board also recognized The Woodlands Lady Highlanders Volleyball Team who were named the 2013 Class 5A State Champions and are ranked number one in the United States. Members of the band and the volleyball team were in attendance. (See photos.)

"We are so proud of the achievements of our young musicians and athletes," said Township Chairman Bruce Tough. "What an exciting day this is for The Woodlands." The Township proclaimed December 12, 2013, as The Woodlands High School Marching Band Day and Lady Highlander Day.

Following these national awards, the Board recognized The Woodlands Fire Department for earning the Texas Department of State Health Services 2013 First Responder Award. This award recognizes leadership in EMS in patient care, public access, medical control, disaster preparedness, public education and training.

In addition, Chairman Tough announced that The Woodlands Township has received notice that The Woodlands Fire Department has achieved its long sought-after goal of an ISO rating of 1.

"The Township just received official notification from the Insurance Services Office (ISO) informing us that our Public Protection Classification, or ISO rating, has been upgraded to ISO 1. This new rating is quite an accomplishment for our community and will become effective May 1, 2014. Congratulations to Chief Benson and The Woodlands Fire Department. This is a goal we have worked towards for many years. We also have a press release with additional information that will be going out today," Chairman Tough said.

And last but certainly not least, the Township Board recognized the Parks and Recreation



Department for Bear Branch Sportsfield #7 that was named Soccer Field of the Year by the Texas Turfgrass Association.

Items on the consent agenda included:

- Reappointed Nick Wolda for a three year term through December 31, 2016 and Sheron Jones for a one-year term through December 31, 2014 to the Booking and Blocking Committee of The Woodlands Township. Suzanne Delinganis was appointed for a two year term through December 31, 2015 to the Booking and Blocking Committee of The Woodlands Township;
- Approved an agreement with Omni Fire and Security for security systems and monthly monitoring at various Township facilities;
- Awarded Request for Proposals for program and facility management software;
- Accepted revisions and additions to The Woodlands Township Personnel Policy Manual.

Items on the regular agenda included:

- Received an update regarding traffic impacts to The Woodlands Township as a result of the San Jacinto River Authority construction plans for the Groundwater Reduction Plan;
- Received a report from the Greater Houston Partnership;
- Received a report from the Center for Houston's Future;
- Adopted a resolution regarding guidelines and criteria for considering tax abatement agreements by The Woodlands Township;
- Approved tax abatement agreements with HL Champion Holding Company, LLC (Owner) and Exxon Mobil Corporation (Tenant);
- Approved appointments to the Development Standards Committee: Danie van Loggerenberg, Deborah Sargeant, Mark Bacon and Chris Florack, Robert Heineman, Ken Anderson and Kim Hess;
- Received a presentation from Retirement Horizons, Inc. and affirmed the scope of work for the retirement benefits analysis;
- Approved a recommendation from the Ad Hoc Transportation Committee regarding joint funding of transportation improvements within The Woodlands Township;
- Approved Audit Committee appointments: Mike Bass, Jeff Long, Bruce Tough;
- Approved appointments to the Ad Hoc Transportation Committee: Mike Bass, Jeff Long, Bruce Tough;
- Approved appointments to the Ad Hoc Economic Development Committee: John McMullan, Ed Robb, Bruce Tough;
- Approved appointment of Directors of The Woodlands Township Board to The Woodlands Convention & Visitors Bureau in accordance with the Bylaws: Gordy Bunch, Peggy Hausman, Ed Robb;
- Approved an appointment to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Council: Mike Bass;
- Approved an appointment to the Law Enforcement Advisory Council: Mike Bass;
- Approved a recommendation to the Members of The Woodlands Convention & Visitors Bureau
 as to the Board of Directors and Officers of The Woodlands Convention and Visitors Bureau:
 Township President Don Norrell, The Woodlands Area Chamber of Commerce CEO Karen
 Hoylman, The Woodlands Waterway Marriott Hotel & Convention Center General Manager Fred



Domenick, and The Woodlands Resort and Conference Center General Manager Greg Parsons, and The Woodlands Convention & Visitor Bureau's President Nick Wolda and General Manager Casey Snyder as Officers.

- Did not approve casting a vote in the Harris County Appraisal District's Special Districts' Election;
- Awarded a bid for Shadowbend Park Renovations; The Woodlands Township Board of Directors took the next step in the renovation of Shadowbend Park yesterday as it approved the bid and awarded a construction contract to Houscape in the about of \$1.2 million. Improvements approved include: a new spray ground, building façade upgrades, pool pump room renovations, playground and site amenity improvements and several tennis court improvements including additional parking spaces near the tennis courts. Several of the improvements will be handled by Township staff to further stretch the allocated budget. The renovation process commenced earlier this year with the selection of White Oak Studio as the project manager and included an extensive public input process with information solicited from the Board of Directors, Cochran's Crossing Village Association and residents through an on line survey. "We are excited to get started on the renovation of Shadowbend, and appreciate the Board's commitment to funding improvements to the park system," stated Chris Nunes, director of Parks and Recreation.
- Authorized the Assistant General Manager of Finance and Administration to obtain a quote for insurance from TML;
- Approved submission of a letter to the Houston-Galveston Area Council requesting Township representation on H-GAC's Transportation Policy Council;
- Approved an amendment to the Comprehensive Community Services Term Sheet;
- Took no action on the sponsorship sales performance pay program for Convention & Visitors Bureau staff.

Following the Board of Directors meeting, a special meeting of the Board of Directors for-The Woodlands Economic Development Zone (EDZ)was held. The following officers were elected: President Bruce Tough, Vice President Peggy Hausman, Treasurer Gordy Bunch and Secretary Ed Robb.

For more information, please visit www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov.

PHOTOS FOLLOW:





Photo: The Woodlands Township Board of Directors recognizes The Woodlands High School Band for taking top honors at the Bands of America Grand National Championship.



Photo: The Woodlands Township Board of Directors recognizes The Woodlands High School Volleyball Team for winning the 2013 UIL Class 5A State Volleyball Championship.





Photo: Chief Alan Benson and Dr. Mark Escot proudly display the EMT First Responder Award recently received by The Woodlands Fire Department from the Texas Department of State Health Services. Dr. Escott nominated The Woodlands Fire Department for the prestigious award.