



This meeting will be held at the Redmond City Hall. Interested members of the public are welcome to listen to this meeting by phone at: 206-800-4590; Phone Conference ID: 289 610 602#. All public comments shall be emailed to Jackie Lalor (jlalor@redmond.gov) at least 24 hours before the meeting time. [To view the meeting presentation, click here.](#)

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday | August 26, 2025

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Prepared by Jackie Lalor, Staff Liaison jlalor@redmond.gov

LTAC Members:

- Steve Fields, Council Chair
- Nancy Heard
- Rashed Kanaan
- George Manojlovic
- Latha Sambamurti
- ~~Kim Saunderson~~
- Nate Moore

City of Redmond Staff:

- Jackie Lalor & Philly Marsh – Economic Development and Tourism

Agenda:

1. Meeting opening and [July 9 meeting minutes](#) approval (Committee Chair, Councilmember Fields)
 - a. Meeting called to order: 1:00 p.m.

LTAC Action: Unanimously Approved Meeting Minutes (6 yes; 0 no votes)

2. 2026 Tourism Grants - LTAC Funding Recommendations
 - a. Conflicts of Interest and Recusals
 - i. LTAC discussed potential conflicts of interest. Members were asked to recuse themselves from conversations where a direct financial interest existed. (No such conversations took place that required a recusal during the meeting.)
 - ii. All declared conflicts are noted in the recommendation spreadsheet.
 - b. Overview of 2026 Applications
 - i. Staff reported a record number of applications for 2026. As a result, most events received slightly lower funding recommendations compared to previous years to better meet overall demand.
 - c. Late Submissions
 - i. Surf Cup Application
 1. Staff did not make a funding recommendation for Surf Cup's application, which was submitted one day late, leaving the decision to LTAC.



**LTAC Action: Motion to discuss acceptance of the late Surf Cup application.
Motedioned by Rashed Kanaan; Seconded by Councilmember Steve Fields
Approved: 6 yes, 0 no votes**

ii. *LTAC Discussion*

1. Members discussed Surf Cup's significant impact on tourism, noting the thousands of overnight stays it generates and the strength of its application in meeting the program criteria.
2. Some members expressed concern over allowing exceptions to clearly communicated deadlines and emphasized the need to enforce deadlines consistently in future cycles.

LTAC Action: Roll-call vote to include the Surf Cup application in funding considerations.

Passed: 4 yes, 2 no

Yes votes: Nate Moore, Rashed Kanaan, George Manojlovic, Councilmember Steve Fields
No vote: Latha Sambamurti, Nancy Heard

- d. Applicants Not Recommended for Funding
 - i. Staff summarized the two applications not recommended for funding.
 - ii. While a motion was invited to revisit these decisions, none was made, leaving both applications not recommended for lodging tax funding.
- e. Additional Budget Availability
 - i. The LTAC was informed that an additional \$25,000 is available beyond staff recommendations for this funding cycle and that final funding decisions are at the full discretion of the LTAC.
- f. Adjustments to Staff Recommendations
 - i. Young Professionals Theater: Funding increased from \$1,000 (staff recommendation) to \$5,000.
 - ii. Surf Cup: The LTAC discusses and agreed to \$17,000, reflecting approximately a 50% reduction from previous funding levels due to the late submission.
 - iii. Additional Event Support
 1. LTAC discussed challenges nonprofits face with rising costs, particularly related to City permitting fees, and agreed to slightly increase funding for certain cultural events held in Redmond parks based on overnight stay impacts and application details:
 - Cinco de Mayo - Centro Cultural Mexicano: +\$2,000
 - Ananda Mela - Vedic Cultural Center: +\$1,000
 - VegFest - Northwest Share: +\$1,000

**LTAC Action: Motion to approve LTAC's 2026 tourism grant funding recommendations totaling \$175,000 for City Council consideration and approval.
Motedioned by Nancy Heard; Seconded by Latha Sambamurti
Approved: 6 yes, 0 no votes**

g. *Funding for City Events and Cultural Arts Programming*

- i. LTAC discussed the relatively high level of lodging tax funding allocated to City events and cultural arts programming compared to similar programs.



Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC)

- ii. The committee requested that the City continue exploring alternative funding sources to better align lodging tax support with comparable programming levels.