

## **MINUTES**

### **LODGING TAX ADVISORY MEETING**

**August, 19, 2024, at 1 pm; held Virtual/First-Floor Conference Room**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

**Present:** Councilmember Barbara Bitetto (chair), Meilee Anderson, Dean Burke, Carmelo Lopez,  
staff: Carmen Palmer

## **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

### **1. Introductions and New Chair**

Councilmember Bitetto introduced herself and members introduced themselves to her. Carmen Palmer reported that Trevor Sutton is no longer with the Candlewood Suites, and she is in contact with the new General Manager, who is interested but has not been confirmed to the committee yet.

### **2. Update on Funding and Budget process**

Carmen Palmer provided an update on the funds and projects:

- Wayfinding signage is still coming and is currently in production with \$40,000 from LTAC.
- Strategic Tourism Plan is complete.
- Ask is in process now for construction funding from Pierce County LTAC for Hops Alley and Phase 1 of Heritage Park.
- Staff recommend not allocating bulk of lodging tax dollars right now in order to see needs to potentially cover unexpected costs regarding the Pierce County ask and keeping that project/funding on track if received.

### **3. Fulfilling the Strategic Tourism Subarea Plan**

Discussed meeting monthly to keep the synergy and energy of this plan moving forward.

### **4. Funding Recommendations for Consideration**

Discussion about viability of each project in relation to Main Street Vision and Strategic Tourism Plan but danger of creating precedent for similar projects not tied to those tourism plans. The Committee unanimously recommended funding for up to

- \$75,000 for street trees on Main Street
- \$6,000 for bike racks downtown
- \$5,000 for additional/replacement tables, chairs & umbrellas for Heritage Park in 2025.

The Committee wants to ensure these are very specific recommendations tied to the Main Street/Tourism plans and not precedent for similar asks in the future in areas of the city not related to tourism. Carmen will send draft agenda bill language to ensure it captures their concern and direction.

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 pm