

Pima County Small Business Commission  
Thursday, May 19, 2022  
In-Person / Telephonic Meeting

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**Commission Members Present**

Carlos Ruiz, Chair  
Kent Blumenthal  
Janay Arenas, Vice Chair  
Ken Goodman  
Josh Jacobsen  
Raul Aguirre

**Commission Members Absent**

Moniqua Lane  
Jeffrey Wod  
Shelby Collier  
Gabrielle David

**Pima County Staff Present**

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

**Guests in Attendance**

Beth Borozan, District 4

1. Call to Order

The meeting began at 3:08pm

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted by Chair Ruiz.

3. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted by Johanna Encinas to start the meeting and quorum was confirmed.

4. Chair's Report (Ruiz)

a. Welcome

Chair Ruiz and the Commissioners welcomed Supervisor Steve Christy to the meeting. Supervisor Christy greeted the Commissioners.

b. Review May 19, 2022 SBC meeting agenda

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

5. Call to the Public (Ruiz)

No response

6. Small business discussion: Hon. Pima County Supervisor Steve Christy

Supervisor Steve Christy thanked the Commission for inviting him, he then moved to discussing the following topics:

- Review Pre-COVID-19; Post-COVID-19  
Analyze what was done, what worked, what didn't work, steps to take if something like this should happen again, areas to avoid.
- Post pandemic – many small businesses did not make it  
If proper steps had been in place; they may have made it

Supervisors Christy suggested a future agenda item from the Small Business Commission to analyze/assess damages to the small business "Blue Ribbon Task Force"

Supervisor Christy also gave an overview of the annual budget for next fiscal year and discussed the budget for COVID and its grants from the government. He also informed the Commission his concern on grant funding from the government on contracts for Covid and once this is over how this contracts- programs-projects will need funding from other sources i.e. general funding. He also discussed the following budget plans:

- Expand Pima County Health Department
- Inventory of Pima County own property/lands for housing programs
- PEEP (Pima Early Education Program)
- Plan to buy open space for conservation

Supervisor Christy suggested a plan for SBC requested review ("What is a onetime Investment Pima County would do to help Small Business Community")

Supervisor Christy asked if there were any questions from the Commission.

Commissioner Goodman thank Supervisor Christy for being a supporter of the Small Business Commission. He suggested a project like a business Marshall Plan like WWII that will assist those businesses that are still alive, and how identify how Pima County can help.

Commissioner Blumenthal suggested a "Blue Ribbon Task Force" and proposed the Commission put together a draft/proposal to present to Supervisor Christy so he can present to the Board of Supervisors as an agenda item.

Commissioner Jacobsen commented that in previous meetings Supervisor Scott, Supervisor Grijalva and Chair Bronson and were on board with the idea. He also suggested the Commission get help from Pima County Communications to share useful information that may help small businesses.

Kelle Maslyn informed the commission of a program called HUUB that is already in place by a private business owner in Maricopa and helps small business with different problems such as: updating their business websites, technical assistance, designing website, sharing ideas between businesses. She would share the link to the commission for their reference.

The Commission called for a special meeting to draft a “Blue Ribbon Task Force” to Supervisor Christy, the meeting will be conducted May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 if quorum is confirmed.

7. Approval of Meeting Minutes (Ruiz)

a. April 21, 2022

Motion: Commissioner Jacobsen moved, seconded by Commissioner Blumenthal, to approve the April 21, 2022 meeting minutes. Approved 6-0

8. Coordinator’s Report & Updates (Deputy Director Patrick Cavanaugh)

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

Mr. Cavanaugh had no report on this item as the Commission is already having in-person meetings.

b. Pima County Economic Development update

Mr. Cavanaugh informed the Commission the Pima County Economic Development is currently working with an outside consultant for the new plan and would give more updates on the next meeting.

c. Pima County’s economic recovery during the pandemic

Mr. Cavanaugh informed the Commission of the recent email he had shared with the Commission regarding COVID19 and give an update of the recent recoveries to job in Pima County, Maricopa County and the State of Arizona.

d. Questions from the Commission

The Commission had no questions.

9. Unfinished Business

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

Chair Ruiz asked Mr. Cavanaugh if he had a date for this presentation. Mr. Cavanaugh informed the Commission he would check for the June 7<sup>th</sup> or June 21<sup>st</sup> Board of Supervisors meeting.

b. Small Business Commission input into Pima County Economic Strategic Plan (Ruiz)

Mr. Cavanaugh informed the Commission that the Economic Development department was currently working on contracts with outside companies for this project and would have more updates next meeting.

10. New Business (Discussion/Action)

a. Poll on In-Person, Virtual or Hybrid/Alternating

1). Next Meeting June 16, 2022

Due to Commissioners prior engagements and possibly not enough members available for a quorum the Commission decided to postpone next meeting for June 16, 2022 and will resume again in July 2022.

11. JTED Update (Goodman)

Commissioner Goodman informed the Commission of JTED's completion/graduation program; The Ceremony will be held at the Pima County Kino Sports Complex May 20, 2022.

12. Restaurant Update (Jacobsen, Collier)

Commissioner Jacobsen gave an overview to the Commission on how Pima County Health Department is running inspections with businesses and discussed the following topics:

-Waivers in terms of certain fees

-Improvements to buildings

-Supply issues

-Work more with restaurant Industries

-Meet with operators regarding Narcan

13. Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Blumenthal volunteered to draft a letter on behalf of the Commission based on Supervisor Steve Christy's request/recommendation regarding COVID 19 activities issues that were problematic.

14. Agenda items for next SBC meeting: Thursday, July 21, 2022 @ 3pm, MST

Chair Ruiz informed the Commission he would add next agenda items on the next special meeting of May 24, 2022.

15. Adjournment

Motion: Commissioner Kent moved, seconded by Commissioner Jacobsen to adjourn the meeting.  
Motion passed 6-0 and the meeting adjourned at 4:26pm