

Pima County Small Business Commission

Thursday, January 20, 2022

Video Conference / Telephonic Meeting

MINUTES OF MEETING

Commission Members Present

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

Commission Members Absent

Raul Aguirre
Jeff Wood
Moniqua Lane

Pima County Staff Present

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

Guests in attendance:

Chair Sharon Bronson, Pima County Supervisor
Maria Klucarova, Chair Bronson's Office
Kim Challender, Supervisor Scott's Office
Beth Borozan, Supervisor Christy's Office

1. Call to order

The meeting began at 3:05pm

2. Roll Call

Roll Call was conducted by Patrick Cavanaugh to start the meeting. Commission quorum was confirmed.

3. Chair's Report: (Blumenthal)

- a. Review of Small Business Commission videoconference meeting protocols.
- b. 'Well-wishes' expressed to County Administrator Chuck Huckelberry on behalf of the Small Business Commission.
- c. Welcome Pima County Board of Supervisors Chair Bronson (D3)
- d. Participation in Pima County Strategic Planning Taskforce for Digital Access, Equity and inclusion – Workgroup on broadband infrastructure and policy recommendations (12/17/2021 videoconference meeting)
- e. Review January 20, 2022 SBC meeting agenda
- f. Overview of PCSBC 2020-2022 activities & accomplishments (Exhibit)

Chair Blumenthal provided an overview of the meeting protocols and procedures and provided an agenda overview. He also wished Pima County Administrator Chuck Huckelberry a speedy recovery and informed the Commission of the letter wishing him well that was sent to County Administration from the Small Business Commission. He also summarized the Commissions involvement in the County's Strategic Taskforce for Digital Access, Equity and Inclusion.

Chair Blumenthal and all Commissioners welcomed Chair Sharon Bronson to the meeting. Chair Bronson greeted the Commissioners.

Chair Blumenthal provided an overview to the Commission regarding the PCSBC 2020-2022 activities and accomplishments and expressed his appreciation to the Commission for electing him Chair.

4. Call to the Public (Blumenthal)

Chair Blumenthal welcomed anyone who would like to announce being present.

Chair Bronson announced her attendance and greeted the Commission, as did staff from the Supervisory offices.

5. Introduction of Special Guest Chair Sharon Bronson

Chair Bronson informed the Commission she was open to any questions or suggestions on how the Board of Supervisors can help the Small Business Commission and small businesses in Pima County.

Chair Blumenthal asked each commissioner to address their questions or concerns to Chair Bronson:

Commissioner Jacobsen expressed concern with supply and workforce shortages; asked about Pima County's COVID-19 testing strategy and voiced his concern with Pima County's economic recovery in relation to other areas of the state.

Commissioner Arenas expressed concern with the successful minimum wage ballot measure in the City of Tucson and the detrimental impact on small businesses.

Vice Chair Goodman asked how Pima County operations were proceeding while County Administrator Huckelberry was on leave.

Commissioner Collier expressed concern and asked specific question regarding the Pima County Health Department's restaurant inspections and fee structures approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Commissioner Ruiz commented on staffing and wage issues in his industry.

Chair 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.

Commissioner David explained the success of the COVID-19 testing operations in Ajo.

Chair Bronson 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 Bronson encouraged the Commissioners to memorialize their concerns in individual emails to her office. Mr. Cavanaugh requested he be copied on the Commissioners' emails to Chair Bronson.

6. Approval of meeting minutes (Blumenthal)

a. November 18, 2021

Commissioner Jacobsen moved, seconded by Commissioner Goodman, to approve the November 18, 2021 meeting minutes. Approved 7-0

Chair Blumenthal asked for a motion to amend the November 18, 2021 minutes to add on 8-A the language: "Effective Immediately".

Commissioner Ruiz moved, seconded by commissioner David, moved to amend the November 18, 2021 meeting minutes. Approved 7-0 as amended.

7. Coordinator's Report & Updates (Coordinator Patrick Cavanaugh)

a. Status of PCSBC in-person meetings (standing agenda item)

Mr. Cavanaugh stated the Board of Supervisors' return to in-person meetings would be considered by the Board in February or possibly March.

b. Commission vacancies

Mr. Cavanaugh informed the Commissioners during roll call that Commissioner Vera Minot had resigned.

c. COVID-19 Update

Mr. Cavanaugh reported he had sent to the Commission the most recent COVID 19 update from the Pima County Administrator. Mr. Cavanaugh noted the guidance and precautions Pima County is advising for the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show.

d. Pima County Economic Development New Director

Mr. Cavanaugh announce the new members of the Economic Development Department. Mr. Heath Vescovi-Chiordi will serve as director and Ms. Kelle Maslyn will lead strategic affairs. Mr. Cavanaugh stated he will remain as deputy director.

e. Questions from the Commission

There were no questions.

8. Unfinished Business

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

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

b. Action: Follow-up on PCSBC recommendation to establish Pima County Small business subscription service (Blumenthal)

(2 / Exhibits: B- Enhancing Communications with Small Business & 11/22/21 Letter to Chair Bronson & Board of Supervisors)

Chair Blumenthal informed the Commission there had been no response by the Board of Supervisors or County Administration to the letter he sent and he recommended the Commission continue to seek to have this addressed by the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Cavanaugh stated the County had declined to implement a channel due to several difficulties involved that had been previously explained to the Commission.

c. Action: Follow-up on PCSBC recommendation to oppose City of Tucson water rates increase for customers in unincorporated Pima County (Blumenthal)

(1/Exhibit: 11/22/21 Letter to Chair Bronson & Board of Supervisors.)

Chair Blumenthal discussed the letter of support sent to the Board of Supervisors on this matter, noted the Board had taken action against the City.

d. Action: Invitation to Pima County Supervisors to meet individually with the Small Business Commission at upcoming regularly scheduled Commission meetings (Blumenthal)

Chair Blumenthal shared with the Commission they should continue to invite Board of Supervisors' members to future meetings.

Mr. Cavanaugh advised the commission Supervisor Scott would attend the next meeting in February.

9. New Business

a. Election of 2022-2023 PCSBC Officers

a. Chair (Nominee: Commissioner Carlos Ruiz)

Motion: Commissioner Goodman moved, seconded by commissioner Jacobsen, to elect Commissioner Ruiz to the Chair. Motion approved 7-0.

b. Vice Chair (Nominee: Commissioner Janay Arena)

Motion: Commissioner Goodman moved, seconded by Commissioner Jacobsen, to elect Commissioner Arenas to the Vice Chair. Approved 7-0

10. JTED Update (Goodman)

a. Support for JTED funding in 2022 AZ Legislature (Goodman)

Commissioner Goodman informed the Commissioner currently they were under political season for legislators and had no updates.

After several discussions it was decided they will reach out to JTED Superintendent/CEO Kathy Prather to get more information and possibly invite her to a future meeting or have a meeting with a few of Commissioner and coordinator Mr. Cavanaugh and updating the rest of the Commission on the discussion.

11. Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Ruiz informed the Commissioners of an upcoming event by Tucson Business Owners called "Make it Matter Monday" and he will send the information to Mr. Cavanaugh for distribution to the Commissioners.

12. Agenda items for next SBC meeting: Thursday, January 20, 2022 @ 3pm, MST

A. Potential guest (s):

b. Pima County Supervisors

c. Susan Oliver, new director of the Small Business Development Center at Pima Community College.

d. Chris Nanos, Sheriff, Pima County Sheriff's Department

e. Executive Director, 'Job Path'

Chair Blumenthal suggested to not inviting anymore guests until all Board of Supervisors have been invited and met with the Commission and they hear back from Kathy Prather from JTED.

B. Other topics suggested by Commissioners

None

13. Adjournment

Motion: Commissioner Goodman moved, seconded by commissioner David to adjourn the meeting at 4:36pm. Motion passed 7-0