



Special Business District Tax Advisory Commission Minutes

Wednesday, June 24, 2020 at 2:00 PM

Meeting Held Via: Zoom

1. Roll Call: Gautam Gatla, Chris Peoples, John Sauter, Sheila Suderwalla.
2. Approval of the Minutes from May 27, 2020: The minutes were reviewed, and a motion was made to approve the minutes by Chris Peoples and seconded by John Sauter. All were in favor and the motion was passed.
3. Account Information: The accounts were discussed but no motions were made.
4. Renovation Grant – The Local: The renovation grant was reviewed, and a motion was made to approve the grant for \$3500 by John Sauter and seconded by Chris Peoples. All were in favor and the motion was approved.
5. Staff Report

Staff recommended canceling LTEA for 2020 due to COVID-19. Staff felt there was no safe way of pulling off a large-scale event. The commission discussed refunding the fees already paid by the artists and inviting the accepted artists back for LTEA 2021.

A motion was made to cancel LTEA 2020, refund artist fees and invite accepted artists to return in 2021 by Sheila Suderwalla and seconded by John Sauter. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

The commission discussed the Wandering Wednesdays to promote shopping and dining. Staff suggested using the budgeted funds for Let Them Eat Art to fund Wandering Wednesdays. Wandering Wednesdays would run July and August.

A motion was made to approve using the 2020 LTEA budgeted funds to fund Wandering Wednesdays by Gautam Gatla and seconded by Chris Peoples. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

The commission agreed to renew the dining tents for July and August.

6. Update: The commission reviewed the current vacant commercial real estate in the SBD.
7. Other Business: Sheila Suderwalla asked to revisit a discussion from this past April when the commission discussed financial assistance to the businesses due to the COVID-19 pandemic but agreed to table the decision for a later date.
 - It was suggested that the Commission consider relieving all or a portion of the SBD business license fee
 - This fee is normally due June 30th, but the City Council voted to extend the due date to September 1
 - Keep the process simple
 - Offer a percentage off the total fee for all businesses
 - Craft a letter to the businesses offering this as "COVID-19 Relief."
 - Encourage those that can afford to pay the full amount to do so
 - Honor system
 - The Commission felt this needed further discussion to include all members of the SBD Commission, only 4 of the 7 members were in attendance.
 - Commission members at the meeting felt this should be a unanimous vote by all members.

Staff will follow up with an email to commission members, so everyone has an opportunity to weigh in.

8. Meeting adjourned at 3:02 PM