

**TOURISM EXPENDITURE REVIEW COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, June 14, 2021 at 10 a.m. via conference call**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Committee Members in Attendance Via Conference Call:** Dan Blumenstock, Doug McFarland, Toni Nance, Mark Nix, Jason Rapp, Ed Riggs, Fox Simons, Tony Tam, John Taylor, Olivia Young

**Staff in Attendance:** Damita Holcomb, TERC Staff.

**CALL TO ORDER /ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS/UPDATES:**

**1. Call to Order:** Chairman Ed Riggs called the meeting to order.

**2. Minutes:** Doug McFarland made a motion to approve the minutes from the TERC meeting on March 22, 2021 . Dan Blumenstock seconded and minutes were approved.

**3. Committee Vacancy Update:** Damita Holcomb continue to work with the Governor’s Office on a representative from the SC Association of Counties. So far, the SC Association of Counties has not been communicative regarding representation. There are a few committee members who are up for re-appointment at the end of June. Please check with your appointing agency if you would like to serve again.

**4. Statehouse Updates:** Toni Nance updated the Committee and reminded TERC members that this update was for informational purposes only. The state budget should be approved soon and as the session is wrapping up there is nothing notable to report at this time concerning legislation. The State of SC, governor’s office and SCPRT just produced a very successful golf tournament in the state in Ridgeville. The Palmetto Championship at Congaree, which a PGA event, took place June 7-13. The next PGA event in SC will be the Heritage Tournament on Kiawah Island.

***Requests of TERC Requiring a Full Committee Vote***

- Request from Edisto about Extension of Funds

- Request from Lake Murray Country Tourism Region. This is a formal complaint against the City of West Columbia.

- 1. Request from City of Georgetown Asking for Extension for Spending Funds Beyond Two Year Time Frame as Specified in Statute:** The City of Georgetown requested an extension to spend approximately \$134,789.30 beyond the two year time frame. Funds were not spent due to Covid cancellations. The funds will be for park improvements and historic corridor beautification. Fox Simons made a motion to approve the request for an extension, with Doug McFarland seconding the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by the Committee and the extension approved. The City will be sent a letter of this action.

2. **Request from Town of Edisto to Continue to Roll Funds Over for Beach Renourishment:**

The Town of Edisto Beach is asking TERC to approve their annual request to roll funds forward beyond the two year time frame for the purpose of beach re-nourishment. They expect this to take place in June 2027. Doug McFarland made a motion to approve this request, which was seconded by John Taylor. The motion was approved by the full committee and the extension approved. The Town will be sent a letter and made aware of this action.

3. **Request from Lake Murray Country**

Capital City/Lake Murray Country, a SC tourism region, generated a letter to TERC requesting that TERC investigate the City of West Columbia as Lake Murray Country believes that the City and its employees may be omitting information given to the City's advisory committee and its council that is pertinent to show the value of Lake Murray Country's tourism interactions with the City. TERC discussed this with some members asking that we request more information from the City of West Columbia regarding its interactions with Lake Murray Country. John Taylor made a motion that TERC send a letter to the City of West Columbia asking them for a response to the inquiry from Lake Murray Country. The motion received no second and failed. Dan Blumenstock made a motion that TERC send Lake Murray Country a response stating that TERC does not have it within its power to carry out these types of investigations. We suggest that Lake Murray Country reach out directly to the City and its advisory committee and council to work out a compromise. Fox Simons seconded the motion. John Taylor asked if we could alert West Columbia of this action and make them aware of the initial letter from Lake Murray Country. Toni Nance asked that if TERC notify the City of West Columbia that she see a copy of the letter to the City before it goes. Dan Blumenstock stated that he does not agree that the City needs to be notified of the initial letter to TERC from Lake Murray Country. He stated that TERC's obligation is to respond to the original complaint by Lake Murray Country. Chairman Ed Riggs asked for a vote on the motion by Dan Blumenstock. The motion passed with John Taylor being opposed. TERC will draft a letter responding back to Lake Murray Country and notify them that their complaint will need to be communicated directly with the City and TERC will not be able to assist due to its limited authority on the matter.

**Executive Session:**

Chairman Ed Riggs asked for a vote for TERC to go into executive session so that it may discuss items with its legal counsel, John Hofer.

Doug McFarland motioned to go into executive session with Olivia Young seconding. The motion passed for TERC to go into executive session.

After discussion was complete, Doug McFarland made a motion to come out of executive session, which was seconded by John Taylor. The Committee voted unanimously to come out of executive session.

TERC member Toni Nance stated that she still had some questions that needed to be asked of legal counsel. Dan Blumenstock voted that TERC return to executive session, which was seconded by Olivia Young and passed unanimously by TERC.

After discussion was complete, Doug McFarland motioned for TERC to come out of executive session followed by a second by John Taylor. The motion was passed unanimously and TERC came out of executive session.

The next planned meeting of TERC will be August 9 via conference call to discuss changes to the accommodations tax reporting form before forms and instructions are emailed to recipients in preparation for an October 1 due date.

There being no other business, Dan Blumenstock voted to adjourn, followed by a second by Doug McFarland. There being no opposition, the motion was passed unanimously and TERC motioned to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Damita S. Holcomb

TERC Support Manager