

**Pima County Small Business Commission**  
**County Administration Building**  
**130 W. Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor**  
**Thursday, February 21, 2013**  
**3:00 P.M.**

**Members Present**

Ken Goodman  
Tom Ward  
Lyra Done  
Gabrielle David  
Pat Brown  
Dabney Philabaum  
Mark Finchem  
Shelby Hawkins

**Others Present**

Patrick Cavanaugh  
Tom Moulton  
Aurora Hernandez

**Members Absent**

Jerry Long  
Joy Soler  
Edie lake

**Call to Order**- The meeting was called to order by Chairman Goodman at 3:00 pm.

**Pledge of Allegiance**- Chairman Goodman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approvals of Minutes**- The minutes from the January 17, 2013 meeting were approved, unanimously.

**Pima County Coordinators' Report**- Patrick Cavanaugh is now the new Program Coordinator for Economic Development & Tourism (ED&T). Mr. Cavanaugh will be the County Liaison for the Small Business Commission. He will also be working with Hank Atha on the development of a Business One Stop for the small business community as part of County Administrator Huckleberry's Economic Development Plan. They will be assisting with new start-up, and existing businesses. The Business One- Stop will be a one stop shop for all the small business needs.

Film Incentive Bill- will be resurrected again and be presented to the State Legislature once more, this time the bill is being proposed as a striker bill, where all the original wording of another piece of Legislation has been removed and replaced by the new wording for the Film Incentive Bill. The Commission will keep a close eye on this and help wherever they can.

**New Commissioner Introductions**- The new Commissioners were introduced; Shelby Hawkins from 5-Star Pest Control, and Mark Finchem from Long Realty; both were appointed by Supervisor Miller of District One.

**Chairman's Report**-

**JTED**- Chairman Goodman reported on JTED. They are still working on getting ninth grade funding. If the funding doesn't get restored to the ninth grade, the students will not be able to be certified in the four year programs. The three year programs will not be affected.

**Patent Enforcers**- a local architecture firm (GLHN) is being sued over patents taken out a very long time ago. These patents are on the scanning and e-mailing process that is used by millions of companies on an everyday basis. Many companies buy or lease copy machines that have this feature and are not being told by the copy companies of the patents on the scanners.

There is a group researching the patents, buying them and then going after small companies. They are not just trying to protect the patent; but are targeting small business to collect money. They are charging small businesses that cannot afford patent attorneys, as opposed to large companies that have attorneys on retainer. The Commission will do more research on this and see if there is anything they can do to help small businesses being targeted.

**Vice Chairman Report - Tax Bill 2657-** there is a new bill being taken to the Legislature, Bill 2657 a simplification of the sales tax. The Governor has set up a committee to make recommendations. One of the simplifications is doing away with the construction sales tax as it exists now. At this time you pay 4% on the materials used for building. With this tax change the tax will be paid to the city where the purchases are being made. This affects small towns such as Sahuarita, who for example does not have large box stores for construction materials; therefore losing the construction sales tax to towns who have Lowes and Home Depots. Some towns use this money for incentives for construction companies. Once again the SBC will keep a close eye on this and see where they can help.

**Pima Prosperity Fund-** Vice Chairman Ward had a meeting with Deputy County Administrator Hank Atha, Tom Moulton of ED&T and Mike Flenium of the *Industrial Development Authority* regarding the PPF. Vice Chairman Ward was informed that there is another organization working on this, *The Business Development Corporation*. Tom Ward, Tom Moulton, and Patrick Cavanaugh from ED&T will be meeting with the President of the *Business Development Corporation*.

**Libraries and Small Business-**Tom Farmer from the Library Board gave a presentation to the SBC last month. All the Library Board members are meeting with their respective Chambers to inform them of all the training and information available to small businesses.

**Small Business of the Year Award-** Vice Chairman Ward will talk to Commissioners Lake and Long regarding this years' award. This year the Commission will press the Chambers for nominations. In the past years the award has been given to non-profit organizations, this year it will go to a for profit organization. This will be tabled until next meeting when Commissioner Lake (Chairman of the Committee) is back from vacation.

**COT Small Business Commission Report-** Marion Hook gave her report. Brent DeRaad from the Metropolitan Tucson Convention and Visitors Bureau (MTCVB), which will be VISIT TUCSON, gave a presentation to the City of Tucson SBC on the rebranding. The City of Tucson promised 50% of their bed tax to the CVB, but is only giving 28% at this time. The CVB will be going to the private sector for more funding.

Tucson has close to 100 bed and breakfasts. Maricopa County has 14, when the hotels were moving into Maricopa County they restricted them. The Tucson B&B's have their own website which they took to the CVB and will be launching on the CVB Website as a micro-site. The COT SBC will be writing a memo of support for the additional funding.

They had a presentation from the Economic Development Department of the City of Tucson. The Women's Caucus of Arizona reported that 800,000 people in the State of Arizona DO NOT have a high school education or GED. Tourism provides a major portion of the jobs available to these people, entry level jobs in hotels, restaurants, and casinos, etc.

#### **Other Commissioners Reports -**

**Commissioner Done-** would like to see more done to help the small boutiques bring in more customers from Mexico. She would like to see more workshops and training for the vendors, she will contact Felipe Garcia from the MTCVB and try to set something up.

**Ajo Meeting-** Vice-Chairman Ward would like to see the Commission go to Ajo and have a SBC meeting. It was suggested to have a few people from Ajo attend and give presentations to the Commission to get a better idea of what is going on in the rural areas. There will be follow up to make arrangements to get the Commission to Ajo.

**Future Agenda items-** the credit card processing issues, rural and unincorporated areas,

**Call to the Public-** No response

**Meeting adjourned at 5:00 P.M.**