

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

MINUTES OF MEETING

**Commission Members Present**

Kent Blumenthal  
Jeffrey Wood  
Gabrielle David  
Carlos Ruiz, Chair  
Shelby Collier  
Janay Arenas, Vice Chair  
Josh Jacobsen

**Commission Members Absent**

Ken Goodman  
Raul Aguirre  
Moniqua Lane

**Pima County Staff Present**

Patrick Cavanaugh, Economic Development  
Johanna Encinas, Economic Development  
Heath Vescovi-Chiordi, Economic Development  
Kelle Maslyn, Economic Development  
Rhonda Pina, Community & Workforce Development  
Dominica Dominguez, Community & Workforce Development  
Michael Gates, Community & Workforce Development

**Guests in attendance:**

Kim Challender, District 1  
Shaq McCoy, District 2  
Elvira Suarez Din, District 5  
Maria Klucarova, District 3

1. Call to Order

The meeting began at 3:04pm

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. Review March 17, 2022 SBC meeting agenda

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

4. Call to Public (Ruiz)

Chair Ruiz introduced the Economic Development Department staff and welcomed anyone to introduce themselves.

5. Guest presentation from Pima County Economic Development: Heath Vescovi-Chiordi, Director; Patrick Cavanaugh, Deputy Director; and Kelle Maslyn, Assistant Director for Strategic Affairs
- a. Introduction of new staff; economic development goals and strategic planning as it pertains to small businesses in Pima County (30 minutes)

Director of Economic Development, Heath Vescovi-Chiordi introduced himself with a brief summary of his background and accomplishments. He also gave an overview of the Departments staff and roles as well as some of the goals and strategic plan and key points:

- Pima County Economic Development website update
- Pima County Economic Development website re-build – acquiring a third party for reaching out to site selector to fulfill customers’ needs and Economic Development functions
- New updated marketing materials – to attract new business
- Department branding
- Social media such as LinkedIn- for recruitment, attraction, retraction, expansion for Economic Development
- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategic plan – working on new plan for 2022
- Contract management
- Expanding reach when it comes to Small Business

Mr. Heath Vescovi-Chiordi informed the Commission he was available for any questions

Commissioner Blumenthal asked Mr. Vescovi-Chiordi what were the expectations for collaborating with or differentiating from Sun Corridor relative to the work they are doing on attraction of businesses to Pima County

Mr. Vescovi-Chiordi responded by describing the differentiating and clarifying aspects of Sun Corridor and Pima County roles. Sun Corridor acts as a regional entity that assists in attraction of high dollar entities to Pima County and high wage rates to this region. Pima County Economic Development helps provide additional guidance, addresses the needs of the economy, the needs of the community and the needs of the existence businesses in Pima County. He also explained to the Commission he would tap into their knowledge of small business to develop programing

Kelle Maslyn briefly summarized by informing the Commission as they set forward with the new Economic Development Plan getting input from stakeholders is what’s going to make this plan successful and how the Small Business Commission can provide its input

6. Guest presentation from Pima County Community and Workforce Development: Rhonda Pina, Business Services Manager; Dominica Dominguez, Business Services Program Coordinator; and Michael Gates, Community Services Manager

- a. Workforce development and services as it pertains to small businesses in Pima County (30 minutes)

Chair Ruiz Introduced Pima County Community and Work Workforce Development staff

Rhonda Pina, Dominica Dominguez and Michael Gates provided a power point presentation to the Commission specific to the different programs they offer: Arizona@Work Pima County One-Stop

The following key topics were presented and discussed:

- a. Business Services – Projecting future skills needs, recruitment and matching jobs, on the job training, Rapid response to lay offs
- b. Dislocated worker eligibility – displaced homemaker, separating service member, relocated military spouse
- c. Youth Employment, Training & Education Services – Ages 16-24
- d. Training Elements (One-Stop)
- e. Holistic Approach (One-Stop) – Emergency eviction legal services, Scholarships, Community assistance, Home weatherization & repair, CDBG, Sullivan Jackson Employment Center

They all answered questions from the Commission regarding the programs they offer

The Commission asked Pima County One-Stop if they could share their power point presentation with the Commission and contact information

7. Approval of Meeting Minutes (Ruiz)

- a. February 17, 2022

Commissioner Blumenthal moved, seconded by Commissioner Arenas, to approve the February 17, 2022 meeting minutes. Approved 7-0

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

- a. Status of Commission in-person meetings (standing agenda item)
- b. COVID-19 Update
- c. Questions from the Commission

Mr. Cavanaugh informed the Commission the Board of Supervisors had their first in-person meeting, he also advised the Commission he had reserved the Board of Supervisors conference room with the Clerk of the Board until end of year. Mr. Cavanaugh also suggested this item could be put on next agenda for discussion and an executive decision

Mr. Cavanaugh reported he had sent to the Commission the most recent COVID 19 update from the Pima County Administration office. He also gave a report of the State's numbers regarding the recovery of employment in Pima County

Commissioner Jacobsen asked the recovery numbers for Pima County in previous year

Mr. Cavanaugh gave an overview of all numbers; government, private sector and industry sectors versus the previous year's statistics

9. Unfinished Business

- a. Action: Date of presentation of 2021 & 2020 Small Business Awards at Pima County Board of Supervisors Meeting (Ruiz)
- b. Action: Approval of 2022 Work Plan

The Commission decided to have the awards presented by May 3, 2022 before the Board of Supervisors meeting

Motion: Chair Ruiz moved, seconded by Commissioner David to approve the 2022 Work Plan

Commissioner Blumenthal moved for discussion; he asked for the Communications program to be added and a post-pandemic review of policies as it pertains to small business; and small business communications

2022 Work Plan was amended to add Develop Small Business Assistance and Communication program; and post-pandemic review

10. New Business

- a. Commission subcommittee to work with Economic Development on Strategic Plan
- b. Pima County Health Department and Restaurants

Chair Ruiz informed the Commission he welcomed everyone to be a part of the new Strategic Plan subcommittee with the Economic Development Department and to identify themselves during the meeting

- Chair Ruiz – volunteered
- Kent Blumenthal – volunteered
- Gabriel David – volunteered

Commissioner Jacobsen informed the Commissioner he was a part of an advisory council restaurant focus and he would be happy to give periodic updates regarding the Pima County Health Department and Restaurants during the monthly Small Business Commission meetings as a standing agenda item

After general discussion, the process will be instead rolled in to the regular monthly meetings to allow full participation of the commissioners

11. JTED Update (Goodman)

Chair Ruiz informed the Commission they had no updates to JTED due to Commissioner's Goodman absence in today's meeting, other than the States passing exceeding the limits

12. Commissioner Updates

Chair Ruiz discussed with the Commission the topic of some Commissioners being absent more than three times.

Commissioner Blumenthal asked that a vote be taken to notify the Supervisors.

Mr. Cavanaugh noted an item would need to be on the next agenda to comply with the Arizona Open Meetings Law.

Chair Ruiz asked Mr. Cavanaugh if he can reach out to the Board of Supervisors regarding their appointees to the Commission and that an item be placed on agenda for next month with Mr. Cavanaugh's updates

13. Agenda items for next SBC meeting: Thursday, April 21, 2022

a. Potential guest(s):

- a. Hon. Pima County Supervisor Steve Christy
- b. Hon. Pima County Supervisor Matt Heinz
- c. Pima County Health Department, Consumer and Health Safety
- d. Susan Oliver, Director of the Small Business Development Center at Pima Community College
- e. Kathy Prather, CEO, JTED
- f. Chris Nanos, Sheriff, Pima County Sheriff's Department
- g. Ana Greif, CEO, Job Path, Inc.

b. Other suggested by Commissioners

Chair Ruiz informed the Commission of possibly having Supervisor Steve Christy as a guest for next meeting

14. Adjournment

Motion: Commissioner Chair Ruiz moved, seconded by Commissioner Blumenthal to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 7-0 and the meeting adjourned at 5:25pm