



## Lodging Tax Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

**Date:** March 11, 2026

**Time:** 12 – 1:30 p.m.

**Location**

City Hall – Aspen Room, Fl 1

415 W 6<sup>th</sup> 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: March 11, 2026](#)

**Item 1: Call to Order and Roll Call**

The meeting of the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee was called to order at 12:02 p.m. by Sarah Fox, Committee Chair.

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

**Board Members Absent:** Janet Kenefsky

**Staff Present:** Andrew Westlund, Curtis Burns, Callie Taylor

**Presenters:** None

**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 Sarah Fox, Committee Chair.

**Motion** by Rust, seconded by Bomar, and carried unanimously to excuse the absence of Janet Kenefsky.

**Item 2: Approval of Minutes**

**Motion** by Bomar, seconded by Rust, and carried unanimously to amend the minutes to correct the name from “Matt Bomar” to “Mike Bomar.”

**Item 3: Community Communications**

No public comments or communications were received.

**Item 4: Review of Application Update**

Andrew Westlund, Data Analyst, provided an update on current grant contracts. All contracts have been issued except for the Oktoberfest contract, which is pending receipt of an updated budget from the

### Members

Sarah Fox  
**Committee Chair**

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

### Economic Prosperity & Housing

415 W 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 1995  
Vancouver, WA 98668  
TTY: 711  
[cityofvancouver.us](http://cityofvancouver.us)

**To request accommodation or other formats, please contact:**

Economic Prosperity & Housing | 360-487-7843 | Relay 711 | [callie.taylor@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:callie.taylor@cityofvancouver.us)

applicant reflecting the revised award amount. Westlund noted communication challenges and indicated a firm deadline will be established. The Queer Community Network chose not to proceed with a revised application. Discussion arose related to finalizing all contracts prior to beginning of the next grant cycle and coordinate deadlines with future funding timelines.

**Item 5: History of Program Requirements**

Westlund presented an overview of historical program requirements, using prior guidelines established in 2019 as a reference. The presentation included a review of eligibility criteria, minimum funding thresholds, location requirements, spending timelines, and expectations related to economic impact and recognition of lodging tax funding. Westlund noted that several of these requirements have been applied inconsistently over time and may no longer align with the current structure of the grant program. Discussion occurred about how previous requirements, such as restrictions on applicant types and event locations, may limit flexibility or exclude potential opportunities. Westlund highlighted the significant growth in the program, with funding increasing greatly in recent years. Discussion occurred related to the standards and criteria review process.

**Item 6: Standards and Criteria Discussion**

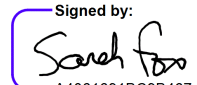
The committee discussed potential updates to program standards, evaluating criteria, and policy direction. The committee discussed whether to establish minimum and maximum grant thresholds, with general support for maintaining these as guidelines rather than strict requirements to allow flexibility. Also discussed were the challenges associated to applicants' alignment with the City Strategic Plan and Destination Master Plan, observing that applicants do not always clearly articulate alignment, which can cause reviewers to struggle to score them appropriately. Sustainability criteria were also discussed, with members acknowledging its importance and the practical limitations faced by event organizers. Additional discussion focused on potentially funding events outside city limits, with general agreement that such events may be considered if they generate economic benefit within Vancouver, including through hotel room usage. No formal decisions were made.

**Item 9: Other Business**

Westlund provided an outline of the upcoming work plan and meeting schedule for the committee for the year and noted the ongoing recruitment for two new members.

**Item 10: Adjournment**

1:18 p.m.

Signed by:  
  
A4001091BC9B467  
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.