

LODGING TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

August 2, 2016

Lodging Tax Advisory Committee members present:

Chairman Mary Jane Melink, Councilman
Gian Morelli, Columbia Theatre for the Performing Arts
Bill Marcum, Kelso-Longview Chamber of Commerce

City staff members present:

Kurt Sacha, Finance Director
Jim McNamara, City Attorney
Dave Campbell, City Manager

Guests present:

Don Jensen, Mayor

Chairman Mary Jane Melink called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. The agenda was distributed and included a summary of the applications for 2017/2018 tourism funds. Applications received were reviewed for completeness by City staff and for eligibility by City Attorney Jim McNamara.

Kurt Sacha explained that the estimated amount of hotel/motel taxes is \$40,000 annually. The Executive Office received 12 applications for Tourism Funds. Two applications were also received for General Fund support. The total amount of outside agency requests for Tourism Funds submitted was \$88,632 for 2017 and \$84,032 for 2018. The total amount of requests for General Fund support was \$15,000 for 2017 and \$15,000 for 2018.

Kurt explained that the Children's Justice Advocacy Center and Community Health Partners applications were not lodging tax requests and would be recommended for the general fund, as has been done in the past. The City of Kelso request for Visitor Center operations funding will also be recommended to come from the general fund. The Catlin Spray Park repairs request did not fit the definition of lodging tax dollars so would be recommended to apply for the Neighborhood Park Grant Program. Kurt will check into the park grant timing and let the applicant know when that application should be completed.

During consideration of the Swim, Dash, Splash application, it was noted that this was a new, yet successful event. The funds requested would be to get more kayaks/equipment to hopefully allow for more participants. Kurt suggested maybe the kayak vendor could be marketed as a sponsor if they provided additional kayaks.

During consideration of the 2018 World Series, it was determined to shift the recommended funded amount to consider the majority of funding to occur in 2018. The intent is to help with seed money in 2017, but hoping the applicant may gain additional other funding in 2018. Kurt will call the applicant to get more information and discuss the thoughts of the Committee.

After review and discussion of all of the applications, Bill made a motion to accept the recommendations of the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee. Gian Morelli seconded and the

motion passed unanimously. These recommendations will be submitted to the City Council for approval at their August 11, 2016 meeting.

There being no further comments or questions, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.