

CLE ELUM LODGING TAX & EVENTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 9, 2024

8:30 AM

**119 W FIRST STREET
CLE ELUM, WA 98922**

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Steven Cook - Committee Member present
Steven Harper - Committee Member present
Audrey Malek - Committee Member present

Matthew Lundh - Mayor
Debbie Lee - Clerk
Ed Mills - Fire Chief

2. Unfinished Business

Chair Steven Cook would like to move items B & D to E & F. Hope Source moved to item C and Rec Center to item D.

MOTION: Committee Member Cook made a motion to amend the agenda as mentioned above; seconded by Committee Member Harper.

MOTION CARRIED: 3 yes 0 no.

3. New Business

- a. Approve the Lodging Tax & Events Committee Minutes Dated August 12, 2024

MOTION: Committee Member Harper made a motion to approve the Lodging Tax & Events Committee Meeting Minutes Dated August 12, 2024; seconded by Committee Member Cook.

MOTION CARRIED: 3 yes 0 no.

- b. Hope Source Match Funds

Keiko Walsh, Program Manager for Hope Source, stated she is requesting funding for the 2025–2026 years in the amount of \$24,000 per year. The Kittitas County Connector runs 7 days per week, serving all of Upper County. They also have a dial-a-ride service.

It was discussed that the approximate cost to run the connector is about \$200,000 per year. Hope Source uses the grant money as match money for other grants that they apply for. This promotes tourism and helps with economic development.

The Committee will recommend this to the Council at tomorrow's meeting and encourage Hope Source to complete a Lodging Tax Application.

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c. Upper Kittitas County Recreation Center - Lodging Tax Commitment

Claire Hines of the Upper Kittitas County Recreation Center was following up on the dedicated annual amount that the City of Cle Elum will be contributing. It was discussed that at one time the Council had agreed to 35% of the annual amount of Lodging Tax collected the previous year.

The Council will have to pass a resolution that states that they will look at previous years' revenue and in the first quarter of the next year they will allocate 35% to the Recreation Center in an annual payment.

MOTION: Committee Member Harper made a motion to recommend to the Council to have a Resolution drafted that memorializes the amount that will be granted to the Recreation Center in annual payments; seconded by Committee Member Malek.

MOTION CARRIED: 3 yes 0 no.

d. Northern Kittitas County Historical Society "25th Jubilee" 2024 Lodging Tax Fund Application

Charlene Kauzlarich stated that the Historical Society has been attracting tourists with the Telephone Museum and the Carpenter House since 1989. This would be a one-time ask.

Discussion was had regarding how they target Facebook ads. It was explained that you can designate your distance from how far you want your ads to reach.

The Committee also discussed having clearer dissemination of the budget with having more detail. They asked the Historical Society to resubmit the budget in more detail.

Charlene Kauzlarich stated she would resubmit the application as per the request.

e. Mouse About Foundation 2024 Lodging Tax Application

Discussion was had about the application being submitted after the event. This is a self-sustaining event. The only real allowable expense would be the porta potties in the amount of \$50. This would almost feel like an insult by only allowing this amount. The goal of the Lodging Tax Funds is to help get events off of the ground. This request does go to a very good cause, but it could almost technically be considered gifting of public funds.

The Committee agreed to reject the application.

f. Update Event Application - Bathroom verbiage, noise ordinance, etc.

Discussion was had making sure there was a complete checklist of considerations for people when they submit an event application. For example:

- If you have amplified sounds, you must request a noise variance.
- Cooking of any kind will need the Fire Chief's approval.
- If alcohol is going to be served, you will have to contact the state.

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- Chief Mills also stated that everyone must be mindful of space requirements per the code.
- There is also a Fire & Life Safety process that needs to be implemented.
- Chief Mills stated there was a special application permit for International Fire Codes that needs to be met.
- Chief Mills will email the Committee the forms that he wants the Committee to look at.

The noise ordinance is going before the Council tomorrow night.

The Committee will discuss this further at the October 14, 2024, meeting.

g. **Visitor Center Discussion - Mayor Lundh**

It was reported that Salon 2120 has vacated the building next to City Hall. The plans are to expand some offices for City Hall. Mayor Lundh reported that the space that the Downtown Association currently leases their lease is up for renewal, and they have talked about having a shared Downtown Association and a Visitor Center to be located in one space. The thought is that the Downtown Association could use the front of the vacated space and City Hall could possibly use the remaining area. If the Visitor Center was located adjacent to City Hall, it would allow the City to use Lodging Tax Funds to help pay for the space.

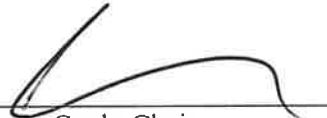
MOTION: Committee Member Harper made a motion to discuss this with the Council; seconded by Committee Member Malek.

MOTION CARRIED: 3 yes 0 no.

4. **Other Committee Comments**

5. **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 a.m.



Steven Cook, Chair



Debbie Lee, Clerk