

Pima County Small Business Commission

County Administration Building
130 W. Congress, 1st Floor
Thursday, November 20, 2008
3:00 P.M.

Members Present

Lea Marquez-Peterson
Tom Ward
Pat Taviss
Ken Goodman

Gerald Long
Greg Geile

Others Present

Aurora Hernandez
Pat Cavanaugh
Mary Jo Furphy

Members Absent

Jim Leader

The meeting was called to order by Lea Marquez-Peterson at 3:10 P.M.

Pledge was lead by Tom Ward

Introductions of members in attendance

Minutes from the last meeting were approved unanimously.

Procurement Update- Lea Marquez Peterson- Lea had a meeting with Hope Sikora and George Widiguris from Procurement department to discuss the disparity study. Procurement will be working to register more minority businesses.

Mary Jo Furphy from Procurement came in to do a presentation on the *VRAMP* program. (*VRAMP Vendor Registration and Messaging Portal*) She went over the registration panels to demonstrate how easy it its to register. She stressed how important it was to get all the small business registered with the *VRAMP*. All the data is entered into one system and the data is viewable by all businesses. There are many new businesses signing up but certification is still low. Notifications of awards are available for all businesses to view. Lea would like to see notification of awards going out to all the Tucson Chambers, thus giving incentive to other businesses to register and become involved in the program.

JTED UPDATE- Ken Goodman and Jerry Long- Ken and Jerry gave an update on JTED progress. JTED has come a long way since the beginning of the school year.

JTED is working to expand programs for the 2009/2010 school year. A few of the new programs will include Education Professions, Diesel Repair, Law and Public Safety, and Aviation. Many of the students are earning Pima Community College credits, free of charge before graduating from high school.

There is still a great need for JTED teachers, so the Governing Board has voted to reimburse 50% of the tuition for courses that are required to get Career and Technical Education certificates for individuals that choose to come from industry to the classroom.

JTED's enrollment has increased this past year by 6.6 percent. There are now approximately 18,407 students enrolled. Five of the first students to enroll in JTED cosmetology courses are completing their programs and becoming licensed cosmetologists. Wildlands certifications were given to 24 students, qualifying the students to fight wild fires. All Wildlands and CNA students have also earned their CPR certifications.

The Public Relations Office has created a monthly electronic newsletter, titled *The Way to Work*, you can subscribe on line at www.pimajted.org. Ken is scheduling a future meeting, possibly February, at JTED's new facility, on River Rd and Shannon, with Dr. Storm and his staff to give us an annual update and more information on the progress of the program.

Commission Membership-was discussed. Three openings are still available, two (2) in Ramon Valadez district and one (1) in Richard Elias'. It was suggested for the commission to contact the Board of Supervisors directly to have those positions filled. Tom Ward will draft a letter to the BOS with possible suggestions.

City of Tucson has a commission policy that when a position is vacated for an extended period of time it becomes a Council appointment. Lea will request a copy of the policy from the City of Tucson SBC.

Prospective members will be interviewed in January; anyone interested can attend the January meeting.

Action items for 2009

Economy- A Buy local program called Local First Arizona has been launched in our County. This will improve the economic outlook of small businesses in the Tucson area. This will be a future agenda item.

Development Services-Carmine De Bonis will be scheduled as a speaker for January, (pending confirmation). Tom Ward would like to schedule a meeting with Chuck Huckelberry re: Development Services.

JTED will be kept on the agenda for further follow ups during the New Year.

Development Services and Procurement will be kept on a rotation on a monthly basis to keep up with the new changes.

State of the County Luncheon has been cancelled for this upcoming year.

Commission membership also will be kept on the agenda monthly until all seats have been filled.

Minutes-minutes from the meetings will now be sent to the Board of Supervisors aides to keep all Supervisors informed of the activities of the SBC.

Call to the Public – No responses.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM