

**Pima County Small Business Commission
Meeting**

Thursday, August 19, 2021
3:00 P.M.

Video Conference/Telephonic Meeting

SUMMARY OF MEETING

Commission Members Present

Kent Blumenthal, Chair
Ken Goodman, Vice-chair
Shelby Collier
Janay Arenas
Vera Minot (Departed 4:15pm)
Jeff Wood
Carlos Ruiz
Raul Aguirre
Josh Jacobsen

Commission Members Absent

Moniqua Lane
Gabrielle David

Staff in attendance

Pima County:
Patrick Cavanaugh, Economic Development
Mark Evans, Communications

Guests in attendance:

Maria Klucarova, Chair Bronson's Office
Kim Challender, Supervisor Scott's Office

MOTIONS

MOTION: Vice Chair Goodman moved, seconded by Commissioner Aguirre, to approve the draft summary of the July 15, 2021 meeting. Motion approved 9-0.

MOTION: Vice Chair Goodman moved, seconded by Commissioner Aguirre, to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved 8-0.

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Call to Order

The meeting began at 3:08 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted by Patrick Cavanaugh. Commission quorum was confirmed.

3. Chair's Report (Chair Blumenthal)

Chair Blumenthal reviewed the meeting protocols, provided an overview of the agenda, and introduced Mr. Evans. He also discussed letters and communications between the Commission and Board

4. Call to the Public

All of the guests in attendance introduced themselves and greeted the Commission.

5. Approval of meeting minutes (Chair Blumenthal)

Vice Chair Goodman moved, seconded by Commissioner Aguirre, to approve the July 15, 2021 meeting summary. Motion approved 9-0.

6. Guest: Mark B. Evans, Manager, Pima County Communications Office

- Mr. Evans provided an overview of the Pima County Communications Department and its work for Pima County Administration.
- He discussed the departments current work regarding the pandemic, wildfires and other County issues.
- Mr. Evans stated his department has very limited interaction with Boards, Committees and Commissions except the Small Business Commission awards.
- Chair Blumenthal asked about the department's contact list for media and the public and Mr. Evans summarized the department's contacts, data and electronic newsletters.
- Chair Blumenthal stated the Commission bylaws required the Commission to communicate with the small business community and asked for advice and assistance. Mr. Evans responded that the Communications department supports County administration and its departments, not Boards, Committees and Commissions. He noted any assistance beyond a press release or social media posts would require a budget and the Commission does not have a budget. He stated funding from the Economic Development Office for Commission communications would need approval from County Administration.
- Chair Blumenthal read the bylaws section that relates to facilitating communications with the small business community. Mr. Evans said his understanding was that that the communications with the small business community from the Commission flows in its advisory role to the Board of

Supervisors, not communicating directly to the public as a County department does.

- Commissioner Arenas asked about obtaining a state database of small businesses contact information for Pima County. Mr. Cavanaugh stated he had previously attempted to get this information from the Corporation Commission and state law prevents its release.
- Vice Chair Goodman noted the Commission's work with Communications on the COVID- 19 public service announcements and the small business awards and asked what contact lists and media are used for that. Mr. Evans detailed the resources used.
- A general discussion of marketing the Commission and its awards program occurred.

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

a. Board of Supervisors recent decisions not to implement COVID-19 mask mandates and mandatory vaccinations

Mr. Cavanaugh reported on actions by the Board of Supervisors regarding COVID-19 mitigation.

b. Update on in-person meetings of the Small Business Commission

Mr. Cavanaugh stated the Board of Supervisors will continue to meet remotely but the Clerk of the Board has indicated that Boards, Committees and Commissions may meet in person if specific COVID-19 protocols are adhered to.

c. Pima County Broadband: Strategic Planning Taskforce for Digital Access

Mr. Cavanaugh informed the Commission of his role on the Taskforce and the mission of the initiative which correlates to the Commission's interest in expanding broadband internet for rural small business.

d. Pima County progress against COVID-19 infections; vaccinations and economic recovery

Mr. Cavanaugh provided the most recent reports from the Pima County Health Department.

e. Pima County funding priorities for federal infrastructure monies (If funding is approved by Congress)

Mr. Cavanaugh noted the Chair placed this item on his report but there was no specific plan for priorities yet because the legislation was still being developed.

f. Status of 2021 Small Business Awards Program Launch

Mr. Cavanaugh provided information and he and the Chair will develop more specific dates for the program.

g. Questions from the Commission

There were no further questions from the Commissioners.

8. New Business

a. Commissioners' understanding of present COVID-19 challenges to Pima County Small Businesses

Chair Blumenthal stated no action would be taken but opened discussion on the item.

- Commissioner Woods detailed the COVID-19 precautions in place at his business and the personnel policies developed.
- Vice Chair Goodman asked what the restaurant owners are seeing now that vaccine is more available.
- Commissioner Jacobsen detailed issues for the staff in his restaurants and the resources he provides. He explained his decision not to impose mandates on employees and rely on education instead.
- Mr. Cavanaugh described the recent policy debate by the board of Supervisors regarding County employee vaccine incentives versus County employee vaccine disincentives.
Commissioner Collier explained the positive use of incentives, programs and education for employees in his restaurants.
Commissioner Arenas provided her opinion on vaccines, the pandemic, freedom, privacy and liability.
Commissioner Aguirre responded with his own personal experience with COVID-19, the need to follow science and protect vulnerable and underserved communities and protect employees from the severity of the pandemic - and the need for people to get vaccinated.

b. Small Business Commission Calendar: Upcoming events/meetings (Chair Blumenthal)

The following meetings were discussed:

- Presentation of 2020 Small Business Awards at BOS in-person meeting on Tuesday, September 21, 2021
- SBC Meeting – Thursday, September 23, 2021 3pm (In-person meeting)
- SBC Meeting – Thursday, October 21, 2021 3pm (In-person meeting)
- SBC Meeting – Thursday, November 18, 2021 3pm (Select 2021 SB Awardees)

Chair Blumenthal solicited the Commissions thoughts on the Commission returning to in-person meetings. The Commission agreed to continue to meet remotely for the indefinite future and discuss the issue at future meetings.

9. Unfinished Business

- a. SBC-approved bylaws amendments on Board of Supervisors' Sept. 21, 2021 agenda - proposed Bylaw revisions (Chair Blumenthal)

Chair Blumenthal directed that the by-laws be moved forward to a Board of Supervisors at a date best determined by Mr. Cavanaugh and that arrangements be made for Chair Blumenthal to participate in the Board meeting. Mr. Cavanaugh asked for additional documents to be submitted.

10. JTED Update (Vice Chair Goodman)

No Update but Vice Chair Goodman will report back next month.

Commissioner Arenas asked for an explanation of the connection of JTED to small business.

Vice Chair Goodman provide the history of Pima JTED, its role in developing technical and career training for students, and the workforce needed by local businesses.

Chair Blumenthal explained the Commission's support for JTED that has occurred over many years.

11. Commissioner updates

Commissioner provided information about a community scholarship program his business has developed for youth.

Vice Chair noted the letters sent to the Board of Supervisors regarding the Board's expectations from the Commission.

12. Agenda items for next SBC meeting

Chair Blumenthal asked Commissioner Jacobsen and Mr. Cavanaugh to try and facilitate a presentation from Dr. George Hammond, director of the University Arizona Eller College of Management's Economic and Business Research Center.

Vice Chair Goodman asked to add the Pima County Sheriff to a future agenda.

13. Adjournment

Vice Chair Goodman moved, seconded by Commissioner Aguirre to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 8-0 and the meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.