

CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Lodging Tax Advisory Committee

2:30 PM
February 28, 2023

Tibbetts Manor, 750 17th Ave.
NW, Issaquah

MINUTES

MEMBERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Committee:

Russell Joe, Councilmember (Chair)
Laura Lee, Village Theatre
Matthew McReynolds, Springhill Suites
Marriott
John Parizak, Hilton Garden Inn,

Julie Hartwig, Chamber of Commerce
(excused)

Administration/Staff:

Jen Davis Hayes, Economic Development
Manager
Farel Otieno, Economic Development
Coordinator

SPECIAL MEETING

Please note, this agenda also serves as the special meeting notice pursuant to RCW 42.30.080.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:31 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Unfortunately, WebEx was not working. No public was in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Minutes of Dec 7, 2022

PARIZAK motioned, LEE seconded to approve the minutes as presented. APPROVED by unanimous consent.

AGENDA ITEMS

- a) **Review 2023 Funding Initiatives**

Presented by:

Jen Davis Hayes, Economic Development Manager

Davis Hayes stated that the program's approved budget is \$50,000 and that nine funding requests totaling \$70,150 have been submitted. The committee's current duty is to formulate a recommendation for submission to the City Council for consideration.

In a discussion, each committee member present shared their suggestion.

One applicant was removed due to ineligibility out of the total of nine. The surviving candidates received recommendations.

The committee unanimously recommended Village Theatre to be funded full amount asked. Matt motioned that village Theatre be funded full amount \$10,000. Joe seconded the funding of Full amount to Village Theatre.

The table below lists all the applicants' requests and committee recommendation.

#	Entity	Initiative	Request	Recommended Funding
1	The Garage, a Teen Cafe	Community Pride Event	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 1,500.00
2	Downtown Issaquah Association	Fenders on Front Street	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
3	Blackfish Ventures LLC	Evergreen Trail Runs	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
4	Greater Issaquah Chamber of Commerce	Visitors' information Center & 2023 Salmon Days	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 7,500.00
5	Tripple XXX Rootbeer Drive In	Visiting Issaquah	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
6	Friends of Lake Sammamish State Park	Friends of Lake Sammamish State Park (Walk and Wag)	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,500.00
7	Highlands Council	Global Grub & Groove Series	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 2,000.00
		LEGO EXPO	\$ 1,650.00	\$ 1,500.00
8	Village Theatre	Supporting village Theatre's Tourism-Related Operation in Issaquah	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
9	Cougar Mountain Zoo	Reindeer Exhibit Renovation/Restoration – Includes City recognition	\$ 10,000.00	\$0.00
			\$ 70,150.00	\$ 39,000.00

PARIZAK motioned funding of all recommended applicants; MCREYNOLDS seconded. All committee voted in favor.

Adopt Annual Meeting Schedule

Presented by:

Farel Otieno, Economic Development Coordinator

The 2023 schedule was reviewed, and potential meeting dates and venue were discussed. Venues for the remaining minutes was changed. April, August meeting to be held at Hilton Garden Inn, June and November meeting to be held at Springhill Suites.

MCREYNOLDS motioned and LEE seconded.

Next Meeting Topics

Presented by:

Farel Otieno, Economic Development Coordinator

No discussion.

REPORTS

Tourism Trends, Upcoming Events & Opportunities

Presented by:

All Commissioners

PARIZAK reported Christy working on basketball tournament which is schedule for June.

City Council Report Out

Presented by:

Russell Joe, Council Member

Asking legislature for \$700,000 to improve Veterans Park by Senior Center.

Lodging Tax Revenue Update

Presented by:

Farel Otieno, Economic Development Coordinator

Graphs and table depicting revenues, expenditure and ending fund balances from 2021 through 2023 were reviewed.

2023 Schedule

Presented by:

Farel Otieno, Economic Development Coordinator

Committee members reviewed the projected schedule.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for April 12, 2023.

INQUIRIES

Please contact Farel Otieno at farelo@issaquahwa.gov.

Note: Times listed for meetings topics are approximate and items are subject to being shifted from the original order.

(A) Action, (D) Discussion, (I) Information