



Buncombe County Tourism Development Authority  
A Joint Meeting of the Public Authority and Nonprofit Corporation

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Explore Asheville – 27 College Place, Asheville

Excerpt from the Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, October 30, 2024

- Present (Voting):** Brenda Durden, Chair; HP Patel, Michael Lusick, Lucious Wilson, Elizabeth Putnam, Himanshu Karvir, Larry Crosby, Tim Rosebrock
- Absent (Voting):** Matthew Lehman, Vice Chair
- Present (Ex-Officio):** Asheville Vice Mayor Sandra Kilgore, Buncombe County Commissioner Terri Wells
- Absent (Ex-Officio):** None.
- Staff:** Vic Isley, Jennifer Kass-Green, Dodie Stephens, Tiffany Thacker, Julia Simpson, Ashley Greenstein, Josh Jones, Holly Watts, Kimberly Puryear, Sarajane Case, Mike Kryzanek, Luisa Yen, Shawn Boone, Cristina Fernandez, Cass Herrington
- BC Finance:** Melissa Moore
- Legal Counsel:** Sabrina Rockoff, McGuire, Wood & Bissette
- In-Person Attendees:** Rick Bell, Asheville Buncombe Hotel Association  
Randy Claybrook, Asheville Bed & Breakfast Association  
Roy Harris, Community Member  
Dave Nutter, Connect Buncombe  
Pat Moran, Mountain Xpress  
Lindsay Drillings, Miranda Escalante; Asheville Food & Beverage United  
Meghan Rogers, Asheville Independent Restaurant Association  
Peter Pollay, Posana  
Chris Corl, City of Asheville  
John Ellis, Prior BCTDA Board Member
- Online Attendees:** Sha'Linda Pruitt, Nick Kepley, Kathryn Dewey, Emily Crosby, McKenzie Provost, Shelby Pearsall, Khal Khoury, Emilie Soffe; Explore Asheville  
Chip Craig, Caleb Hofheins; Greybeard Realty and Rentals  
Martha Goss, RiverLink  
Kit Cramer, Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce  
Madison Davis, Asheville Buncombe Regional Sports Commission  
Jim Muth, TPDF Committee  
Will Hofmann, Asheville Citizen Times

Laura Hackett, Stephanie Rogers, Helen Chickering; Blue Ridge Public Radio  
Daniel Walton, The Assembly  
Scott Kerchner, Virtelle Hospitality  
Drake Fowler, Valerie Wiseman, The North Carolina Arboretum  
Edgar Ramírez, Limones  
Diane Rogers, Pinecrest Bed & Breakfast  
Jamie Parlier, WCU student  
Kate Edge, The Market Place Restaurant  
Jaime Matthews, City of Asheville  
Megan Thorp, Tanger Asheville  
Jamie Tudico, McKibbin Hospitality  
Cindy Pearce, Naventure  
Brad Durden, Asheville Hotel Group  
Kat Kearney, Cucina 24  
Alyssa Smith, Travel Guides Asheville  
Megan Shields, Emily Ditto, Lucy Dozier, Kim Lenox; MMGY  
John Parrino

## **Financial Updates**

### *Penalty Waivers Related to Hurricane Helene Recovery*

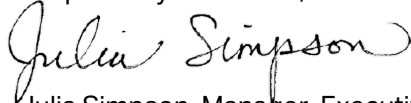
Melissa Moore, BCTDA Fiscal Agent, explained penalty waivers are a two-step process with the Buncombe County Commission having final approval. She provided background that penalty waiver requests have been recommended previously due to unforeseen circumstances, including the first months of the pandemic.

Since many systems were offline during widespread power outages following Hurricane Helene, the recommendation is to proactively waive Helene-related occupancy tax penalties for September, October, November, and December 2024 understanding delays may be unavoidable. Isley noted this would not waive payments of occupancy taxes only fees that would result from late filing or payment.

Moore and Isley fielded questions. It was clarified that interest could be included in the waiver based on the resolution wording. In response to whether waiving occupancy tax collections was in discussion and whether the BCTDA should be engaged, it was noted that changes to the occupancy tax are not in the purview of the authority and are legislated by the state.

Putnam then made a motion to waive Helene-related occupancy tax penalties for September, October, November and December lodging until June 2025. Lusick seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion. A vote was taken; the motion carried 8-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Julia Simpson, Manager, Executive & Strategy