

CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Lodging Tax Advisory Committee

2:00 PM
November 17, 2025

MINUTES

Springhill Suites, 1185 NW
Maple St., Issaquah

MEMBERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Committee:

Russell Joe, Councilmember, Chair
Heather Berry, Village Theatre
William (Billy) Rossman, Springhill Suites
Marriott (Excused)
Julie Hartwig, Chamber of Commerce
John Parizek, Hilton Garden Inn
Rachel Wright, Issaquah Arts, Alternate

Administration/Staff:

Alexis Fitzsimmons, Economic
Development & Housing Manager
Jack Pedlow, Economic Development
Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIR JOE called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Christina with DIA wanted to welcome Kimberly Kapustein to Visit Issaquah and welcome new members of the LTAC. She made us aware of the many opportunities in 2026 such as World Cup and America 250 and that with uncertainties around budgets, collaboration will be key.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Minutes of September 15, 2025

The minutes of September 15, 2025 were approved.

AGENDA ITEMS

- a) **2026 LTAC Application Criteria and Process Improvements**

Presented by:

Alexis Fitzsimmons, Economic Development & Housing Manager

Jack Pedlow, Economic Development Coordinator

Looking forward to the 2026 LTAC applications, the following processes were discussed to understand feedback and what changes best served the LTAC Committee and process.

- Insurance requirements
 - There was a motion to table the insurance requirement discussion.
- Shoulder season application
 - Currently October through April.
 - There is the possibility to continue with same application period, we reserve the flexibility to have a second session if needed.

- There is the possibility to have a preference on shoulder season but retain flexibility outside of shoulder season to make sure that all projects can be considered.
- Mainstay recipients, such as the Village Theatre and Salmon Days, and their impact was discussed.
 - It was discussed that there is a perception that there been a decrease in the hotel stay data around both Salmon Days and the Village Theatre events.
- There was a motion to discuss continuing with the regular application process for both Salmon Days and Village Theatre. There was a subsequent motion to table this discussion to be discussed in a special meeting on December 8th at 2:00 – 3:30 at Tibbetts Manor. LTAC revenue data, hotel revenue numbers, and additional information to support the decision have been requested.

b) **2026 World Cup Updates***Presented by:**Jack Pedlow, Economic Development Coordinator*

- A brief World Cup update was given, letting LTAC know that on top of a projected 750,000 regional visitors, the Port of Seattle have an additional 20 cruises on call on top of normal cruise volume. More granular visitor projections will be available after the draw on December 5th where FIFA will announce where each national team will be playing.

REPORTSa) **Visit Issaquah Q4 and 2026 Updates***Presented by:**Kimberly Kapustein, Visit Issaquah Executive Director*

- Kimberly Kapustein presented the Visit Issaquah Q3 & Q4 updates.
- Some highlights include:
 - The Gilman Village Spring Thing
 - A familiarization tour with French tour operators

b) **City Council Report Out**[2025 City Council Motion Sheets](#)

- Chair Joe reported a resolution around sharing Issaquah's welcoming values and letting residents know that Issaquah has not opted into data sharing with ICE.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:13 PM.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for December 8, 2025.

INQUIRIES

11-17-25 Lodging Tax Advisory Committee
Minutes

For questions or assistance, please contact Economic Development staff
ED@issaquahwa.gov.
