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**Agenda Item: Discuss and Consider acceptance of National Environmental Education Foundation 2022 Driving Mobility and Accessibility on Public Lands grant award**

**Background:**

The Park Board of Trustees of the City of Galveston applied for, and was awarded, a \$20,000 grant to support increasing mobility and accessibility at R.A. Apffel Beach Park (East Beach). The National Environmental Education Foundation's (NEEF) Driving Mobility and Accessibility on Public Lands grant program is a nationally competitive grant program funded through a partnership with Toyota Motor North America. The goal of this program is to make public lands more accessible and enjoyable for Americans of all abilities. With the generous support of NEEF, Galveston's beaches will be significantly more accessible to guests with a range of abilities.

This grant will pay for the acquisition and installation of Mobi-Mats to provide an ADA accessible pathway from the R.A. Apffel Beach Park pavilion and other park amenities to the beach template. Mobi-Mats are removable pathways designed to improve wheelchair mobility over inaccessible ground surfaces such as sand and dirt. These pathways are also useful for guests with strollers, walkers, and other wheeled mobility aids. Additionally, this project will include the installation of extra ADA compliant parking spaces and identifying signage closer to the beach template. These activities will be carried out during the one-year grant term from October 2022 to October 2023.

This project was designed by Kelly de Schaun, Kimberly Danesi, Vincent Lorefice, and Ann Hobing with the goal of increasing beach accessibility for guests with disabilities. Additionally, application and administration of the grant are managed by Tom Singleton. As outlined in the Park Board's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan, this project will provide greater opportunities for guests with disabilities to access and enjoy Galveston's natural environment and beach parks.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends accepting this grant award.