

**TOURISM EXPENDITURE REVIEW COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, March 22 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 June 8, 2020. Dan Blumenstock seconded and minutes were approved.
- 3. Welcome New Committee Members:** TERC welcomed Jason Rapp from the SC Arts Commission and Fox Simons from the City of Myrtle Beach who is the Municipal Association of SC representative on the Committee. We will continue to work with the Governor's Office on a representative from the SC Association of Counties.
- 4. Ethics Forms:** TERC members need to file their Statement of Economic Interest reports with the state ethics commission by March 30.
- 5. Statehouse Updates:** Toni Nance updated the Committee and reminded TERC members that this update was for informational purposes only. There continues to be some discussion that local accommodations tax and local hospitality tax should be diverted to local governments specifically for the use of boosting the local economy. Ms. Nance reported that no actions have been finalized regarding this.

***Review of 2020 Reporting Forms***

TERC asked for more information from the following, including questions about 30 percent and 65% funding, mathematical errors, additional information to determine validity of funding and the local governments' accommodations tax committee list and composition.

**Reviewed and Questioned by Olivia Young and John Taylor:** Beaufort County (Olivia recused herself from review Beaufort County), City of Beaufort, Bluffton, Greenville County, Greenwood county, , Lancaster, Lancaster County, Newberry, , City of North Augusta, (request to carry forward funds) Pickens county, Port Royal, Ridgeland, Simpsonville, Travelers Rest, City of York

**City of North Augusta Request:** For FY 2019, did not have a membership committee in place until early 2020. Funds were carried over so that committee could vote on funds, which was supposed to occur at the beginning of 2020. Due to covid, everything approved got canceled. They are requesting that TERC allow them to carry forward funds. They have a specific project they have funded (amphitheater). Olivia Young motioned to approve this request with a second by John Taylor. The motion was unanimously approved by the Committee.

**Reviewed and Questioned by Mark Nix and Jason Rapp:**

Blythewood, Camden, Cayce, Cheraw, Cherokee County, Folly Beach, Gaffney, Irmo, Town of Lexington,(no funds spent, request for carry over); Richland County- they have a cultural rep vacancy which Jason Rapp agreed to assist helping them find someone in the area to fill this vacancy, Spartanburg

**Town of Lexington Request:** The Town requested to carry forward their funds beyond the two year time frame due to Covid cancellations. They intended to meet in summer 2021 in order to spend the funds. Jason Rapp motioned the town be allowed the extension pending notification to TERC on how they intend to spend the funds. The motion was seconded by Mark Nix and unanimously approved by the committee.

**Reviewed and Questioned by Daniel Blumenstock and Tony Tam:**

Chesterfield County, City of Clinton, Conway, Dillon County, Easley, Florence County ,Fort Mill, Georgetown County, City of Georgetown, (Tony Tam abstained from reviewing both City of Georgetown and Georgetown County's reports), Lake City, North Myrtle Beach, Orangeburg County, Pawleys Island, Surfside Beach

**Reviewed and Questioned by Douglas McFarland, Edward Riggs and Spencer Wetmore:**

Berkeley County, Charleston County, Dorchester County, Town of Edisto Beach, (need to vote on request to extend two year carry over) Goose Creek, Isle of Palms, Mount Pleasant, North Charleston, Santee, Seabrook Island, Summerville, Walterboro

**Town of Edisto Beach Request:** The Town requested to carry forward approximately \$150,000 in funds beyond the two year time frame for beach re-nourishment. The project happens approximately every ten years and the last time was 2017 so this will be an ongoing request. Olivia Young motioned to approve with Daniel Blumenstock seconding. The committee approved unanimously.

**Other Business:**

During the course of the meeting, TERC members had several questions that we will pose to legal counsel for discussion at the next meeting. These questions include:

- Does TERC have the authority to get a copy of marketing plans or budgets from all 30 percent recipients under reporting guidelines annually? Or is it just when TERC has reason to believe that the recipient of the 30 percent funds may be a questionable DMO?
- Does TERC have the authority to verify that local accommodations tax committee members are recusing themselves from voting on a project or event when there is a perceived conflict (i.e. – a chamber applies for 65% funds and a chamber employee sits on the advisory committee).

- If a local accommodations tax advisory committee's vacancies leave them without a quorum would their report be invalid and should funds be carried forward to the following year? Or does the local government (city or county council) have the authority to make the final decision on disbursement of funds under the statute even if the local committee does not have a quorum?

The next meeting of the Committee will be tentatively held on May 17.

There being no other business, Doug McFarland made a motion to adjourn with Dan Blumenstock making a second to the motion. The full committee approved the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Damita S. Holcomb