

Date: February 14, 2024

Time: 12:00

Location

City Hall – Aspen Room Fl 1

415 W 6th Street

Vancouver, WA

Regular Meeting (Convened in person and via video conference)

Item 1: Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting of the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee was called to order at 12:00 pm by Kim Harless, Committee Chair.

Board Members Present: Kim Harless, Steve Bowers, Temple Lentz, Janet Kenefsky, Jennifer Kenney, Christie Rust, Terry Goldman, Ryan Hart, Carla Rise

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Chris Harder, Kimberly Kerlee, Taylor Hallvik, Andrew Westlund

Guests: Cliff Meyers, Visit Vancouver

Item 2: Approval of 8/16/23 Minutes

Motion by Bowers, seconded by Rise, and carried unanimously to approve the 8/16/23 minutes.

Item 3: Introduction of Members & City Staff

Committee Members and staff introduced themselves.

Item 4: Overview of Lodging Tax Program & Role of Advisory Committee

Chris Harder, Deputy Director, provided an overview of the Lodging Tax Program and the role of the Committee. Committee member Kenefsky asked about the funds that are being collected to service the debt on the Vancouver Hilton Hotel & Convention Center and if there is a time frame. Harder stated he will get the answer and follow up on that question.

Committee member Bowers asked about unused funds from 2023 and if they roll forward to 2024. Andrew Westlund, Budget Analyst, confirmed that all grants expended their funds for 2023. Questions and discussion occurred regarding the possibility of funds rolling over from 2024 to the 2025 grant program year.

Members

Kim Harless
Chair

Steve Bowers
Temple Lentz
Janet Kenefsky
Jennifer Kenney
Christie Rust
Terry Goldman
Ryan Hart
Carla Rise

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Item 5: Review of Proposed Annual Workplan & 2024 Agenda Topics

Chris Harder presented the Draft 2024 Proposed Annual Workplan and reviewed the monthly agenda topics for the year. Committee members asked questions and provided feedback on the current Lodging Tax Grant Program and discussed the recommendation to meet with a consultant to improve the application form and application process. Committee members were pleased with the plan.

Motion by Kenefsky, seconded by Hart, to approve the recommendation of the proposed workplan for 2024 as presented.

Item 6: Other Business

Committee member Kenefsky mentioned the 2026 World Cup that will be coming to Washington State and how that will impact hotels and businesses for Vancouver.

Item 7: Public Comment

None

Item 8: Executive Session (as needed)

None

Item 9: Adjourn

12:41 pm

Kim Harless, Board President

Meetings of the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee are electronically recorded. The tapes are kept on file in the office of the City Clerk for a period of six years.