

Pima County Small Business Commission

**County Administration Building
130 W. Congress, 1st Floor
Thursday, September 18, 2008
3:00p.m.**

SUMMARY OF MEETING

Note: The following is a summary of what transpired at the September 18, 2008 meeting.

1. Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 3:15p.m..

Members Present

Lea Marquez-Peterson
Lisa Lovallo
Tom Ward
Ken Goodman

Others Present

Catherine Strickland
Tom Moulton
Charlie Luebbering
Denise Flynn
Frank Babb
Gina Murphy-Darling
Jennifer Cortum
Maricela Solis Dekester
Toni Hellon
Wendy Gomez
Vivian Archuleta
Rebecca Holmes
Marion Hook
Wocky Redsar
Deb Turner
Britton Dornquast
Jeff Baker
Rebecca Wyant
Brenna Lacey
Jan Gordley
Laraine Rodgers

Members Absent/Excused

Pat Taviss
Jerry Long

Members Absent/Unexcused

Greg Geile
Jim Leader
Rigoberto Lopez

Ellen Hitchings
Ann Day
Pam Sutherland
Randy Ferrick
David Blair
Greg Durnan
Terri Kentz
Diana Rhodes
Bob Shepard
Diane Castro
Josh Wright
Miguel Ortega
Jill J. Smyth
Deborah Dale
Carlos Romero
Henry Rubin

2. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Cox Economist Presentation

The following items are highlights from Dr. Rebecca Holmes's presentation on the current economic situation and its particular effects of small business.

- Jobs are down 1% in Arizona, which is more than the rest of the US
- Business investment is good, especially in the energy and agriculture sectors
- The trade gap is closing with exports increasing and imports decreasing
- Consumer spending is down but it's not a recession yet since it's mostly residential spending that's down
- Debt is high and expected to decrease due to the access to credit being tight
- Incomes are stagnant
- Inflation is high but concern lies in flat income levels decreasing buying power
- 20% of average income is used to buy food and energy
- States with agriculture and energy are doing okay, while housing and auto boom states are hurting
- Arizona is the second state in the US with the lowest job growth
- Need to build much fewer homes to recover quickly from this slow down so demand can catch up with supply
- It's looking like the downturn of 1979-1982
- Job market in Tucson is slightly worse than Phoenix

- Tucson's retail and tourism sectors are worse than Phoenix. Health, education and government are also down more than Phoenix.
- Bankruptcies (both personal and business) are up, but worse in Phoenix
- In Phoenix houses were 60% overvalued whereas Tucson was 40% as the housing collapse is worse than it was in the 1980s
- If the foreign market doesn't follow our trend, they may be able to pull us by buying up our debt
- Government can help the economy by making Tucson a more business-friendly environment so that it is easier to start and retain businesses here.
- Need to look at long-term improvement and attract highly educated workforce and high wage jobs

4. Commission Leadership

Lisa announced that she will be leaving the Commission due to her recent job change and the Commission will need to appoint a new Commissioner as her position was Commission-appointed. Lea will act as the Interim Chair until the Commission can take a vote on a replacement Chair.

5. Future Agenda Items

- Commission Leadership
- At-Large Commissioner Appointment
- Procurement Overview

6. Call to the Public

No members of the public spoke at this time.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.