

**ACCOMMODATIONS TAX COMMITTEE
May 13, 2025, Meeting Minutes
Meeting held via Zoom**

In attendance: Mark C. Burt, Peter Fikas, Neal Patel, Sullange Solomon, Ashley Lambert

Absent: Marie Pound

City representatives: Steven Gaither, Mendy Corder

Mr. Neal Patel called the meeting to order.

The Committee reviewed the requests for the 25-26 fiscal year. Mr. Burt reviewed with the committee how Accommodations Taxes were collected and used for the grants. It was noted that there was \$69,150 requested in funding and \$90,000 estimated available.

The Committee reviewed the City's Ad Specialty request for \$5,000. Mr. Burt made a motion to recommend to award the requested \$5,000 for FY 25/26. Mr. Fikas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Corder explained that the City hosted events were being presented without applications to streamline the City's process while still allowing the City's Finance Department to create a line item for the events.

The Woman's Club requested \$1,500 for the Hot Flash 5K. Mr. Patel made a motion to recommend to award the Woman's Club \$1,500, Mr. Fikas seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Tartan Day South requested \$22,000. Mr. Burt made a motion to recommend to award the \$22,000. Ms. Lambert seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Committee reviewed the Cayce Museum Events. \$1,000 was requested for the Colonial Village that the Museum participates in at Tartan Day each year. Mr. Patel made a motion to recommend the requested amount. Mr. Burt seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The Committee asked what the African American Legends event was. Ms. Corder stated that the Museum had an African American sub-committee created to strengthen the representation of African American stories in the Museum. She stated that the Museum ran a social media campaign during February spotlighting the lives of impactful African American residents into the "African American Legends of Cayce." Ms. Corder stated that the African American Legends Event was a reception the Museum held in conjunction with the social media campaign to recognize and honor African American residents. Ms. Lambert made a motion to recommend to award the requested \$1,000 to the event. Mr. Patel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Committee reviewed the Museum's Christmas Concert and Market next. Ms. Corder stated that this was the Museum's annual Christmas event held at the Museum. Mr. Patel made a motion to recommend to award the \$4,150 requested. Mr. Burt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Committee reviewed the 30% designees' applications. Mr. Burt asked what Experience Columbia was doing with the A Tax funds they were awarded each year. Ms. Corder stated that they did market the City's Soiree on State event. She stated that the Experience Columbia website did list Cayce as one

of Columbia's surrounding areas as well as Cayce's local restaurants. Mr. Burt stated that the site did not list the City's hotels. Ms. Corder stated that she would contact her contact at Experience Columbia and ask that they add the City's hotels and also add Trini Lime Caribbean Café to the restaurant list. Mr. Burt suggested awarding the same percentages from last year to each organization, which meant Lake Murray Country would receive 30%, Experience Columbia would receive 35% and the Greater CWC Chamber of Commerce would receive 35%. Mr. Burt made a motion to award the 30% designees those amounts. Mr. Fikas seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Sullange stated that she did not receive any customers from any advertising the 30% designees did. Ms. Lambert asked if the Columbia Airport would qualify to receive A Tax funds. Ms. Corder stated that anyone requesting those funds had to be a 501 (c) 3 but stated that the Airport could work through a 501 (c) 3 the same way Tartan Day South requested funds through the River Alliance.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned, with Mr. Patel making a motion to adjourn and Mr. Burt seconding.

Respectfully submitted,

Mendy Corder