

Pima County Small Business Commission
Thursday, February 17, 2022
Video Conference / Telephonic Meeting

MINUTES OF MEETING

Commission Members Present

Kent Blumenthal
Ken Goodman
Gabrielle David
Carlos Ruiz, Chair
Shelby Collier
Janay Arenas, Vice Chair
Josh Jacobsen

Commission Members Absent

Raul Aguirre
Jeff Wood
Moniqua Lane

Pima County Staff Present

Patrick Cavanaugh, Economic Development
Johanna Encinas, Economic Development
Kelle Maslyn, Economic Development

Guests in attendance:

Hon. Rex Scott, Pima County Supervisor
Cami, Evans, Supervisor Scott's Office
Maria Klucarova, Chair Bronson's Office
Samantha Neville, Supervisor Grijalva's Office

1. Call to Order

The meeting began at 3:05pm

2. Roll Call

Roll Call was conducted by Johanna Encinas to start the meeting. Commission quorum was confirmed.

3. Chair's Report (Ruiz)

- a. Review of Small Business Commission videoconference meeting protocols.
- b. Welcome Hon. Pima County Supervisor Rex Scott
- c. Review February 17, 2022 SBC meeting agenda

Chair Ruiz provided an overview of the meeting protocols and procedures and provided an agenda overview.

4. Call to the Public (Ruiz)

Chair Ruiz and all the Commissioners welcomed Supervisor Rex Scott to the meeting. Supervisor Rex Scott greeted the Commissioners.

5. Introduction of Special Guest: Hon. Pima County Supervisor Rex Scott

Supervisor Rex Scott informed the Commission he was open to any questions. He gave an overview of District 1 boundaries and discussed the following: recent Board actions

- The mask mandate was not approved
- More voting centers will open and be available for the public
- Update on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and its Potential Impact on Pima County

Supervisor Rex Scott provided an overview of what the Board of Supervisors are doing to be prepared for additional voting centers and asked Mr. Cavanaugh to forward the "Voter Center Presentation" power point.

Supervisor Rex Scott also asked Mr. Cavanaugh to forward to the Commissioners the memorandum from the Board of Supervisors from December 7, 2021 that provided more information about President Biden's \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Chair Ruiz asked the Commissioners if they had questions or concerns to address with Supervisor Rex Scott:

Commissioner Jacobsen expressed several concerns to Supervisors Scott:

- Voting centers and how the company's process may have delays on delivering equipment.
- Need for an after the fact analysis of COVID-19 protocols and policies
- Pima County's poor job growth and pandemic recovery
- Pima County's being more restrictive to COVID-19 than other states.
- Proposition 203 passed and how it will affect small business
- Supply shortages

Commissioner Blumenthal detailed how COVID-19 had affected the small business sector, noted the Commission's efforts during the pandemic and the lack of a response from the Board of Supervisors to letters related to small business issues he had sent on behalf of the Commission; specifically, to a letter sent a year ago advising the Board of Supervisors to do an after action report of how Pima County responded to pandemic.

Commissioner Goodman asked for an update on the lawsuit to the City of Tucson water rates increase

Commissioner Collier expressed concern on City of Tucson water's policy's agreement to continue to increase

Mr. Cavanaugh gave an overview of the State's most recent statistics and employment report which shows Pima County job growth and job recovery. He advised the Commission and Supervisor Scott he would send the report to them after the meeting.

Supervisor Scott addressed each concern and questions and suggested some ideas on how the Small Business Commission can address the Board of Supervisors for some help.

Chair Ruiz thanked Supervisor Scott for attending to the Small Business Commission meeting, listening and advising the Commissioners on how the Board of Supervisors can address some of their concerns.

6. Approval of meeting minutes (Ruiz)

- a. January 20, 20202

Commissioner Blumenthal moved, seconded by Commissioner Goodman, to approve the January 20, 2022 meeting minutes. Approved 6-0

7. Coordinator's Report & Updates (Patrick Cavanaugh, Deputy Director Pima County Economic Development)

- a. Status of PCSBC in-person meetings (standing agenda item)
- b. COVID-169 update
- c. Pima County Economic Development update
- d. Questions from the Commission

Mr. Cavanaugh informed the Commissioners there was still no date from the Board of Supervisors for return to in-person meetings. In regard to COVID-19 update he informed the Commission there was no recent formal update to the Board of Supervisors; he shared the latest numbers with the Commission and they were in the 300-400 per day compared to last year's high point which indicated improvement.

Mr. Cavanaugh shared with the Commission his discussion with new Economic Development Director Heath Vescovi-Chiordi; including the department's strategic plan, and how the Commission can provide input on how Pima County can assist small businesses.

8. Unfinished Business

Action: Date of presentation of 2021 & 2020 Small Business Awards at Pima County Board of Supervisors Meeting (Ruiz)

Chair Ruiz advised the Commission they would have to continue to revisit this item until in-person meetings resume by the Board of Supervisors.

9. New Business

- A. Review and discussion of Draft 2022 Work Plan
 - a. Chair Ruiz and Vice-Chair Arena

Chair Ruiz gave an overview of the draft work plan and was open for discussion:

Commissioner Blumenthal objected to not pursuing the proposal for a communications channel through the County's Communications Department. Mr. Cavanaugh explained the reasons why the department deemed the proposal as unworkable.

Kelly Maslyn – Informed the Commissioners the new website plan for Economic Development and ideas of how it can be more friendly to small business communication.

10. JTED Update (Goodman)

Commissioner Goodman informed the Commission he had no updates.

Chair Ruiz informed the Commission of the temporary legislative action that provides an exemption for school funding from the State's aggregate expenditure limit. The Commission voted to express its concern to the Pima County Board of Supervisors in a letter from Chair Ruiz regarding the lack of action by the legislature and the potential impact on small business workforce.

Motion: Commissioner Goodman moved, seconded by Commissioner Blumenthal, to draft a letter from Pima County Small Business Commission supporting the AZ legislative need to pass the resolution.

11. Commissioner updates

There were no updates

12. Agenda items for next SBC meeting: Thursday, March 17, 2022 @ 3pm, MST

- a. Potential Guest (s)
 - a. Pima County Supervisors
 - b. Heath Vescovi-Chiordi, Director of Economic Development and Kelle Maslyn, Assistant Director for Strategic Affairs
 - c. Susan Oliver, Director of the Small Business Development Center at Pima Community College
 - d. Kathy Prather, CEO, JTED
 - e. Hon. Chris Nanos, Pima County Sheriff
 - f. Ana Grief, CEO, Job Path, Inc.

Chair Ruiz and the Commissioners decided to continue to invite all Board of Supervisors members; they would send an extended letter of invitation to District 4 and District 2.

- b. Approve and adopt 2022 Work Plan

Mr. Cavanaugh suggested an invitation to the new Economic Development Director, Heath Vescovi-Chiordi and talk about the economic development plan and how the Commission can provide input

- c. Other topics suggested by Commissioners

Chair Ruiz directed to place the Health Department as an agenda item and to invite them to a future meeting to discuss restaurant regulation and fees.

13. Adjournment

Motion: Commissioner Blumenthal moved, seconded by Commissioner Goodman to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 6-0 and the meeting adjourned at 5:03pm