

TOURISM EXPENDITURE REVIEW COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

June 18, 2018, Market Pointe Extension, SC Department of Revenue, Columbia, SC
Osprey Conference Room, 10 a.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members in Attendance (either in-person or via conference call): Ed Riggs, Olivia Young, John Taylor, Dan Blumenstock, Linda Tucker, Doug McFarland, Toni Nance, Kevin Yokim, Mark Nix, Tony Tam.

Staff in Attendance: Damita Jeter, TERC Staff.

Advisors in Attendance: John Hoefler, Legal Counsel

CALL TO ORDER /ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS/UPDATES:

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

2. Minutes: Linda Tucker made a motion to approve the minutes of March 26, 2018, which was seconded by John Taylor and approved unanimously by TERC.

3. Legislative Updates/Concerns: Toni Nance provided the Committee with a legislative update concerning budget provisos that could possibly effect accommodations taxes. She reminded committee members that this discussion was for informational purposes only and that TERC as a group takes no legislative position. Proviso 109.9- which is known as DOR May Events- allows Horry County to set aside one third of its total allocations for policing activities associated with May activities in the area. Proviso 109.11 –which is known as Tourist Safety- allows up to 50 percent of funds under Section 6-4-10 (3) to be set aside and used for policing activities in Horry County to any municipality that has a tourism development fee. Ms. Nance said she would update the committee of any progress and/or changes regarding these.

She also updated the Committee on Senate Bill 917, which allows state accommodations taxes, local accommodations taxes and hospitality taxes for flooding control and damage repair. This puts accommodations and hospitality taxes to use for infrastructure. She will keep the Committee apprised of any developments regarding this bill.

4. Legal Updates/Concerns: Chairman Ed Riggs made a motion, which was seconded by Linda Tucker and approved unanimously by TERC members, to go into executive session to discuss confidential matters with attorney John Hoefler. John Taylor made a motion to go out of executive session, which was seconded by Doug McFarland and approved unanimously by TERC members.

Following executive session, John Taylor made a motion to adopt a communication policy concerning Damita Holcomb's (TERC staff) interaction with local governments and the public concerning answering questions regarding accommodations taxes. This policy was written at the suggestion of Ms. Holcomb who was concerned that she is increasingly being asked by local governments to provide statutory opinions in which TERC does not have the authority provide. In the policy, TERC staff will only answer questions by referring to the law only. If the question cannot be answered clearly through the statute itself, she will encourage the local government or member of the public to speak with their legal counsel for an interpretation of the statute. The policy adoption motion was seconded by Linda Tucker and passed unanimously by TERC members.

5. Reporting Forms Reviewed: City of Camden (reviewed by Mark Nix and Joy Young and accepted as submitted)

Other Outstanding Issues with Reporting Forms Already Reviewed:

Traveler's Rest has been going through a changeover in staff. They filed a reporting form, but did not expend the total amount of funds possible and have a large carry over amount. What they did spend funds on was appropriate (advertising). They asked for a grace period in order to correct this and will spend and report the appropriate amount in October. The team reviewing their forms approved of this.

Lancaster County needs to remit its committee list. Staff is working with the County to get this.

Easley needs to remit its committee list. Staff is working with City to get this.
Springdale needs to clarify 30 percent recipient.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Next meeting date will be announced in 2019 for the 2018 report review.

There being no other business, Doug McFarland motioned to adjourn and Kevin Yokim seconded. The motion was passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Damita S. Holcomb
TERC STAFF