

Pima County Small Business Commission
County Administration Building
130 W. Congress, 1st Floor
Thursday July 17, 2014
3:00 P.M.

Members Present

Tom Ward
Ken Goodman
Edie Lake
Lyra Done
Rhonda Pina
Joy Soler

Others Present

Lisa Lovallo
Patrick Cavanaugh
Aurora Hernandez

Members Absent

Mark Finchem
Jerry Long
Shelby Hawkins
Gabrielle David
Patricia Brown

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

Pledge of Allegiance- Chairman Ward led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approvals of Minutes- The minutes from the June 19th, 2014 meeting were approved, unanimously.

Introductions- The new Commission members introduced themselves to Ms. Lovallo; former Chair of the SBC. Ms. Lovallo, now Vice-President and System Manager of Cox Communications was this month's speaker. Ms. Lovallo spoke about the workings of the Cox Communication system.

The installation of Cox Cable is done by subcontractors, and the trouble shooting is done by Cox workers. Ms. Lovallo stated the goal is to have 60% of their field operations outsourced to third party local contractors creating more jobs for small business contractors. The contractors are put through a very rigorous training course; they must have the same training as the Cox personnel.

Cox not only installs cable, it also spends an average of 2 million dollars a year on human services, education, and other local social services. They purchase tables at functions, donate computers to schools, and other services that support the Tucson community.

Commissioner Goodman asked about having JTED students participate in training for Cox Communications. Ms. Lovallo will ask to meet with Dr. Storm, director of JTED and Commissioner Goodman to discuss implementing a JTED training program in conjunction with Cox Cable Communications.

Ms. Lovallo is also on the Board of Tucson Regional Economic Opportunities (TREO), Patrick Cavanaugh will work with Ms. Lovallo and TREO to have someone from TREO come in and give a presentation at a future meeting.

Chairman's Report- Chairman Ward-

Annual Report- Chairman Ward would like to present the Annual Report to the BOS in September. He will be reviewing last years' projects, Pima Prosperity Fund, Mexico and US Trade, working with Visit Tucson, Sixth Annual Small Business Awards, and decide what projects to continue in 2015.

Pima Prosperity Fund-Chairman Ward will continue working on this. He already has 1 million dollars pledged by a local credit union. He will continue to look for another 1.5 million. He also needs to find an attorney to set up the Corporation. There will be further discussion with Commissioner Pina, who is employed by a local bank.

Possible new project for 2015 -Short Term Rentals- Marion Hook from the City of Tucson Small Business Commission has suggested Regulating Short Term Rentals. Chairman Ward has asked the SBC to see what the amount of money is being lost by the City and County by homeowners not reporting the income.

There are bed tax issues as well as insurance and safety issues. This can be very harming to small businesses; such as bed and breakfasts as well as hotels. There are people renting out their homes for weddings and other major functions. This is causing safety and parking issues for communities that are seeing these parties next door.

The SBC will continue this discussion with Marion Hook and the City SBC to see if we will continue as a joint project.

TREO-is another project for the upcoming year, SBC will attempt to have TREO make a presentation to the SBC, to discuss the relationship of TREO and local small business. This year the County will be reviewing the TREO contract and their accountability. The SBC will be following this.

Patrick Cavanaugh- SBC and Mexico- Patrick met with Chairman Ward and Teresa Bravo, Pima County- Mexico Coordinator and after consulting with folks from Mexico it is suggested to do a dual track forum; one here in Tucson and one in Mexico. There are several logistic issues, such as finding a venue, here, as well as in Mexico.

There are also financial issues. Patrick will be meeting with County Administrators to see if we can get some funding, as well as attempting to find a sponsor.

Small Business Award Selections- there was discussion on the nominations for the 2014 SBC Award. There were two urban nominations, and seven rural nominations. After much discussion, the Golden Goose Thrift Store was selected for the Rural Award, and The Planning Center was awarded the Urban Award. The winners will be awarded a plaque, \$500.00 and a letter from the Board of Supervisors. The presentation will be at the September 9th BOS meeting.

Future Agenda items-

- Pima County Sheriff's Department relationship with small businesses
- Job order contracts-JOCS
- Lea Marquez Peterson-President-Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Call to the Public- No response.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 P.M.