

TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH
ACCOMMODATIONS TAX ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
November 3, 2022
10:00 a.m.

MINUTES

Town of Edisto Beach
Town Hall
2414 Murray Street
Edisto Beach, SC 29438

Present: Chair Leslie Varner Hurley, Judith Blancett, Mike Hobson, Matthew Kizer, Rick Moore, Robert Pratt, and Tyler Von Neida (via telephone conference call) *Quorum of Committee Present.*

Staff Present: Town Administrator Iris Hill (ex-officio), Assistant Town Administrator Mark Aakhus, Municipal Clerk Dee Stalvey

Call to Order

Chair Hurley called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Von Neida moved to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2022, ATAX meeting. This motion was seconded by Mr. Kizer and unanimously approved.

New Business

ATAX Fund Balance

Mr. Hobson moved to approve the fund balance information shared with the ATAX Board, with the Beach Patrol funding question regarding the laptop purchase to be resolved. Mr. Pratt seconded this motion, which was passed unanimously.

ATAX Project Balance: Kizer/Hobson – Y: All

Discussion held on the project balances, including the Beach Patrol funding, the laptop purchase, and the \$150,000 for beach nourishment. Town Administrator Hill noted the beach nourishment funding was not deducted for the previous year, which was discovered during the audit.

Mr. Kizer moved to approve the ATAX Project Balance information. Mr. Hobson seconded this motion, which was approved unanimously.

ATAX Applications

The following applications were received for ATAX funding and discussed by the Board:

- **Edisto Island Lions Club**
The Edisto Island Lions Club requested \$46,900 for the operation and maintenance of equipment and the facility used for Bingo operations for tourists. The request includes a door for storage building, five exterior doors, a new Bingo machine, new signage for advertising at the Edistonian, new Bingo

signs for Tuesday and Thursday, new HVAC for the Main Room, and a new roof.

Discussion was held on this request with the ATAX Board and the Lions Club leadership present (Mr. Dorn, Mr. Edens, Mr. Luckadoo):

- Mr. Kizer noted the \$7500 previously funded by the ATAX Board and asked what this money was used for, and Mr. Edens responded the air conditioner was replaced. The funds were to be used for the bingo wheel and then the air conditioner stopped working, and they asked to substitute this instead of for the wheel.
- Questions were asked about the gross earnings, etc., from Bingo, which Mr. Edens noted was approximately \$20,000, half of which goes back to the participants of the games in winnings.
- Mr. Von Neida asked about the possibility of building reserves from the Bingo revenue, and Mr. Dorn noted the Lions Club must give profits back to the community. Half of the revenue is distributed to game participants, and half is distributed to the community. By state law, the Lions Club cannot keep this money.
- Questions were asked about the \$25,000 for a new roof, and the age of the current roof. The roof was replaced in 2007, but the roof leaks and the Lions Club is regularly plugging holes.
- Question on other revenue received by the Lions Club, and Mr. Edens noted money from building rentals from January to October 2022 was \$6519.
- They also noted that according to the agreement with the Lyons Family, the Lions Club would lose the building if the Lions Club if it was used for another reason.
- Mr. Kizer asked which items in the request are desperately needed. Mr. Dorn noted the air conditioning unit is absolutely needed. This current request includes a bigger air conditioner in the main room.
- Town Administrator Hill noted we need to spend the ATAX money, and we have few applications as it is, and we do not have a good number of applications for marketing and for events off-season.
- Question asked if the ATAX Board can work with the Lions Club on the reserve fund and maintain a balance which can be used toward this project. It was noted that ATAX funds need to be spent within two years; and the Lions Club rules and regulations are the same – they cannot keep money, they must spend and donate the funds.

Following discussion, Mr. Kizer moved to award ATAX fund to the Lions Club in the amount of \$21,900, which includes the removal of the roof request. This motion was seconded by Mr. Von Neida and was approved unanimously.

Other Business
Meeting Documents

Mr. Kizer asked for documents shared with the ATAX Board to be forwarded in plenty of time for the Board to review.

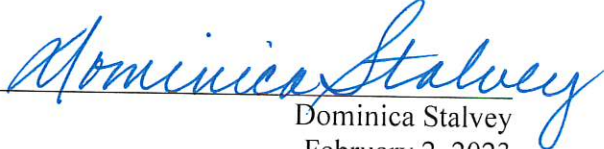
Wyndham Cabana at Beach Access 20

Mr. Von Neida noted the Wyndham cabana at Beach Access 20 is being damaged, bathroom doors kicked in; etc. He noted that Wyndham has never applied for money, but the company has spent a good deal of money to maintain the structure. He asked if the company would be able to get ATAX funds to redo the ramp or bathroom or fixtures. Question asked if the building is for public use, and the answer is “technically no.” Mr. Von Neida noted the cabana access does lend itself to tourism as it is used by many people and not just Wyndham guests. This situation does not meet ATAX requirements since it is a private entity. Mr. Von Neida noted he would be willing to discuss how they can better serve the public but have a public/private partnership with the Town.

Adjournment

Mr. Hobson moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Pratt seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

APPROVED BY THE ATAX BOARD


Dominica Stalvey
February 2, 2023