

Pima County Small Business Commission

Thursday, October 21, 2021

3:00 P.M

Video Conference / Telephonic Meeting

SUMMARY OF MEETING

Commission Members Present

Kent Blumenthal, Chair

Shelby Collier

Janay Arenas

Vera Minot

Raul Aguirre

Josh Jacobsen

Gabrielle David

Carlos Ruiz

Jeff Wood

Commission Members Absent

Ken Goodman, Vice Chair

Moniqua Lane

Staff in attendance

Pima County:

Patrick Cavanaugh, Economic Development

Johanna Encinas, Economic Development

Guests in attendance:

Maria Klucarova, Chair Bronson's Office

Kim Challender, Supervisor Scott's Office

Beth Borozan, Supervisor Christy's Office

Motions

MOTION: Commissioner Jacobsen moved, seconded by Commissioner Minot, to approve the August 19, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion approved 9-0

MOTION: Commissioner Ruiz moved, seconded by Commissioner Minot, to approve September 23, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion approved 9-0

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Call to Order

The meeting began at 3:05pm.

2. Roll Call

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

3. Chair's Report: (Blumenthal)

- a. Review of Small Business Commission videoconference meeting protocols.
- b. Review of 10/21/21 SBC meeting agenda

Chairman Blumenthal provided an overview of the meeting protocols and procedures and reviewed the meeting agenda. He pointed out two items he would like to address on the agenda for further detailed discussion (the awards criteria, specifically if commissioners can apply for the 2022; and the correspondence received from Pima County Administrator Chuck Huckelberry in response to the Commission's letter regarding the Commission's scope and duties.)

4. Call to the Public (Blumenthal)

Kim Challender, Maria Kucarova and Beth Borozan announced their attendance and greeted the Commission.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes (Blumenthal)

- a. August 19, 2021

MOTION: Commissioner Jacobsen moved, seconded by Commissioner Minot, to approve the August 19, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion approved 9-0

- b. September 23, 2021

MOTION: Commissioner Ruiz moved, seconded by Commissioner Minot, to approve September 23, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion approved 9-0

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

- a. Pima County progress against COVID-19 infections, vaccinations, and economic recovery.

Mr. Cavanaugh provided the Commission the most recent COVID-19 updates from the Pima County Health Department which he characterizes as declines or plateaus in every metric. Mr. Cavanaugh gave a briefing on the economic recovery and cited the Arizona Office Economic Opportunities' monthly statistics that indicate the job recovery from the pandemic is at 75% for Pima County and that from February 2019 – September 2021 44,000 residents lost their jobs and 33,000 have recovered jobs.

- b. Outcome of BOS October 5, 2021 meeting discussion re: Sun Corridor contract renewal and small business economic development responsibilities (if any)

Mr. Cavanaugh explained to the Commission the memorandum describing the role of Sun Corridor, Inc. and its duties that was sent to the Pima County Board of Supervisors. The memorandum also differentiated the role and duties of the Pima County Economic Development Office. He also discussed the contract amount for Sun Corridor, Inc. and Economic Development Office which has a separate budget.

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

Mr. Cavanaugh informed the Commissioners the decision the Board of Supervisors made in regard to in-person meetings. The Board ultimately voted to continue with virtual meetings. He also informed the Commission of the County's requirements if the Commission decides to meet in person, which includes face masks, social distancing, option for call in teleconference and other mitigation measures.

Chair Blumenthal informed the Commission it would continue to carry the topic as a standing item on the agenda.

- d. Pima County Strategic Planning for Digital Access Task Force

Mr. Cavanaugh provided a brief overview of Pima County's Strategic Planning for Digital Access which seeks to expand broadband and digital access for underserved communities in Pima County. He provided the Commission with the next meeting date.

- e. Questions from the Commission

Commissioner Jacobsen asked Mr. Cavanaugh if it was difficult for providers to expand in some communities due to cost of subscription.

Mr. Cavanaugh informed the Commission there would be more detailed information on the topic forthcoming at the meeting.

7. Unfinished Business

a. Status of SBC-approved bylaws amendments (Exhibit A-Restated SBC Bylaws)

Mr. Cavanaugh informed the Commission the issue was bylaws needed to be approved by the Board of Supervisors and advised the Commission the next BOS meeting is scheduled for November 16th. He is working to finalize the draft and asked if any other changes were sought.

Chairman Blumenthal recommended the Commission to go with what is in place and have the Board of Supervisors approve them.

b. Status of 2021 Small Business of the Year Awards Program; selection of awardees

Mr. Cavanaugh reported to the Commission they had 12 submissions, with 3 in question for eligibility. He also gave a brief overview of the applications and its categories. He asked the Commission if they would like to move forward with the current applications or extend the application deadline.

Chairman Blumenthal asked the Commission if there were any objections on moving forward with the current number of applications. The Commission had no objections moving forward with the nominations.

Chairman Blumenthal set November 18, 2021 as the meeting date to rate the candidates.

8. New Business

a. SBC reflections on Dr. Hammond's 09-23-21 presentation to SBC (Jacobsen)

Commissioner Jacobsen was not aware he had to do a presentation on Dr. Hammond's presentation. There was no discussion.

b. SBC role in Economic Development re: SBC 9/24/21 letter to BOS (Exhibit B) and County Administrator Huckelberry's reply 9/27/21 (Exhibit C)

Chair Blumenthal read to the Commission one of the paragraphs written by Mr. Huckelberry. He asked the Commission to address any comments they had.

The Commission discussed the following topics

- Resources available for small business and how to promote them
- Reaching out to the Board of Supervisors for a meeting with Small Business Commission
- Concerns about highlighting select populations of Small Businesses
- Commission's thoughts on disagreeing with Mr. Huckelberry's letter

Mr. Cavanaugh stated the letter from Mr. Huckelberry was directed to the Commission and not the Board of Supervisors and reminded them the Commission's scope is contained in its enabling ordinance and bylaws. He reminded the Commission that the Small Business Commission's primary role is to advise the Board of Supervisors of the issues that pertain to small businesses and small business regulation. He also noted Mr. Huckelberry's comment that underserved small business communities are an issue in Pima County.

c. 2022 SBC Awards Criteria re: should SBC-Commissioner owned businesses be eligible?

After much discussion by the Chair, the Commission and Mr. Cavanaugh it was decided the Commission members will not be eligible to apply for the small business commission awards.

d. Support for JTED 4th year funding in 2022 AZ legislature

The Commission is supporting JTED's legislative agenda and they will advise the Board of Supervisors.

9. JTED Update

Chair Blumenthal and Mr. Cavanaugh shared their thoughts on the Ribbon Cutting event for JTED's Innovative Learning Center at The Bridges and the important role of JTED in providing a workforce in Pima County.

10. Commissioner Updates

No updates were provided.

11. Agenda items for next SBC meeting: Thursday, November 18, 2021 @ 3pm

a. Potential presenter: Susan Oliver, new director of the Small Business Development Center at Pima Community College.

b. Potential presenter: Kathy Prather, CEO, JTED

c. Potential presenter: Chris Nanos, Sheriff, Pima County Sheriff's Department

d. Potential presenter: Ana Greif, Executive Director, JobPath

e. Other topics suggested by Commissioners

Chairman Blumenthal closed the meeting by informing the Commission he would prepare letters to invite the Board of Supervisors to attend to the SBC meeting, select 2021 SBC Award winners, and possibly have the bylaws on agenda.

12. Adjournment

MOTION: Commissioner Minot moved, seconded by Commissioner David to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 9-0 and the meeting adjourned at 4:55pm