



Special Business District Tax Advisory Commission Minutes

Wednesday, April 22, 2020 at 4:00 PM

Meeting Held Via: Zoom

1. Roll Call: Niki Bisel, Gautam Gatla, Chris Peoples, John Sauter, Sheila Suderwalla.
2. Approval of the Minutes from March 25, 2020: The minutes were reviewed, and a motion was made to approve the minutes by Chris Peoples and Niki Bisel. All were in favor and the motion was passed.
3. Account Information: The accounts were discussed but no motions were made.
4. Renovation Grant – Foundation Grounds: The renovation grant was reviewed and a motion was made to approve the grant for \$1000 by Chris Peoples and seconded by Nikki Bisel. All were in favor and the motion was approved.
5. Business Assistance Related to Covid-19: The commission discussed possible financial assistance to businesses relating to business license fees. The commission determined the amount of financial assistance the SBD could offer individual businesses was insignificant.

The commission discussed promotion and marketing for the businesses that are currently open.

6. Marketing Strategy for Business District: Nikki and Sheila offered to assist with visuals for the May meeting.
7. Update: Events: Staff mentioned the idea of combining Taste of Maplewood and Let Them Eat Art on the same weekend. It will have some challenges but shared resources could help the bottom line for both the Chamber and SBD. Staff will look at ways to provide additional support to the businesses i.e. refrigerated trucks for extra food storage.

8. Staff Report: Staff reported on calls to the businesses, Maplewood Business Watch Facebook Group, and Zoom calls with the businesses to get a better sense of needs, concerns.
9. Update: Vacant Commercial Real Estate (attached document)
10. Other Business: No new businesses was discussed.
11. Meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM.