

TOURISM EXPENDITURE REVIEW COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
March 5, 2012
SC Department of Revenue
Conference Room 4F1
10 a.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members in Attendance: Andy Cajka, Edward Riggs, Kevin Yokim, Tom Leath, Harriett Green, Glen Williams, Doug McFarland, David McMillan, Olivia Young, and Toni Nance.

Staff in Attendance: Damita Jeter, TERC Staff.

CALL TO ORDER /ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS/UPDATES:

1. **Call to Order:** The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Ed Riggs.
2. **Welcome New Members: Chairman Riggs welcomed Oliva Young and Tom Leath to the Committee. Olivia was** appointed at the recommendation of the SC Association of Tourism Regions and Tom was appointed at the recommendation of the Municipal Association of SC.
3. **Legislative Updates/Concerns:** Chairman Riggs said that due to the death of Tom Sponseller, lobbyist for the Hospitality Association of SC, TERC has a gap in its correspondence on what bills may affect the Committee. Mrs. Jeter said she would keep the Committee updated on House Bill 3787, which if passed, would eliminate TERC and the reporting requirement of local governments.
4. **Minutes Approval:** Doug McFarland made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 14, 2011 meeting. Andy Cajka seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.
5. **Update from John Hoefer:** Mrs. Jeter said because there had been no new developments in the litigation between TERC and the City of Myrtle Beach, Mr. Hoefer would not be in attendance. If anyone has any questions for him after the meeting, please let Mrs. Jeter know.
6. **Pickens County:** Pickens County requested that TERC reverse its decision to withhold funds in the amount of \$5,000 that it had asked the State Treasurer's Office to withhold back in 2008 for funding a for profit organization, the Greenville Pickens Speedway. The County has since formed a nonprofit, Tour Pickens County, for the sole purpose of promoting the Speedway. A motion was made by Doug McFarland to ask the State Treasurer's Office to return the funds to the County in light of this new information. The motion was seconded by Kevin Yokim and approved by the full committee.
7. **Review of FY 10-11 Reports-**
Olivia, Glen/Andy-
City of Easley –ok
Jasper County- TERC will question why the negative balance is an ongoing occurrence?
City of Clemson- TERC wished to question the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, however, upon closer review the FCA was not funded this year. Therefore, there is no need to question it.
City of Hardeeville – question Catfish Festival and why it received money twice.

Tom/Harriett-

City of Spartanburg-will question how Corey Smith is tourism related. Also will question the Omega Mardis Gras, Native American Exhibit, and the Hatcher Garden and Woodland Preserve, specifically how a video eye can determine who is a tourist.

David/Kevin-

City of Orangeburg – question their carry forward amounts.

Doug/Ed-

Town of Mt. Pleasant – ok

Dillon County- okay

City of Folly Beach- ok

Charleston County- question why they only report \$24,000 when the report from the SC Treasurer's office that we base reporting upon states that Charleston received more than \$353,000 in ataxes.

Review FY 10-11 Responses to questionable expenditures:

Olivia, Glen, Andy –

City of Anderson – Ok

City of Simpsonville – ok

Pickens County – regarding paving the road leading to the SCDNR shooting range, does the County feel sure that it will attract the mentioned shooting associations? The main concern is that the paving cost is 25% basically of all ataxes the County received from the State Treasurer's Office. Some TERC members raised the question that once the paving is complete, many sporting organizations will only come to a certain area if other infrastructure is in place such as hotel rooms, restaurants, etc. TERC just wants to know if these elements are in place.

Newberry County – ok

Greenwood County – ok

Oconee County – ok, but ask for corrected copy of the report.

Anderson County – ok, but tell them in the future to please fund studies such as these from general fund. If the study is then determined to be related to tourism, the County may use atax funds to reimburse its general fund for this use.

Beaufort County – Need more info about Main Street Beaufort. The explanation does not address how Main Street Beaufort provides for and attracts tourists per Section 6-4-10 of the SC Code of Laws.

David, Kevin –

Town of Walterboro – okay

Town of Blythewood – okay

City of Hartsville – Ask for more info of the SC Junior Golf Foundation.

Town of Pawleys Island – ok. TERC staff will try to reconcile the discrepancy with the State Treasurers Office

Town of Duncan – ok, but send a letter that advises them to continue making out of market advertising the main focus of atax expenditures.

Orangeburg County – ok

Harriet/Tom

Town of Springdale – ok

Spartanburg County – we will ask them to complete our committee list form that describes professional affiliations and send to us.

City of Cayce – it is fine to fund the salary of the museum employee as long as it is in direct proportion to the number of tourists it serves.

City of Georgetown – will ask them to email Damita Jeter the corrected report.

Georgetown County – will ask them if the street lights are funded from any other resource other than Georgetown County accommodations taxes? I.e. – other accommodations taxes revenue, private funding, etc.

Kershaw County – ok

Ed/Doug –

City of N. Charleston – ok

Chester County – ok

Mrs. Jeter reminded the Committee of the statement of Economic Interest forms due. Also, she told the Committee that she had to take a two-week mandated break in service, which would be from March 26-April 6.

The next meeting of TERC will be May 14 at 10 a.m. in Room 2D21 of the SC Department of Revenue.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Damita Jeter

Damita Jeter, TERC Staff