

Columbus Tourism Committee
Wednesday, June 10, 2015
Columbus City Hall Council Chambers

The Columbus Tourism Committee held its first meeting on Wednesday, June 10, 2015 at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers in City Hall.

Members present: Thom, Traxler, O’Brion, Salter and Achterberg.

Members absent: Crombie (excused)

Staff present: Dave Carlson-Economic Development & Marketing Assistant

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm by Thom. Quorum determined.

Notice of posted meeting was announced by Thom.

Motion by O’Brion, seconded by Traxler to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Election of Chair-O’Brion nominated Thom to serve as Chair of the committee. There being no other nominations, Thom was unanimously elected Chair.

New business:

Background for committee: Thom discussed how and why the Tourism Committee was created by the Columbus City Council. Carlson reviewed the most financial statement for the Room Tax Fund and noted the revenues are derived from a 3% city tax on lodging. Carlson also reviewed state statutes and local ordinance related to the room tax.

Application for Room Tax Funds from Wisconsin USSSA: Carlson reviewed the application from Wisconsin USSSA which requested \$750 in Room Tax funds to pay diamond rental fees in connection with the Girls State Open Fastpitch Softball Championships to be held in Columbus in July 2015. The committee had a considerable discussion regarding how the impact of such an event can be measured in terms of additional hotel stays, retail spending, etc. There were also some concerns expressed regarding using the Room Tax Funds to pay diamond rental expenses which essentially works out as a transfer of Room Tax funds to the City General Fund. After considerable discussion, the following action was taken:

MOTION: To recommend providing \$500 in room tax funding to the 2015 State Open Girls Fastpitch Championship Tournament to be held in Columbus, and to further recommend the City waive \$250 in diamond rental fees for this tournament. The motion carried unanimously.

Other business:

- A request was made of staff that in the future applicants for Room Tax Funds appear before the committee to present their proposal and answer questions.
- A request was made that applicants who are granted Room Tax Funds appear before the committee after their event to review how such funds were used and the overall success of the event.
- Members of the committee asked that staff gather examples of applications other communities use for Room Tax Funding requests.
- The Committee agreed that future meetings should be held the 4th Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be Thursday, June 25th, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion by Salter, Second by Traxler to Adjourn at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Dave Carlson, Secretary