

Pima County Small Business Commission

**County Administration Building
130 W. Congress, 1st Floor
Thursday, April 17, 2008
3:00 p.m.**

SUMMARY OF MINUTES

Attendance

Lea Marquez-Peterson
Tom Ward
Ken Goodman
Pat Taviss
Gerald Long

Not in Attendance

Rigo Lopez
Frank Hamilton
Melanie Larson
Lisa Lovallo

Additional Attendee

Aurora Hernandez

- The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Lea Marquez-Peterson
- First item was the introductions of everyone in the room.
- Approval of Minutes for March 20, 2008.

Commissioner Reports

- **Ken Goodman** reported on his involvement at the 2-6 hour long JTED budget meetings held the previous week. Ken is now officially on the Business and Industry Board. The budget meetings were very positive and staying focused on the money going to good purposes. Thousands of students are now registered for JTED. The main issue at this time seems to be the PR. JTED has currently posted the position of PR person for \$60,000 to \$80,000 a year. Communication with the local businesses is improving.
- Many of the suggestions from the March 20, 2008 SBC meeting it seems are being implemented.
- The need for business involvement was discussed again. JTED counselors are being hired to place students in job shadowing and internship programs.

- This summer 30 girls will participate in a week long program involving women in construction. The program is sponsored by the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC).
- **Jerry Long** reported on the school involvement. Local school directors coordinate the curriculum and teachings at the individual high schools. Businesses should communicate with the individual directors at their corresponding schools.
- A director has been assigned to meet with the superintendents of the local school districts to keep them updated on JTED progress. Also to communicate back to the JTED staff any concerns they may have.
- JTED students seem to be very focused on their studies even seem to be scoring higher in math and reading comprehension than at first.
- Jerry suggests that Mr. Burtelson (JTED department head) with one or two students and a couple of school district CTE directors come to a future meeting to update the commission as well as members of various chambers of programs and business involvement.
- **Lea Marquez-Peterson** reported on the Pay Day Loan Industry. What is the alternative for payday loan companies? A study done on these companies, shows that these loans are not limited to the working poor, the average demographic points to homeowners with combined incomes of \$25,000-\$50,000 a year. Implementing a data base is very important to keep customers from acquiring a loan at one office today and applying for another tomorrow at a different office. This is what seems to be the major problem allowing customers to over extend themselves.
- Lea also reported on Certificates of Occupancy. Currently with the lull in construction permits and new construction, city and county building inspectors are keeping busy and inspecting local businesses. Many are finding that certificates of occupancy are not being updated as the businesses are changing hands. It is suggested that new businesses check their Certificates of Occupancy to be sure they are up to date. Many strip mall businesses are having problems due to the increased changing of hands and not being aware of previous changes to the buildings before purchasing. Due to the changing economy lots of businesses are closing; and not updating the Certificate is adding to the

increase in costs which are passed on to new business owners, who cannot afford the changes required and the fines imposed.

- **Tom Ward** discussed ADA violations and what can be done by Pima County to educate businesses on ADA requirements. Suggestions were made to contact AZ Small Business Association (ASBA), Dr. Shelton at U of A Disabled Advisory Council.
- **Pat Taviss** reported on Marana. They will now have a new cemetery. The Town of Marana is coming along very nicely.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Tom Ward** is now a new Pima County contract employee. Tom is now employed by Supervisor Ray Carroll's office. He has an office in Green Valley and can be reached at tom.ward@pima.gov new address is 601 N. La Canada, Bldg. D, Green Valley, AZ 85614 (520) 648-0847.
- **Lisa Lovallo** is now Vice-President and Systems Manager for Cox Communications, Inc. She can be reached at lisa.lovallo@cox.com, her new address is 1440 E. 15th St. Tucson, AZ 85719. (520) 867-7480 office or (520) 955-4986 mobile. Congrats Lisa.
- It was also discussed to contact Melanie and Rigo to see if they were still available to be on the commission or if they should be replaced.
- Next meeting is May 15, 2008 at 3pm in the Board of Supervisors Conference Room.
- Call to the Public – No response
- Everyone was thanked for attending
- Meeting adjourned – 4:15 pm