

Date: April 10, 2024

Time: 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Location

City Hall – Aspen Room Fl 1
415 W 6th Street
Vancouver, WA

Regular Meeting (Convened in person and via video conference)

The meeting agenda materials referenced in these minutes can be found [online](#). Link to Microsoft Teams meeting video: [24 04 10 LTAC Meeting Video](#).

Item 1: Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting of the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee was called to order at 12:04 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, Jonathan Young, Andrew Westlund, Natasha Ramras

Guests: Matthew Landkamer, Wherabout Travel

Item 2: Approval of 3/13/24 Minutes

Motion by Kenefsky, seconded by Hart, and carried unanimously to approve the March 13, 2024, minutes.

Item 3: Lodging Tax Program Resources & Budget

Natasha Ramras, CFO, provided a presentation and reviewed the tax-supported bonds and the Lodging Tax Revenue from 2019 to 2023. Committee member Bowers asked about the guaranteed balances that are not utilized and how much is available. Discussion occurred around available Lodging Tax funds and how to allocate those funds and the possible expansion of the Convention Center. Jonathan Young provided feedback regarding the biennial and supplemental budgets.

Item 4: LTAC Grant Program Criteria & Impact Reporting Evaluation Kick-off

Matthew Landkamer, Wherabout Travel, presented the phases and goals of the Lodging Tax Grant Program evaluation project. Discussion occurred around changes to the Lodging Tax process including the application questions, timeline to apply, scoring criteria, data reporting and barriers that impact applicants. Landkamer asked the

Members

Kim Harless
Chair

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

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committee members about how equity and inclusion can be included in the process. Committee members provided ideas and examples. The group discussed the requirements around post event reporting and how to improve the process to ensure data quality and accuracy, as well as how the City's climate goals can be implemented during events. Landkamer asked the committee if there are geographic aspects to address. Harless mentioned that there is a lot of focus on downtown and mentioned adding criteria around organizations that host their event in central or east Vancouver.

Item 5: Other Business

Chris Harder discussed the meeting timeline over the next few months.

Item 6: Public Comment

None

Item 7: Executive Session (as needed)

None

Item 8: Adjourn

1:44 p.m.

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.