



Lodging Tax Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: February 11, 2026

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: [Lodging Tax Advisory Committee Meeting: February 11, 2026](#)

Item 1: Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting of the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee was called to order at 12:01 p.m. by Sarah Fox, Committee Chair.

Board Members Present: Temple Lentz, Christie Rust, Janet Kenefsky (virtual), Mike Bomar (virtual), Keri Robinson, Kyle Byrd, Sarah Fox (virtual)

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Chris Harder, Andrew Westlund, Curtis Burns, Callie Taylor

Presenters: None

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

Motion by Lentz, seconded by Rust, and carried unanimously to approve the November 14, 2025, minutes.

Item 3: Community Communications

Chair Fox invited public comment and received testimony from Terah Ebie from Queer PNW, who joined the meeting virtually.

Item 4: New Member Welcome

Committee members and staff introduced themselves.

Item 5: Lodging Tax Advisory Updates

Chris Harder, Deputy Director, provided updates regarding City staff roles. Harder noted that Callie Taylor, Support Specialist, will be assuming administrative support responsibilities for the committee.

Members

Sarah Fox
Committee Chair

Temple Lentz
Janet Kenefsky
Christie Rust
Kyle Byrd
Keri Robinson
Mike Bomar

Economic Prosperity & Housing

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Economic Prosperity & Housing | 360-487-7843 | Relay 711 | callie.taylor@cityofvancouver.us

Andrew Westlund, Data Analyst, will be taking on a greater facilitation and leadership role in the LTAC process.

Harder also noted that the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee may have up to nine members and that recruitment for the two open positions will begin in March.

Westlund provided the committee with an update regarding the status of the 21 grant agreements that had been approved during the previous funding cycle. He clarified that 17 of the 21 grant agreements had been executed and that he is in contact with the remaining four grant awardees regarding updated budgets and/or scope clarifications.

Item 6: LTAC Role and Grant Process

Westlund provided a refresher on statutory authority under RCW 67.28.1816(1), which governs lodging tax expenditures and the committee's advisory role in recommending funding to City Council.

Westlund reviewed the eligible funding categories, including tourism marketing, special events, tourism-related facilities, and capital projects. He also highlighted that approximately 50% of lodging tax revenue supports Convention Center debt service, with the remaining annual funding pool totaling approximately \$1.8-\$1.9 million.

Item 7: 2026 Goal Setting/Committee Priorities

Westlund presented a working slide for the committee to discuss goal setting and committee priorities for the year and facilitated discussion with the committee regarding priorities and potential refinements for the upcoming grant cycle. Board member Robinson asked how many applications the committee received the prior year and how many grants did they were awarded. Westlund responded. Robinson asked if applicants usually receive the amount they ask for. Rust and Harder responded. Discussion occurred. Board member Bomar asked if the committee currently has a reserve fund. Harder responded. Discussion occurred regarding reserve funding and potential future considerations.

Item 8: Planning for 2026

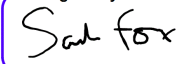
Westlund presented a draft planning calendar and invited the committee to provide input on meeting focus topics throughout the year. Discussion occurred. Members emphasized the importance of timing discussions appropriately so that committee input is meaningful and not premature.

Item 9: Other Business

Harder provided the committee with further context related to the Queer Community Network and why their grant agreement process is currently paused and what steps they are taking to remedy it. Chair Fox emphasized that the committee should review the revised proposal and requested Westlund provided comparative materials and that an invitation for presentation will be determined after review.

Item 10: Adjournment

1:10 p.m.

Signed by:

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Sarah Fox, 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.