



Town of Hilton Head Island
Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee

Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 9:00 am

MEETING MINUTES

Present from the Committee: Andrew Brown, *Chairman*; James Fluker, *Vice-Chairman*; Stephen Arnold, Julie Martin, James Berghausen and John Farrell

Absent from the Committee: Richard Thomas

Present from Town Council: William Harkins, Tamara Becker and Tom Lennox

Present from Town Staff: John Troyer, *Director of Finance and* Cindaia Ervin, *Finance Assistant*

Present from the Media: None

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. FOIA Compliance:

Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted and mailed in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Town of Hilton Head Island requirements.

3. Roll Call- See as noted above.

4. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Brown asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Fluker moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Mr. Arnold seconded. By way of roll call, the motion was approved by a vote of 6-0.

5. Approval of Minutes- None

6. Citizen Comments

Cindaia Ervin, Committee Secretary, stated that comments concerning agenda items were to be submitted electronically via the Town's Open Town Hall portal. The public comment period closed the day prior to the meeting at 4:30 p.m. At the conclusion of the Open Town Hall, there was no public comment; however, there was one request from a citizen to speak to the Committee by phone.

Skip Hoagland addressed the members of the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee regarding his concerns of the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce, the Freedom of information Act and other issues related to the Town of Hilton Head Island.

7. Unfinished Business- None

8. New Business:

a. Review & Recommendations for the 2021 Out-of-Cycle Accommodations Tax Grants

A spreadsheet was displayed listing all applicants along with the amount each applicant requested. Committee members discussed each individual application and ultimately, the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee decided upon the following recommendations:

Calendar Year 2021 Accommodations Tax Advisory Grant Requests

	2021 GRANTS			2021 Out-of-Cycle GRANTS		
	2021 Applicant Request	ATAC Recommendation	Town Council Award	2021 Out-of-Cycle Request	ATAC Recommendation	Town Council Award
12 Jewels of Life	\$ 40,000	\$ -	\$ -			
Art League of Hilton Head	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000			
Arts Center of Coastal Carolina	\$ 325,000	\$ 325,000	\$ 325,000			
David M. Carmines Memorial Fnd	\$ 115,000	\$ 115,000	\$ 115,000			
Gullah Museum of Hilton Head Island	\$ 17,000	\$ 17,000	\$ 17,000			
Hilton Head Choral Society	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000			
Hilton Head Concours d'Elegance	\$ 88,000	\$ 88,000	\$ 88,000			
Hilton Head Dance Theater	\$ 19,000	\$ 19,000	\$ 19,000			
Hilton Head Island Airport	\$ 165,000	\$ 165,000	\$ 165,000			
Hilton Head Island Land Trust	\$ 30,000	\$ 28,684	\$ 28,684			
HHI Rec Association (Wingfest & Oyster Festival)	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000			
HHI Wine and Food, Inc.	\$ 88,000	\$ 88,000	\$ 88,000			
HHI-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce VCB	\$ 350,000	\$ 476,994	\$ 350,000			
Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra-Operations	\$ 270,000	\$ 270,000	\$ 270,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 29,813	
Lean Ensemble Theatre	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	
Lowcountry Golf Course Owners Assoc.	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000			
Lowcountry Gullah	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000			
Main Street Youth Theater	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000			
Mitchelville Preservation Project	\$ 185,000	\$ 185,000	\$ 185,000			
Native Island Business & Community	\$ 225,000	\$ 225,000	\$ 225,000			
Operation R & R	\$ 15,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000			
Palmetto Quilt Guild <i>(New Application)</i>				\$ 4,110	\$ 4,110	
Sea Turtle Patrol HHI	\$ 10,660	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 37,648	\$ 26,988	
The Coastal Discovery Museum-Operations	\$ 310,000	\$ 310,000	\$ 310,000	\$ 64,319	\$ 64,319	
The Coastal Discovery Museum-Honey Horn Capital Improvements	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000			
The Children's Center <i>(New Application)</i>				\$ 30,000	\$ -	
The First Tee of the Lowcountry- Operations	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	
The Heritage Library	\$ 110,000	\$ 110,000	\$ 110,000			
The Outside Foundation	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,367	\$ 10,367	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	
The Sandbox	\$ 17,875	\$ 17,875	\$ 17,875	\$ 143,202	\$ 135,000	
Town of Hilton Head Island-Operations	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,126,994	\$ 1,000,000			
World Affairs Council of HH	\$ 10,000	\$ 8,984	\$ 8,984			
Total	\$ 4,066,535	\$ 4,244,898	\$ 3,990,910	\$ 384,279	\$ 335,230	\$ -

AMOUNT REMAINING

\$ 49,049 \$ 384,279

Andrew Brown, Chairman, stated that he would like the Committee to review the applicants request carefully to ensure that each is awarded appropriately based on the guidelines of the State. Due to the remaining effects of Covid-19, the Committee felt they had an obligation to consider each applicant applying for out-of-cycle funds and the impact they will have on our community. They commended those that applied for out of cycle funding and encouraged those that were not recommended funding were based solely on the guidelines of the State and what the funding of Accommodations Tax can be used for.

Mr. Fluker made a motion to approve the recommendations as assigned and displayed on the projected spreadsheet (summarized in the table above). Mr. Arnold seconded the motion. By way of roll call, the motion was approved by a vote of 6-0-1. All Committee members voted unanimously to approve (except for individual line items where Committee members recused themselves-details listed at end of minutes). During the discussion of The First Tee of the Lowcountry, Mr. Farrell disclosed a potential conflict of interest and did not participate. The required disclosure forms have been made a part of the official record.

9. Adjournment:

Mr. Brown adjourned the meeting at 9:54 a.m.

Submitted by: Cindaia Ervin, Secretary

Approved: July 8, 2021