

Annual Report of the Fox Cities Area Room Tax Commission 2017

The FOX CITIES AREA ROOM TAX COMMISSION has been created as a Commission under the provisions of Section 66.0615 of the Wisconsin Statutes, formed to coordinate tourism promotion and tourism development using tax revenues generated from the imposition of room taxes in the Fox Cities Tourism Zone pursuant to the Room Tax Act.

Meetings

The Commission met five (5) times in 2017. Meeting discussions included financial reports on room tax collections, overviews of state-mandated municipal reporting and status updates on room-tax funded bonds relating to the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center and Fox Cities Exhibition Center.

Commissioners were appointed from the 10 municipalities comprising the Fox Cities Tourism Zone (see attached for listing).

At the June 2017 meeting of the Commission, officers were elected:

- Bruce Sherman – Chair
- Mike Easker – Vice-Chair
- George Dearborn – Secretary

Room Tax Expenditures

Aside from those allocations set in ordinance, the Fox Cities Area Room Tax Commission approved the allocation of \$25,000 of room tax to a fund earmarked for the Commission's own legal costs.

In 2017, the Commission solicited outside legal counsel to provide an opinion on the room tax funds remaining in the Room Tax Stabilization and Debt Service Reserve funds relating to the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center Bonds. Fund in excess of those needed to pay off the bonds existed in these accounts and the Commission asked for clarification on their role in determining the ultimate use of the funds. As a result of this effort, the Commission distributed the funds in the following manner:

- a grant of \$750,000 to the City of Appleton to be used in the financing of the Fox Cities Exhibition Center
- \$647,220.45 for the Fox Cities Sports Facility
- \$25,000 to the Fox Cities Area Room Tax Commission legal fund

Allocation of Room Tax Funds

The attached financial report shows actual tax collections and the allocations. A graphic summary of room tax allocations for 2017 is below:

Fox Cities Room Tax Allocations
Total Pie = 10% Tax

