

Pima County Small Business Commission

Thursday, August 18, 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

Commission Members Absent

Raul Aguirre

Pima County Staff Present

Dr. Francisco Garcia, Deputy County Administrator
Patrick Cavanaugh, Economic Development
Kelle Maslyn, Economic Development
Johanna Encinas, Economic Development

Guests in attendance

Beth Borozan, District 4
Kim Challender, 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 (Ruiz)

a. Welcome

Chair Ruiz and the Commission welcomed Kelle Maslyn as the new Small Business coordinator and Deputy County Administrator Dr. Francisco Garcia as their guest speaker for the meeting

b. Review August 18, 2022 SBC meeting agenda

Chair Ruiz provided an overview of the meeting protocols and procedures and provided an agenda overview, he also informed the Commission he would move item 6 for Ms. Maslyn, to allow Deputy County Administrator speak and answer any questions the Commission may have since he has to leave the meeting early

4. Call to the Public (Ruiz)

No response

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

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

Coordinator Ms. Maslyn informed the commission that due to not having a permanent conference room for in-person meeting they should continue to have meetings via Teams and she would continue looking for a conference that offered not only call-in conference but video availability for a better meeting

b. Questions from the Commission

Coordinator Ms. Maslyn opened the discussion for Dr. Garcia to talk about the memo from County Administration Office

Dr. Garcia, the Deputy County Administrator for Health and Community Services, introduced himself. He briefly discussed the points that were identified by the Small Business Commission to County Administrator Ms. Leshner, and to Deputy County Administrators Carmine DeBonis and Steve Holmes in the memo.

He identified homelessness as a major issue in Pima County and discussed how the City of Tucson and Pima County are working together to find some solutions. He also identified the COVID-19 response with businesses and how the City of Tucson had a dramatic drop in business licenses during this period but the surrounding communities all saw an increase in the number of business licenses. He also wanted to encourage the Commission to enhance its interactions between the Small Business Commission and the various County Departments that touch different aspects of the commercial enterprise.

Commissioner Blumenthal commented that the homelessness issues have more of an impact on small business rather than the big corporations.

Dr. Garcia suggested to the Commission decide which items in the memo should move up in the list as a higher priority for the County to address and he would work with Ms. Maslyn to address the first item.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes (Ruiz)

Motion: Commissioner David moved, seconded by Commissioner Jacobsen, to approve the July 21, 2022 meeting minutes. Approved 7-0.

7. Unfinished Business

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

Action: The awards will be presented on October 4, 2022 Board of Supervisors meetings, Approved 7-0.

8. New Business (Discussion/Action)

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

Commissioner Goodman gave a brief overview of the event and the strategic plan to help Tucson grow. He emphasized how Tucson does not want to become like Phoenix, and he made a few comments to the event on possibly doing more events to benefit the Small Businesses in general.

Commissioner Jacobson also attended and said the small business owners, as hands on operators, brought a different perspective to the meeting because many of those in attendance who may not work in the day-to-day operations of business.

Ms. Maslyn told the Commission about the Business survey that is part of the strategic plan and encouraged all of them to share it within their networks.

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

Commissioner Blumenthal suggested this memo to be a standing agenda for the next few meetings since there are more items to discuss.

The Commission approved this item to be as an item agenda for the next meeting for discussion

9. JTED Update (Goodman)

Commissioner Goodman informed the Commission that JTED is the main beneficiary of the Banner Health El Tour de Tucson. He also announced that a health care high school will be built at The Bridges. The big Rotary Club of Tucson named JTED as the beneficiary of its car show.

10. Restaurant Update (Jacobsen, Collier)

Commissioner Jacobsen give a brief overview of the new guidelines/rules form the health dept. and how this fees are putting a burden on businesses and this fees should roll back to the health dept. instead. They talked a little bit about the new codes have changed and how those have started to ease up more for businesses.

11. Commissioner Updates

No Updates

12. Agenda items for next SBC meeting: Thursday, September 15, 2022 @ 3pm, MST

The Commission decided to have no presenters for the moment and continue with the discussion of the memo from County Administrator Ms. Leshar.

13. Adjournment

Motion: Commissioner Blumenthal moved, seconded by Commissioner Goodman, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 7-0 and meeting adjourned at 4:33pm.