

MEMORANDUM



TO: Wes Crago, City Administrator
FROM: Ray Towry, Recreation/Tourism Director
DATE: November 6, 2015
RE: For Council's Information

The Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) met on Friday, November 6, 2015, in the City Hall Conference Room. The Committee is charged to review the grant applications for funding out of the Stadium/Convention fund, or hotel motel tax.

The LTAC is comprised of two members of the community who organize programs that are eligible for the funds. Those two are: Randy Boruff of Columbia Basin Youth Baseball and Cory Pickeral, the Chamber of Commerce Vice President. The LTAC is also comprised of two members representing a business that collects the tax. They are Thonna Bodi, manager of Best Western Rama Inn, and Derek Litterell, manager of Oasis Park RV and Campground. Ms. Bodi was unable to attend. Mark Wanke represented the city council and acts as chair.

A press release and web postings were distributed announcing the availability of applications and stipulated that completed applications be returned to City Hall by October 30, 2015.

The meeting began by Chairman Wanke calling the meeting to order at 9:04 am. Ms. Bodi was noted absent.

The 2016 budget is expected to appropriate \$34,500.00 for the Committee to distribute. Copies of the completed applications were distributed to the Committee members prior to the meeting for their review.

Chairman Wanke reminded the committee that the tax is collected solely by transient lodging establishments and should only be utilized for events that can demonstrate they contribute to overnight stays in these businesses. The Committee then reviewed the applicant requests and applied that philosophy to the awarding of the funds. Discussion centered on does the event, "put heads in beds?" The Committee then began applying awards. Efforts able to demonstrate the ability to garner overnight stays were rewarded with funding. It was noted that Basin Summer Sounds does not have a chair person and may not occur in 2016. The Committee awarded them \$5000, but noted if the event doesn't take place that \$2000 of their award should be appropriated to Columbia Basin Youth Baseball and \$3000 should be appropriated to the City of Ephrata.

There were five applications submitted for consideration. A list of submitted applications including the Committee's recommended awards with comments are attached. Please note, (Litterell/Pickeral m/s)

Wanke closed the meeting at 10:54 am.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Attached: 2015 Request and Award Spreadsheet

Cc: S. Grout, Admin. Asst.