

**TOURISM EXPENDITURE REVIEW COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

May 17, 2004

VIA CONFERENCE CALL, 10:30 a.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members Participating: Frans Mustert, Chairman; Lanneau Siegling, John Curry, Suzette Surkamer, Susan Cruse, Toni Nance, Rod Swaim.

Staff Participating: Damita Jeter, TERC Staff.

Guests Participating: Tom Sponseller, Hospitality Association of S.C.

CALL TO ORDER /ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS/UPDATES:

- **Minutes:** The Committee motioned to approve the April 19, 2004 meeting minutes as submitted.
- **Review of TERC Expenses:** Mrs. Jeter shared with the Committee the monthly expenses incurred by TERC.
- **Legislative Changes:** The Committee discussed the legislation Tom Sponseller, who informed the Committee that the Municipal Association had opposition to several points, so the S.C. Department of Revenue would not allow it to be attached to its cleanup bill at this time. Mr. Sponseller said that he would meet with Gary Cannon of the S.C. Municipal Association and come to an agreement and present the legislation to DOR again to attach to its cleanup bill. The Committee passed a motion presented by Lanneau Siegling that Frans Mustert, as chairman, be allowed to confer with Mr. Sponseller on the legislation, take out and re-write what is needed to make it pass this session.
- **Florence County Update:** Mrs. Jeter forwarded the Committee members a copy of Mr. Hoefler's update, which included the latest happenings with Florence County vs. TERC. The latest report released from Florence County has been the "stipulations" to the ALJD which basically presents testimony in the case. Mr. Hoefler will continue to keep the Committee apprised of the situation.
- **Charitable Donations:** At its last meeting, the Committee asked the question of Mr. Hoefler if profits generated through accommodations tax grants could be used for charitable donations, such as scholarships. Mr. Hoefler drafted an opinion for the Committee that stated that generally if the purpose of the original project was tourist-related, then it was acceptable. Mr. Mustert asked the Committee to forward additional questions about this matter to Mrs. Jeter, who would then forward the questions to Mr. Hoefler.
- **Procedure for Signing Letters:** At its last meeting, some Committee members asked Mrs. Jeter to inquire about the proper way to handle "signing" Frans' name on letters approved by the Committee for dissemination. Mrs. Jeter inquired direction from Mr. Hoefler, who said that as long as the letters were approved by Frans and the Committee and it was agreed upon that Damita would "copy" Frans signature, than it was appropriate.

REVIEWED BY SUSAN CRUSE/DAVID WARREN:

- **City of Aiken:** The Committee granted them a 15 day extension that they had requested.
- **Greenwood County:** The Committee approved their questionable expenditure of \$600.00 for a sorority convention.
- **Town of Kiawah Island:** The Committee approved their explanation about the questionable expenditure of Kiawah Island Parkway. However, Kiawah Island noted that it never expended the funds.
- **City of Greenwood:** The Committee granted them a 15 day extension that they had requested.
- **Beaufort County:** The County offered explanations to questions the Committee had on the funding of the Beaufort County Water Festival and the Daufuskie Sea Island Foundation. After review, it was deemed acceptable.
- **City of Beaufort:** The City corrected its project category numbers for expenditures in its report. Mrs. Jeter made the corrections internally.
- **City of Clemson, Oconee County:** carried over until June conference call.

REVIEWED BY JOHN CURRY/MARK WILLIAMS

- **City of Columbia:** The Committee had requested earlier clarification on various imbalances on the City's report. However, the Committee further requested the City resubmit its corrected report.
- **Town of Springdale:** Several of their expenditures were noncompliant. Mr. Curry requested the entire Committee review their report as well as the rest of their file, and concur on the decision. Therefore, the review has been carried over to June's conference call.
- **Town of Blythewood:** The town sent a letter to the Committee detailing their plan for both the 65% and 30% funds. The Committee deemed their plan appropriate.
- **City of Conway:** The explanation of the recipient of the 30% funds was deemed acceptable by the Committee.
- **City of Sumter/Sumter County:** After some discussion, the Committee decided that the explanation did not answer the original question of the Committee about the "proper procedures" for the Sumter CVB to receive funding. The Committee will request a detailed letter again.
- **City of Walterboro:** Their explanations were acceptable.
- **Laurens County:** Their explanations were acceptable. They do not have enough lodging people to fulfill the lodging requirement of the statute regarding the local committee makeup.
- **City of North Myrtle Beach:** The Committee will question how certain members of the City's local accommodations tax committee fit the lodging and hospitality requirements.
- **Horry County:** The County requested an extension to correspond with the Committee. The Committee granted the extension.
- **Town of Pawley's Island:** The Committee accepted the town's explanations.
- **York County:** The Committee will request that the County resubmit its list of local accommodations tax committee members, specifically their business affiliations.

REVIEWED BY TONI NANCE/LANNEAU SIEGLING

- **Cherokee County:** Their deadline to respond regarding their 30% funds will be in June.
- **Pickens County:** The Committee has repeatedly tried to get a response from the County concerning the vacancies on their Committee as well as their progress on disbursing the 30% funds. The County was allowed to retain their 30% funds for a year to print a marketing brochure, however, there has been no proof the brochure has been distributed. The Committee voted to allow the County until its June conference call to comply with its letters, or it would request the State Treasurer's Office to withhold funds.
- **Chester County:** The Committee had questioned the recipient of the 65% funds. After explanation by the County, the recipients were deemed appropriate.

REVIEWED BY ROD SWAIM/SUSIE SURKAMER

- **City of Goose Creek:** This entity submitted its FY 02-03 reporting form. After review, it was determined there were some balances errors of which the city will be notified.
- **Town of Sullivans Island:** The Committee questioned the makeup of the local committee and will draft a letter questioning the local committee's compliance.

TERC decided that its next meeting would be conducted via conference call on June 21, starting at 10:30 a.m. There being no other business, the Committee adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Damita S. Jeter

Damita S. Jeter, TERC Staff