

Pima County Sports & Tourism Authority

**Old Pueblo Grill
60 W. Alvernon Way, Tucson, Arizona
Wednesday, April 23, 2008
11:30a.m.**

SUMMARY OF MEETING

Note: The following is a summary of what transpired at the April 23, 2008 meeting.

1. Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 11:40 a.m. by Tom Tracy with a quorum.

Members Present

Edgar Soto
David J. Cohen
David Sitton
George Favela
Jack Camper
Jim Arnold
Justin Lanne
Kendall Bert
Linda McNulty
Mike Feder
Rick Vaughan
Rocky LaRose
Sheila Baize
Tom Tracy

Members Absent/Excused

Carlotta Flores

Others Present

Catherine Strickland
Tom Moulton
Mike Hawkins
Neil Konigsberg
Karen Friar
Fred Gray
Dan Schneider
Ben Buehler-Garcia

2. Approval of the minutes

The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Report on State Legislation

Tom Tracy gave the group a brief report on the small group that went to Phoenix to meet with the Southern Arizona delegation and other prominent citizens to show support for the legislation that would allow the creation of a Sports and Tourism Authority for Southern Arizona like Maricopa County's. Tom explained that Arizona Senate President Tim Bee and Speaker Jerry Weiers support the bill and are going to adopt it and move forward with it.

Tom distributed a discussion draft summarizing what is in the bill that is going before the legislation. He explained that he feels the tax should have the least impact on the Pima County resident but be generated from tourism driven activities. There will be a poll taken in the next week or so that will determine how residents want to go about collecting the tax in order to reach the targeted annual revenue that will be necessary. The bill will require a special election provision which will allow it to go to vote in March 2009 when it will have more impact given the timing of Spring Training and baseball activity than November 2009.

4. Discussion to hire a lobbyist

Tom explained that there is a need to have a lobbying and public relations group to help move the process of getting the legislation passed. Due to the high cost associated with this, a corporate partner has come forward and agreed to underwrite 100% of the cost to hire a lobbyist on behalf of the Pima County Sports and Tourism Authority. Tom is hopeful that a schedule will be put in place to have this person on board by Memorial Day.

5. Discussion to hire executive director and staff

Tom Tracy recommended Dan Schneider for the role of executive director for the Pima County Sports and Tourism Authority since he explained it should be a person who has experience with Major League Baseball and can recruit new teams. Jack Camper made a motion for Dan Schneider to be the executive director and David Sitton voiced a second. This led to discussion about payment since the Authority has no budget. Tom explained that Dan has agreed to serve on a pro bono basis for the interim. Discussion about whether or not the Authority should employ him or appoint him ensued. It was suggested by Linda McNulty that he be treated as an independent contractor so that the Authority can by-pass the employment taxes and insurance costs of having an employee. David Sitton suggested putting together a letter explaining Dan's role, and his expectations to protect Dan.

Rick Vaughan initiated discussion about what the back up plan will be if the legislation does not pass. He suggested hiring a professional that would raise money via sponsorship and work with Dan Schneider. Tom Tracy explained

that this is an interim Sports and Tourism Authority that will go away if the legislation passes. If it doesn't pass then he suggested the group would turn to the Pima County Board of Supervisors to get new direction to support Spring Training and raise funds in another way. The Authority does have the power to hire an executive director and since the current mission for the Authority is short-term until the legislation passes, it seems to fit that Dan would fill the position especially since the Authority has no budget currently.

Jim Arnold voiced a second to appoint Dan Schneider as the Executive Director for the interim Pima County Sports and Tourism Authority until such time that the legislation passes. Tom Tracy moved to appoint Dan as the Executive Director of the interim Pima County Sports and Tourism Authority and the motion passed.

6. Discussion regarding engaging amateur and youth sports

David Sitton introduced this topic explaining that this will be a hard issue for the Authority to undertake since it is known that the community lacks parks and needs places for club sports to play year round. He proposed that the Authority begin to form a strategic initiative to solve this problem and then look into the tactics of implementing it. He recommends that the Authority form a committee to address this since the community has an expectation that they will be involved in this issue. He feels that the mission of the Authority should be clear: to help the community and realize the significant economic impact.

Tom Tracy expressed his concern that the Authority not compete with the Pima County Board of Supervisors and the bonds that may be in place to upgrade or develop new facilities. The bill before the Southern Arizona Delegation challenges the new Authority to create or sponsor new events or expand current events. Both felt that it is important that the initiative is narrow and specific so that the Authority will have public support.

Tom Tracy allowed the public to comment on this issue. Dan Schneider expressed his interest in making this one of the Authority's priorities so as Executive Director he is not constantly fielding calls for fields. Fred Gray noted that there are opportunities for matching grants that could help expansions and upgrades of existing facilities. Ben Buehler-Garcia commented that he feels that youth and amateur sports are often fighting to have access to resources and he doesn't want to see the Authority become the catch-all for solving these issues.

Kendall Bert suggested developing criteria for getting involved in these issues and stick to that as to when the Authority should intervene or not. Jack Camper expressed that these are economic development issues since events are often out-of-state or regional in nature.

7. Discuss and develop committees and subcommittees

Tom Tracy led the discussion explaining that each track that the Authority has should have a committee. One of the tracks was to establish funding sources and Tom explained that as Executive Director, Dan Schneider would be charged with that responsibility. He reviewed the three remaining tracks as 1) improving youth and amateur sports, 2) evaluating facilities and 3) assistance with the legal process. After discussion it was decided that the third one didn't need a committee since everything was done and the Authority is awaiting the outcome. It was agreed upon that there should be a public relations committee and a finance committee. So the four committees that David Cohen made a motion for the formation of are:

- Youth and Amateur Sports
- Evaluate existing facilities
- Public relations and Community outreach
- Finance

Rick Vaughan voiced a second and the motion passed. Committees can contain non-board members but the chair needs to be a board member. All committees are subject to open meeting laws. Tom Tracy asked all board members to choose a committee to participate on and to let Catherine Strickland know before the next meeting if as a board member you have the desire to be the chair of one of the above committees.

8. Discuss open meeting laws

Karen Friar from the Pima County Attorney's Office distributed a handout and shared a little bit on the rules of conducting open meetings to insure that the public has access to meeting content. Here are the key points that she addressed:

- All legal actions must take place in an open meeting including discussions of the issues
- All meetings must have a quorum for an official open meeting
- Executive Session does not really apply to the Authority since it is really meant for discussion of legal counsel or real estate.
- The Authority should not exchange facts or opinions via email because if it reaches more than 8 members it was a meeting violating open meeting laws.
- Notice has to be given to the group and the public at least 24 hours before the meeting start time. It must contain the agenda.
- A meeting can only be adjourned and restarted without notice if the original meeting location cannot accommodate all the public that wishes to attend.

- The Call to the Public is optional but if it is included in the agenda at the end of the meeting the Authority has to listen to all comments and at the end of the call can respond to criticism, ask staff to review the matter, or ask that the matter be on a future agenda.
- For the purpose of record keeping make sure that comments are made one at a time throughout the meeting so the public can see who is talking.
- Serial phone calls on the same topic among the board members and reply-to-all emails can violate open meeting laws.
- Keep discussions outside of the meeting to a couple of people and ask the Chair to put it on the next agenda.
- Can defer unspoken agenda items to the next meeting's agenda.

9. Discuss findings and award Director and Officers Insurance

Tom Moulton shared that the county will cover all board members under a special insurance policy for up to one million per incident. If the board feels it needs coverage greater than a million dollars, Dan Schneider has put together a private insurance package for the board's consideration. Currently everyone is covered under this county policy and should receive a copy of the certificate by the next meeting.

10. Future Agenda Items

In the interest of time, Tom Tracy decided to defer all un-discussed items to the next agenda:

- Discuss legal counsel
- Discuss history of previous Sports and Tourism Authority
- Discuss potential funding sources/budget discussion

11. Call to the Public

In the interest of time, there was no call to the public at this time.

12. Adjournment

Mike Feder made a motion to adjourn at 1:15pm and Jim Arnold voiced a second.

Dated this _____ day of _____ 2008

Pima County Sports and Tourism Authority

Respectfully submitted by _____