

Pima County Small Business Commission

County Administration Building  
130 W. Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Thursday, June 18, 2009  
3:00 P.M.

Members Present

Tom Ward  
Lea Marquez-Peterson  
Pat Taviss  
Lyra Done  
Ken Goodman  
Jim Leader, Jr.  
Jerry Long  
Joy Soler

Others Present

Tom Moulton  
Aurora Hernandez  
Bob Fick  
Patrick Cavanaugh

Members Absent

NONE

**Call to order/ Pledge-** The meeting was called to order at 3:15 P.M. by Tom Ward, Chairman, who led the pledge.

**Minutes** from the May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting were passed, unanimously.

**Membership Announcements-** Greg Geile of Super Pawn has resigned from the Commission. Commissioner Geile has been appointed to The State Board of Equalization and it meets in Phoenix the same day as the SBC. Edie Lake, co-owner of Gasoline Alley, in Green Valley will be recommended for appointment by Supervisor Ray Carroll at the July 7<sup>th</sup> Board of Supervisors meeting to replace Commissioner Geile, and is expected to attend the July 16 meeting.

Joy Soler the newest member of the Commission was introduced. Ms. Soler is the owner of Revolutionary Grounds coffee shop /bookstore on Fourth Avenue. She was previously a social worker for the Southern AZ Aids Foundation, and now runs the vegan restaurant and bookstore.

**Chairman's Report-**

- Congratulatory letter to AGM Containers- ,at the Commission's suggestion a congratulatory letter was sent to AGM Containers, for it's selection as Small Business of the Year by the U. S. Chamber of Commerce. The Chaiman received a thank you call from Mr. Stewart, President of AGM.
- Meeting with County Administrator- the first fruits of the May 18, 2009 meeting with the County Administrator are apparent this month with Mr. Moulton reporting to the Commission on County activities. Mr. Moulton will make similar reports each month, and if he is unavailable, his program coordinator, Catherine Strickland will substitute for him. Both Mr. Moulton and the Chairman expressed their satisfaction in this new arrangement.

- Small Business Award- the Commission voted to institute an annual award as “Small Business of the Year” to a local small business. The Chairman appointed Jerry Long, Jim Leader, Jr., and Pat Taviss to serve on an ad hoc committee, to design the procedures for the award. The committee will report at the September 17, 2009 meeting.

### **Tom Moulton Report-**

- Tom Moulton, Director of Pima County Economic Development and Tourism gave a report on the Pima County Budget. Pima County is waiting for the State to complete its’ budget, The County budget is now rescheduled for the July 7, board of Supervisors meeting with final adoption set for July 28.
- Budget cuts- Pima County may be cutting an additional 5 percent of the outside agency budgets increasing it to a total of 15 percent. The City of Tucson has also cut 15.5 percent of the outside agency budgets, thus causing a 30.5 percent total cut for these agencies funded by both jurisdictions.
- Hotels –resorts- Rooms available/daily rate is down 24%. Resorts are hurting more than city hotels, the major chains are hurting even more. Resorts may not recover until 2011.
- Bond Advisory- 2009 bond election has been moved to a tentative November 2010 date. There will be a meeting of the Bond Advisory Council on August 28 at the Randolph Golf Center for public input.

### **Bob Fick Small Business Development Center Presentation-**

Bob Fick Director of the SBDC gave a power point presentation, SBD has three counselors who help provide consulting and training for small business owners in areas such as business planning, county financing, marketing, government procurement, etc. SBDC is currently at Pima Community College but must move by December 31. SBDC is in need of a host organization which will be able to provide office space. Matching funds and/or in-kind donations are being sought. In addition to office space, Pima Community College also provided \$119,000 to SBDC this past fiscal year.

A copy of Mr. Fick’s presentation is being attached to these minutes for the Commissioners information.

The Commission decided to approach Supervisor Sharon Bronson to determine if TREO could assist in retaining the SBDC in Tucson. Ms. Bronson is the co-chair of TREO. Ms. Taviss, Mr. Long and the Chairman will meet with Ms. Bronson.

### **Badges-**

- Badges for the Commissioners were discussed. The Chairman volunteered to pay for the badges, which will be designed by Catherine Strickland and made by “The Badge Man”. (samples will be e-mailed to Commissioners for approval)
- Business Cards- Business cards were distributed to the Commissioners. Additional cards are available from Ms. Hernandez.

### **Commissioner Exchange-**

An exchange of Commissioners between the City and County SBC's was recommended. Commissioner Goodman volunteered to go the City of Tucson SBC meetings and report to Pima County SBC. The Chairman asked Commissioner Marquez-Peterson to ascertain if the City SBC would be willing to have someone attend County SBC meetings. Ms. Marquez-Peterson will report back to the Commission at its' July 16, 2009 meeting.

### **Constituent contact-**

The Chairman and Commissioner Done said they would be glad to be contacted with any constituent issues. If any Commissioner has a constituent with any questions or concerns please have them contact either Commissioner.

### **SBA Loans-**

Commissioner Lea Marquez-Peterson reported that there are monies available through SBA Stimulus fund loans for Small Businesses. These loans are up to \$35,000, to be used for various items including existing debts with up to five year terms. Any small business interested is asked to contact their bank, credit union, or SBA.

### **Call to the Public-**

No response.

### **Meeting adjourned-**

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 P.M.