Lodging Tax Advisory Committee
September 2, 2014

The Committee met on Tuesday, September 2, 2014, 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. Committee Members present: Chair Fred Chang; Kathy Michael, Cedar Cove Inn; Desiree Stephens, Port Orchard Chamber of Commerce; Jessie Turner, Fathoms O’ Fun; Bobbie Stewart, POBSA; Frank Graziani, Saints Car Club; and City Clerk Brandy Rinearson.

Absent: Chan Park, Comfort Inn; Lorraine Olsen, Mrs. Howe’s B&B; and Steven Saffell, Days Inn.

Applicants spoke to the Committee explaining their proposal as follows:

Visit Kitsap
Patty Graf-Hoke and diane Robinson with Visit Kitsap asked for consideration of providing regional marketing services for the City and the community. They provide marketing services that compliments other services. They provide year-round 24/7 marketing services to promote events and making sure we have a presence throughout the Sound. She shared with the Committee the printed materials Port Orchard events and businesses were featured. Lastly, she explained the services they provide Gig Harbor and shared the map that Gig Harbor produced. They are also working with Adele Lacombe in sharing a map of the area to help with inquiries of the Cedar Cove Hallmark TV series.

Concerts by the Bay
Kim Punt and Al Mahaney presented their proposal by stating they have had more out-of-towners this year, including as far as New Zealand, Germany, Australia, and Belgium. They mentioned they averaged 450 people per concert. Nursing homes and the Kitsap Access bus helps provide residents transportation to the concerts. They work with the Port of Bremerton and City staff for clean up efforts. The event is successful every year. The requested funds are for event advertising, creating a new banner, and the cost of the performers. They have the most ideal venue with being on the water and the park for the kids close by.

Fathoms O’ Fun
Jessie Turner and Al Mahaney presented their proposal, proclaiming the events put on by the organization have been around for many years and it is done all by volunteers. They are also the “catch-all” for organizations that can no longer put on the event; it is essentially given to Fathoms. They also said Fathoms promotes the City year-round with the Royalty Court being active in the community and the award-winning float being shown all over the State. In addition, they are working on more fundraisers to help with
the higher cost of the fireworks show, as they no longer have the supplier they had for years.

**Saints Car Club**

Terry Bontrager presented the proposal by explaining he had 480 registered participants this year. They were up from last year, which were 383 registered participants. They parked over 700 cars for display this year. The event is always held on the second Sunday in August. The event keeps getting bigger and their goal is to be financially independent. This year they only asked for what is the short fall of the projected budget.

**City of Port Orchard Chimes and Lights**

Clerk Rinearson presented the proposal by stating the request of funds is to help cover the short-fall of the budgeted expense of the City. The cost carried by the City is the salary of staff to decorate the town. The increase of funds is for marketing for outside of the area. The Committee discussed the application stating the expense of this event has grown and should the Council want to have an event of this size; it should be funded by the City.

The Committee requested Clerk Rinearson to clarify if purchasing fireworks is an allowable reimbursable expense of lodging tax funds.

**City of Port Orchard Foot Ferry Services**

Clerk Rinearson presented the proposal, stating the requested funds are to help run additional foot ferry services. She said Kitsap County joined the partnership this year and they will be open to discussions next year depending on the results of this year. In addition, she shared that the ridership numbers for this year is increasing on Sunday services, but still has a very small ridership count for Friday and Saturday services.

The Committee recognized that this type of service is not meant to make a lot of revenue, but it would be nice to at least break even.

**Other Business:**

A discussion was held on the actual amount of funds available to distribute. Clerk Rinearson was asked to get a breakdown of the $43,000, which was projected to the ending cash balance for 2014.

There being no further business, Chair Chang adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 3, 2014, at 7:00 p.m.

Copies to: Council/Mayor/Department Directors