

Media Contact

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Galveston Park Board Update: June 26, 2018

The Galveston Park Board of Trustees held its regular meeting at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 26 at Park Board Plaza. Below is an update of news from the boardroom.

Park Board Sets Value of Hotel Occupancy Tax

At its meeting Tuesday, the Park Board set the value of the Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) penny at \$2,040,000 for the fiscal year 2018-2019. The amount represents a 2% increase over the previous year. The Park Board expects hotel revenues to increase slightly because of higher average daily rates and several new hotels are set to open in the coming months. The penny, a concept used for Park Board budgeting purposes, represents the amount the Park Board expects to collect from each 1% of Galveston HOT, which is a 9% tax collected on overnight stays at island hotels, vacation rentals and other accommodations venues.

Park Board to Move Forward with Compensation Study

On Tuesday, the Park Board approved a \$12,500-contract with Arizona-based firm Public Sector Personnel Consultants. The firm will analyze the Park Board's compensation plan for its employees and present the results to the board, City Council and port officials as part of a broader compensation study for the three entities. The study is expected to take three months to complete. Funds for the study come from the Human Resources budget.

Park Board Approves Resolution to Seek Federal Funding

At its meeting Tuesday, the Park Board approved a resolution seeking federal funding from the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA). The act created revenue sharing provisions for Gulf Coast states that produce oil and gas, including Texas. Funds from GOMESA are designated for coastal conservation, hurricane protection and restoration.

Park Board to Sponsor Fishing Television Program

On Tuesday, the Park Board approved a \$40,000 sponsorship package for the cable television program *A Fishing Story*. The show is broadcast on the Discovery Channel, NBC Sports Network and World Fishing Network. Episodes are also uploaded to the Discovery Go app and are available through devices like ROKU, Google Chromecast, Apple TV and Amazon Fire TV. The Galveston episodes will feature a local angler, a destination ad and a social media presence. The Galveston Island Convention & Visitors Bureau will be authorized to use material from the show for future marketing efforts. The funds will come from the tourism development budget.

Announcement

- At its meeting Tuesday, the Park Board approved a contract not to exceed \$20,500 with Austin-based Fermata Inc. to provide design for the signage at the East End Lagoon trails. The funds will come from the East End Lagoon budget.

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.