



**Tourism Development Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, August 12, 2026, 2:04 – 3:49pm**

Minutes Approved 9/9/26

In person Room 301 Clackamas County DSB Building and virtual via Zoom - [Recording Link](#)

**Members Present:** Luke Spencer, Holly Pfortmiller, Katen Patel, Mike Quinn,

**Staff Present:** Lizzie Keenan, Michael Cavanaugh, Jim Austin, Ithaca Janzen, Danae Burke Jones

**Others Present:** County Commission Chair Craig Roberts, Nancy Bush County COO, Thelma Hagenmiller

**2:04pm - Welcome/Call to Order/Introductions & Declaration of Conflicts** - Luke Spencer, Chair

**2:05pm - Approval of Minutes for April, May, and June 2026** - Danae Burke Jones, Programs Assistant

Approval of the minutes was postponed until the September meeting due to lack of quorum

**2:06 – 2:11pm - Staffing Updates and New Org Chart** - Lizzie Keenan, Executive Director

Lizzie announced Danae's transition to the full-time Tourism Program Assistant position and introduced Michael Cavanaugh as the office's new Tourism Programs Manager. Michael further introduced himself and shared his background. Lizzie also reviewed an updated Organization Chart showing the new office structure.

**2:11 – 2:23pm Office of Economic Development Tourism Grant Funding Request** - Michael Cavanaugh, Tourism Programs Manager

Michael provided a recap and overview of the Tourism Business Grant Program, that the TDC approved to fund with TRT, being run through the Clackamas County's Office of Economic Development. The Tourism Business Grant Program has two distinct funding tracks; the Small Business Acceleration Track and the Technical & Professional Services Track with \$500,000 allocated for each, making up a total available grant fund of \$1,000,000. There were over twenty applications for the Small Business Acceleration Track and two for the Technical & Professional Services Track. The committee review was completed on July 29th, and the committee made the recommendation to reallocate \$450,000 from the Technical & Professional Services Track into the Small Business Acceleration Track to allow for funding more projects and maximizing the impact of the grant program. The Office of Economic Development supported this recommendation, and it is being presented to the TDC board as an update and opportunity for questions. Grant award announcements will be made by the Office of Economic Development in the upcoming weeks and will be shared with the board at that time.

**2:23 – 3:19pm Grasshopper Wildfire Updates and Ongoing Resiliency Work** - Ithaca Janzen, Regional Tourism Coordinator

Ithaca shared a map of the borders and evacuation levels for the Grasshopper Fire which is currently burning on the east side of Mt. Hood. Department messaging around the Grasshopper Fire is centered around encouraging visitors to sign up for public alerts and be aware while they are in the evacuation areas. Ithaca also provided a recap of the Austin and Mitchell fires and shared that messaging is focused on spreading the word to not go to those level 3 evacuation areas. The Narrows Fire is very small and in the burn scar of the 2020 Riverside Fire.



A graphic was shared showing the collaboration, communication and activation that the Office of Tourism is doing in response to the current wildfires including communications with partners, visitors and working directly with the county Office of Disaster Management and other partners.

The Office of Tourism will be once again offering Emergency Bucket Kits this fall to any short-term rental that is remitting Transient Lodging Tax in Clackamas County. Lodging properties that have previously received kits will be offered a chance to restock supplies if their guests have used the N95 masks or other items this wildfire season.

Staff are planning to further define organizational goals for resiliency and sustainability and do some organizational work around that.

Ithaca posed the question “How can the tourism industry help lessen the impact of disasters?” and lead open discussion.

Luke asked Chair Roberts for an update on conversations being had surrounding the wildfires in his circles. Chair Roberts responded that there have been huge advances made in advance detection and fire cameras since the 2020 wildfires and that the Board of County Commissioners have received some presentations on the community impacts. The County is closely watching the wind and weather.

Nancy shared that the Grasshopper Fire progressed 3.5 miles east on Monday so they are watching diligently and aware that the wind could shift this direction at any point. There is lots going on and the County Disaster Management Department is staying on top of it.

### **3:19 - 3:31 pm Industry and Program Updates - Staff**

- Lizzie shared that Kate Sinner has started as the new Executive Director of Travel Oregon.
- Staff recently finished the marketing campaign RFP process and are now in the beginning phases of working with the chosen vendor.
- Lizzie and Michael attended the Destinations International annual convention in Portland a few weeks ago. The convention had over 2500 attendees, which is on the high side for that conference.
- The Clackamas River Basin Council had a ribbon cutting event today that a few board members and Lizzie were able to attend. The ribbon cutting was for sculptures at Riverside Park that were funded through the Tourism’s Strategic Investment Grant Program. Sculpture artist Bobby Mercer, from the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and was able to attend with his family and share more about the pieces.
- The Oregon City Business Alliance meeting focused on updates for the Willamette Falls Projects was attended by Holly along with a few staff members.

### **3:35 – 3:49pm TDC Updates - TDC Members**

- **Mike** - Skibowl has been slow and Government Camp has been a ghost town since the Grasshopper fire.
- **Holly** - It’s summer, just taking it day by day.
- **Katen** - Will be taking vacation soon.
- **Luke** - Busy in Estacada, some smoke still out there. Water access at Timber Park is still shut down due to an accident in May, which has resulted in extra use on Milo McIver State Park. Things will start tapering down as school starts again.

### **3:49pm Adjourn Public Meeting**



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