



**Special Business District Tax Advisory Commission Minutes**  
**Wednesday, August 25, 2021 at 4:00 PM**  
**Meeting Held Via: Zoom**

1. Roll Call: Nikki Bisel, Gautam Gatla, Chris Kelling, Sheila Suderwalla, and staff present included Laura Miller.
2. Public Comment: None
3. Approval of the Minutes from July 28, 2021: The minutes were reviewed, and a motion was made to approve the minutes by Bisel and seconded by Kelling. All were in favor and the motion was passed.
4. Account Information: The accounts were discussed but no motions were made.
5. Event Update: The Commission discussed Restaurant Week.
  - a. Some promoted the event more than others
  - b. Short staff and COVID made it challenging
  - c. Make the charity more of a focus to help drive people
  - d. Didn't feel like all the restaurants offered a "deal" to entice people
  - e. Not much feedback from participating restaurants
  - f. Restaurants would like to continue the event in 2022
6. Discussion about Slack Communication Tool: The Commission discussed whether there was a need to have a tool for communication amongst the SBD businesses.
  - a. A place where businesses can have conversations
  - b. Feel of disconnect due to COVID
  - c. Business Watch Page on FB – includes all businesses in Maplewood

Commission determined there wasn't a need for another communication tool.

It was suggested to have a happy hour at Sutton Loop Park for SBD businesses.

Bisel and Miller will coordinate the happy hour.

7. Review and Discuss Event Assessments: The Commission discussed the assessments. Overall feedback was to continue with all the current events.
8. Update of Vacant SBD Commercial Real Estate (attached document): No discussion.
9. New Business: The Commission had a brief discussion about signage. Miller reminded the Commission that new kiosks were included in the current year's budget and will be a discussion item on the September agenda.
10. Meeting adjourned at 5:37 PM.