



Lodging Tax Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: July 9, 2025

Time: 12 – 1:30 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: [25 07 09 LTAC Meeting Video](#).

Item 1: Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting of the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee was called to order at 12:01 pm by Kim Harless, Committee Chair.

Board Members Present: Kim Harless, Carla Rise (late), Terry Goldman, Christie Rust, Jennifer Kenney, Ryan Hart (virtual), Janet Kenefsky, Steve Bowers

Board Members Absent: Temple Lentz

Staff Present: Chris Harder, Kimberly Kerlee, Taylor Hallvik

Motion by Hart, seconded by Rise, and carried unanimously to excuse the absence of Steve Bowers.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

Motion by Hart, seconded by Kenefsky, and carried unanimously to approve the June 11, 2025, minutes.

Item 3: Grant Program Communication and Promotion

Chris Harder shared the Lodging Tax Grant Program website revisions and the updates to the 2026 Grant Application information that was added to the page. Marketing and promotion of the program was discussed including the City Communications department taking lead on social media and promotion of the program. A flyer and draft email will be created for committee members to share with their partners and stakeholders as well. All committee members’ terms have been extended to December 31, 2025. Harder reviewed the appointment/reappointment process. Chair Harless expressed the importance of replying to the reappointment email on time. Harder was contacted by an event organizer hosting an event at the Clark County Fairgrounds. The group discussed awarding funds to events and festivals outside of City Limits and the impact to Vancouver lodging. The group agreed it is important to focus on events within

Members

Kim Harless
Chair

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

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To request accommodation or other formats, please contact:

Economic Prosperity & Housing | 360-487-7846 | Relay 711 | Kimberly.Kerlee@cityofvancouver.us

City limits but are open to considering applications that are outside of city limits if the applicant can show how they plan to promote City of Vancouver's hospitality, lodging and restaurants in their application. Bowers asked if language could be added to the grant agreement for those events outside of City limits that states they have to contract with hotels in Vancouver city limits as a stipulation to receive grant funds. Harder added this could potentially be a case-by-case basis and can follow up with legal for more information.

Item 4: Review of Application and Award Process

The proposed timeline for the application review process and calendar for the remainder of 2025 was reviewed. The group discussed the proposed meeting dates and finalized the dates and times.

Item 5: Hotel Booking Guidelines

Christie Rust discussed creating a subcommittee comprised of the LTAC members who represent hotels to create hotel booking guidelines that will provide recommendations and resources to applicants to help with planning their event and partnering with hotels. Committee member Bowers asked for clarification. Chair Harless responded.

Motion by Rust, seconded by Goldman and approved unanimously to create a subcommittee for hotel guidance.

Item 6: Other Business

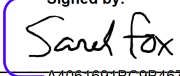
Carla Rise announced she is no longer with Sonesta and is now with the Hampton Suites in Vancouver.

Item 7: Community Communications

None

Item 8: Adjournment

2:30 p.m.

Signed by:

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Sarah Fox, Interim Chair

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.