MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND PARK BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CITY OF GALVESTON
JOINT MEETING - APRIL 9, 2026

4/9/2026 - City Council and Park Board of Trustees Minutes

1. DECLARATION OF A QUORUM AND CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Brown declared a quorum of City Council and called the meeting to order. Park Board Chair Hardcastle declared a quorum of the Park Board and called the meeting to order.

2. ROLL CALL

City Council Members present: Mayor Craig Brown, Mayor Pro Tem Marie Robb (3:33 pm), Council Member Sharon Lewis, Council Member David Finklea, Council Member Bob Brown, Council Member Alex Porretto (2:51 pm), and Council Member Beau Rawlins (2:16 pm).

Park Board Members present: Jason Hardcastle, Gerald Wilson, Bill Clement, Bob Brown, Jan Collier, Jeanie Hughes, Elizabeth Matthews, Robert Quintero (1:35 pm), and Carlos Guerra (2:48 pm).

3. JOINT MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL AND PARK BOARD OF TRUSTEES

   3.A Review FY24-25 Key Performance Indicators and Propose FY 25-26 Key Performance Indicators

Park Board staff Sheryl Rozier and Melody Smith presented an update on FY 2024-2025 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and proposed FY 2025-2026 KPIs, including tourism, beach operations, environmental programs, and financial metrics. Staff noted some KPIs may be removed in the future due to operational changes.

Discussion focused on resident engagement and improving communication with the public regarding Park Board activities and tourism impacts. Trustees acknowledged the challenge of developing measurable resident engagement metrics but agreed it is an important area to explore.

Mayor Brown requested adding a KPI to track overnight hotel stays associated with cruise passengers, and staff agreed to include the metric. Additional discussion included exploring possible environmental tourism metrics related to events such as FeatherFest. Consensus was reached to continue the current KPI framework with the addition of the new metrics under consideration.

   3.B Report on the Stewart Beach Drainage Project Findings and Recommendations

Park Board CEO Marty Miles discussed with Council the Stewart Beach drainage project

and stated the original project goal was to reduce flooding in the parking area and prevent loss of parking revenue, which he said has been successful. He reported meeting with nearby property owners and stakeholders regarding concerns about the project and stated there was no consensus on additional fixes needed. Marty recommended delaying further work until more information is available regarding the proposed Stewart Beach redevelopment project and noted staff will also review the original engineering and construction work to determine whether the project is functioning as designed.

3.C Request an Update on the Request for Proposals for Stewart Beach Redevelopment

(Items 3C and 3D were read and discussed together)

Discussion was held regarding the Stewart Beach redevelopment RFP and the Beach Patrol Headquarters project. Staff reported that the redevelopment RFP was scheduled to be released on April 16 for an eight-week proposal period due to the complexity of the project. An update was also provided on the Beach Patrol Headquarters project, noting the design was at 30% completion, with plans to bid the project within approximately three months and an anticipated occupancy date of July 2027. Staff advised against offering contractor incentives for early completion and instead recommended establishing a firm completion date within the contract. Discussion also included drainage concerns related to the Stewart Beach redevelopment, possible coordination with adjacent properties, and efforts to encourage participation from local contractors and developers through broad regional and national advertising of the RFP.

3.D Request an Update on the Timing of the Construction of the Beach Patrol Headquarters at Stewart Beach

3.E Discuss the Hotel Occupancy Tax Penny Value and the Impact on the FY 27 Park Board Budget

(Items 3E and and 3F were read and discussed together)

The City and Park Board discussed the Hotel Occupancy Tax penny value and FY 27 budget expectations. The 2027 penny value is projected to increase from 3.21 to 3.33, resulting in an estimated additional $540,000 compared to FY 26, including increases for beach cleaning, beach patrol, and tourism development. Staff noted the projection is considered conservative but adequate for budgeting purposes.

Discussion also focused on FY 27 budget planning and the need for early awareness of any potential structural or policy changes that could affect budgeting assumptions (such as administrative fees or program structure changes). Park Board leadership requested clearer communication on any anticipated changes before the formal budget cycle to avoid delays or revisions experienced in prior years.

Staff confirmed no major new changes are currently anticipated but noted that actual HOT penny revenues may vary and could provide additional funds during the fiscal year.

The items also emphasized ongoing coordination between the City and Park Board during early budget development.

3.F Discuss FY 27 Budget Expectations and Any Potential Changes from Previous Years

3.G Discuss Beach Ownership Assistance as it Relates to the Texas General Land Office

Park Board CEO Marty Miles updated the group on ongoing coordination with the Texas General Land Office (GLO) regarding beach ownership, access, and management ahead of the summer season.

The GLO has directed removal of recent restrictive signage on portions of the beach and is pursuing enforcement actions. They are also expected to conduct coastal boundary surveys to help clarify public vs. private beach areas, especially in locations affected by past beach nourishment projects.

The City reiterated that it continues to operate under the existing interlocal agreement, providing beach cleaning and safety services across all areas, while limiting commercial concessions to publicly owned beaches. It was emphasized that clearer guidance from the GLO is needed before making any changes to current practices.

3.H Discussion OF Boddeker Road as it Relates to the Ability to Access East Beach, Produce Revenue for Future Amenities and Preserve Visitor Perception of Galveston

Discussion was held regarding the deteriorating condition of Boddeker Road and the significant cost likely required for full repair or reconstruction. Concerns included safety, emergency access, and reliability during events, with some noting they would avoid using the road due to its condition. Alternatives such as relying more on Appfel Park Road were discussed, along with whether it could sufficiently support traffic if Boddeker were reduced or abandoned. Funding challenges were highlighted, including limited eligibility for HOT funds and lack of a clear revenue source for major repairs. Participants agreed the area—including East Beach, East End Lagoon, and surrounding infrastructure—needs a comprehensive long-term planning effort. The item was referred to City Council for further direction.

The Park Board adjourned their portion of the meeting at 3:12 p.m.

4. CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION ITEMS

4.A Discussion of parking related issues at Gonzalo’s Restaurant (Robb/Rawlins/Porretto - 10 min)

Council discussed parking concerns near Gonzalo’s Restaurant, including the balance between accommodating restaurant patrons and preserving parking access for neighborhood residents. Public comment was received from Tony Gonzalez regarding the potential impacts of expanding two-hour parking restrictions in the area. Staff also discussed current parking enforcement practices around the UTMB area and the

possibility of surveying residents before any changes are considered.

4.B Discussion of traffic issues with the Iron Man event (Robb/Rawlins/Porretto)

Discussion was held regarding significant traffic congestion during the Ironman event, particularly along Seawall Boulevard and FM 3005 on Palm Sunday. Concerns were raised about restricted access to the west end, impacts on church attendance, and emergency vehicle access. Staff reviewed the current traffic control plan, acknowledged traffic management issues, and advised that Ironman organizers are willing to discuss possible improvements and future adjustments to the event traffic plan.

4.C Discussion of Downtown Amenities including but not limited to Public Restrooms (B Brown/C Brown - 20 min)

Council discussed the need for additional downtown public restroom access, particularly along the east end of The Strand and Postoffice area. Concerns have been raised by downtown merchants regarding visitors, families, and elderly individuals having limited restroom options beyond the Transit Terminal. Possible short-term solutions included partnerships with private businesses willing to allow public restroom access with potential City assistance or incentives for maintenance and utility costs. Long-term options discussed included portable or flood-resistant public restroom facilities that could potentially be funded through future transit-related grant opportunities. Staff and Councilmember Brown were asked to continue exploring potential approaches and partnerships for both temporary and permanent solutions.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Janelle Williams, City Secretary