



**Lodgers and Automobile Rental Tax (LART)
Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, April 9, 2020, **3:00 – 4:30 p.m.**

(due to the current health crisis, this meeting was held via teleconference)

Committee Members Present: Laurel Prud'homme / Jack Damioli / PK Knickerbocker / Daniel Kammerer / Angela Seals / Dani Barger / David Siegel / Doug Price / Doug Martin / Councilmember Jill Gaebler / Councilmember Wayne Williams

City Staff Present: Jeff Greene / Charae McDaniel / Chris Wheeler / Rebecca Greenberg / Carly Kobasiar / Julie Lafitte / Carly Hoff

Guest Present: Dirk Draper, Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC

- 1) **Call to Order/Introductions** - Chair Laurel Prud'homme called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.
- 2) **Public Comments** – There were no public comments.
- 3) **LART Fund Balance & City's Expectation of Fund** – Charae reported a LART fund balance of approximately \$2.08 million. She noted that with the economic downturn the City's estimated LART collections in 2020 will be significantly less than projected. Jeff Greene noted that some events were to receive LART funds have been cancelled and the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services improvements at the Garden of the Gods Park and North Cheyenne Canon Park projects which were to receive funding have been differed.

Jeff stated the City has frozen capital projects and discretionary spending from department heads and that he would be working closely with Charae on financial models, scenarios and assumptions in order for the City to make the best decisions possible to weather the financial situation. He urged the committee to be sensitive and prudent in its recommended use of LART funds including which events will actually happen and reimbursement for expenditures if there are hard costs for events that have been cancelled.

Jeff stated that the four contracted entities receiving LART funding will be contacted to discuss funding adjustments.

- 4) **2020 LART Awards (deferments/cancellations)** – Laurel will work with Jacquelyn to add a statement to the City's LART webpage informing of a delay in the 2021 application timeframe.

The City will contact entities that were to receive 2020 LART funds and ask if their events receiving these funds will still take place in 2020. If not, those funds will be retained by and/or returned to the City as per the LART award contracts. 2020 funds cannot be retained nor used for events that have been postponed until 2021.

Laurel reviewed the recommendations made by the committee at the March meeting regarding off-cycle funding applications. It was discussed and decided that only the request from the Colorado Springs Sports Authority should progress to the City's Budget Committee for review and possible recommendation to City Council.

- 5) **2021 Application Cycle/Timeline** - A shorted LART application form for 2021 will be posted on the City's LART webpage in May. It will not include an application deadline as it will need to be determined at a later date once the City Finance Department is comfortable putting forth an estimated LART revenue forecast for 2021.

There was discussion and agreement that the committee should focus on conserving LART funds in 2020 in order to be best positioned to spend funds in support of local economic rebound in 2021.

- 6) **Member Announcements** – Doug Price noted that Visit Colorado Springs is developing a marketing campaign to announce that Colorado Springs is open for business once attractions are allowed to reopen.
- 7) **Adjournment** - The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.