

Pima County Small Business Commission

Thursday, September 15, 2022
Video Conference / Telephonic Meeting

MINUTES OF MEETING

Commission Members Present

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

Commission Members Absent

Pima County Staff Present

Carmine DeBonis, Deputy County Administrator
Kelle Maslyn, Economic Development
Johanna Encinas, Economic Development
Sarah Denman, Economic Development

Guests in attendance

Beth Borozan, District 4
Steve Christy, BOS Supervisor
Kim Challenger, District 1

1. Call to Order

The meeting began at 3:04pm

2. Roll Call – establish quorum

Johanna Encinas conducted roll call to start the meeting. Commission quorum was confirmed

3. Chair's Report

- a. Welcome
- b. Review September 15, 2022 SBC meeting agenda

Chair Ruiz and the Commission welcomed everyone and Chair Ruiz also provided an overview of the meeting protocols and procedures and provided an agenda overview.

4. Call to the Public (Ruiz)

Ms. Maslyn introduced the new intern for Economic Development and welcomed her to the team

Ms. Sarah gave a brief introduction of herself and she is happy to be part of the Economic Development Team

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes (Ruiz)

Motion: Commissioner Blumenthal moved, seconded by Commissioner Goodman, to approve the August 18, 2022 meeting minutes. Approved 8-0

6. Coordinator's Report & Updates (Coordinator Kelle Maslyn)

a. Adding members to the Commission

Ms. Maslyn informed the commission there was currently 3 vacancies and she had already contacted the Supervisors and made them aware of their vacancies

Commissioner Goodman recommended Liz Pocock from Startup Tucson as she was a huge advocate for the small business owners during the strategic planning retreat and would like her to be a nominee for one of the positions

Commissioner Blumenthal gave a brief overview of the bylaws and the process for selecting a new member of the Commissioner to Ms. Maslyn

Ms. Maslyn informed the Commission she would contact the Board of Supervisors and ask if they had some candidates in line for their vacancies

b. 2022 Awards

Ms. Maslyn informed the Commission the 2020-2021 award presentation was ready to go for the October 4 2022 Board of Supervisors meeting. She also opened a discussion regarding the 2022 Small Business Awards

After discussions on the 2022 awards it was decided the awards will go back to the original parameters and not the COVID ones they used the last two years

Commissioner Blumenthal informed Ms. Maslyn he will forward timelines and information he has on past processes for the awards

Ms. Maslyn will have some dates ready for the Commission for the 2022 Awards

c. Questions from the Commission

No questions

7. Unfinished Business

a. PCSBC Input into the Economic Development Strategic Plan (Goodman)

Commissioner Goodman attended the stakeholder meeting he gave a brief overview of the meeting and the exercises they did and how the groups combined/shared all gathered information

Ms. Maslyn informed the Commission a draft of the report may be out by October 24, 2022 and she would share with the Commission for their feedback

Chair Ruiz suggested to have it on an agenda for discussion

b. Discussion/Action regarding the August 5, 2022 Memo from County Administrator Leshar regarding the PCSBC

Ms. Maslyn reminded the commission she sent them the data listing the different Commissions within Pima County for their review related to bullet point 4 of the memo from County Administrator Leshar. The Commission had questions regarding some of these Committees and what their purpose was.

Ms. Kelle asked Deputy County Administrator if he could elaborate more on these committees.

Deputy County Administrator Carmine DeBonis made the Commission aware he was happy to be there on behalf of the County Administration and informed them they would attempt to be present at every meeting either a Deputy County Administrator or the County Administrator herself.

He gave a brief description of different Committees and their purposes to the County as the Commission asked:

Board of Health - Provide advice and input to the health dept. (range of public health topics, restaurant codes etc.)

Community Action – Advise the Community and Workforce Development Dept. in administering the grants, moneys received from federal to low income areas, nonprofit organizations etc.

Mr. DeBonis also gave a brief overview of what the housing Commission and the Board of Supervisors is doing in regards to housing poverty, and addressing some of the Commissioners concerns. He informed the Commission they have some staff to do some research and should have some reporting's by October, regarding the homelessness. Ms. Leshar and City Manager Mr. Ortega are attending a community forum at the Ellie Towne Center to give public and businesses an opportunity to address their concerns.

Mr. DeBonis made the Commission aware of some of the participants that would be present and listen to all their concerns on homelessness during this community coalition, Pima County Administrator, Deputy County Administrators, Sheriff Nanos, some or all board of supervisors etc.

Chair Ruiz thank Mr. DeBonis for all the information he provided

The Commission decided it wanted to learn more about the following Commissions:

- Planning & Zoning
- Board of Health
- Community Action Agency (CDBG)
- Housing Commission
- Industrial Development Authority

- Workforce Investment Board
- Pima County Women's Commission
- Design Review Commission
- Outdoor Lighting Code

Ms. Maslyn also informed the Commission Economic Development is working on having an updated website where they can have a business channel and people can go directly and use it as a tool for information

8. New Business (Discussion/Action)

a. Business Coalition Letter and Meeting (Jacobsen)

Commissioner Jacobsen gave a brief overview of this meeting so how Pima County and surrounding areas could hear about crime issues. He said Mr. DeBonis's synopsis of the meeting summed it all up and just wanted to add that the different entities that would listen to the public's concerns and possible solutions in regards to homelessness, crime and drugs in our community

He told the Commission that County Administrator Leshar told him about the group and suggested that he should be involved. He is now part of this Committee which is led by Kevin Daley and how they have are working to come up with solutions to some of the public's concerns on crimes and that this meeting would be a great opportunity for their elected officials to listen to the public. He invited everyone to attend

9. Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Collier commented on the economy starting to slow down and some business are starting to feel some impact to be cognizant and support some of their fellow businesses

10. Agenda Items for next SBC meeting: Thursday, October 20, 2022 @ 3pm, MST

a. Potential guest(s):

a. Industrial Development Authority

11. Adjournment

Motion: Commissioner Aguirre moved, seconded by Commissioner Blumenthal, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 7-0 and meeting adjourned at 4:17pm