

**Pima County Small Business Commission
County Administration Building
130 W. Congress, 1st Floor
Thursday, February 20, 2014
3:00 P.M.**

Members Present

Tom Ward
Ken Goodman
Lyra Done
Patricia Brown
Gabrielle David
Joy Soler
Edie Lake

Others Present

Patrick Cavanaugh
Aurora Hernandez
Marion Hook

Members Absent

Shelby Hawkins
Mark Finchem
Jerry Long

Call to Order- The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ward at 3:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance- Chairman Ward led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approvals of Minutes- The minutes from the January 16th, 2014 meeting were approved, unanimously.

Patrick Cavanaugh – Coordinators Report- Mr. Cavanaugh was assigned at the last meeting to check if the Pima County Sports and Tourism Authority (PCSTA) needed any assistance in this upcoming year with their effort in becoming a permanent taxing authority. At this time there is nothing the SBC can help with. This will be tabled for another meeting in the future, when the issue comes closer. Mr. Cavanaugh will keep the SBC updated.

Sheriff's Department- Mr. Cavanaugh handed out a packet with information on several local communities working in conjunction with their local police departments. He will try to bring in a speaker from the PCSD to discuss small business and the Sheriff Department. Mr. Cavanaugh will report back next month.

Small Business 5th Annual Award- Mr. Cavanaugh spoke to Supervisor Bronson and she did pledge \$500.00 for this year's award. Tom Moulton from ED&T will match that again this year. Again there will be two awards, one rural and one local.

Chairman's Report- Chairman Ward- Chairman Ward spoke about *Opposition to HB 2379 Limiting Library Districts Taxing Authority*-. At this time the Legislature has changed the Bill, the Bill now reads each local jurisdiction will now be able to make its own decision on as to whether it wants to reduce or amend its own taxation. Chairman Ward called a motion to send a memo to the Legislature to support the HB 2379 as amended. Commissioner Goodman seconded the motion, motion carried, unanimously. Chairman Ward will draft and send out the memo. Libraries are very important to small business they have workshops assisting with business plan writing for small businesses, resume writing and other job related issues for unemployed workers.

Opposition to SB 1357- SB 1357 is a bill which would have extended the north boundary of Santa Cruz County to include parts of Sahuarita and Green Valley and the two existing and one proposed mines. This would lower tax rates. District 4 has received several calls from constituents who are concerned with the 1% increase in taxes. For larger businesses such as car dealers, this is a lot of money. The bill at this time has been recalled and no further action is needed at this time.

Pima Prosperity Fund- Chairman Ward gave an update on the Pima Prosperity Fund (PPF). Chairman Ward went to visit with Bob Ramirez, President of Vantage West and Rene Almazan, Senior Vice President and Primary Loan Officer, who would sit on the Board.

They were on board and did question as to why the County was not putting any monies into the Fund. Chairman Ward explained about the gifting clause that prohibits that. Vantage West is very interested in assisting with the PPF and thinks this will be a great good will project to assist small business.

SBC and Mexico- Chairman Ward is still working on the SBC and Mexico Forum. At this time it looks like we need to have one more planning meeting with the Panelists before the Forum. It has been very difficult to get all these folks in one place. Mr. Cavanaugh will continue to work on this, and report at the next meeting.

Vice Chairman Report – Vice-Chair Lake spoke about the Fifth Annual Small Business Award. The nomination form will be updated for 2014. The deadline will be set for June 15, and the SBC will make its decision at the June 19th meeting. That would put us in the position to go the BOS in July. Vice Chair Lake and Commissioner Goodman will be checking on the physical awards with Commissioner Long.

Fourth Avenue Street Fair- Vice Chair Lake called and spoke to Kurt Tallis, Events and Marketing Chairperson for the Street Fair Association. It seems like the community is not aware of how important the Street Fair is to Tucson. The Fair Committee, does not make any money, there are fees for health permits, Tucson Police Department fees, etc.; the little money they make is from beer vendors, or private donations. The City of Tucson collects individual tax from each Vendor; they collect the tax before the vendors go home. They don't get any help from anywhere. Vice-Chair Lake will attempt to get Mr. Tallis in to speak to the Commission.

Commissioner Goodman and Marion Hook will bring this up to the City SBC and see if the County and the City SBC's can combine to come up with a solution. Commissioners Goodman and Soler will report to Vice Chair Edie Lake.

Other Commissioner Reports

JTED- -Commissioner Goodman reported on JTED. The Legislation has changed and amendments have been made to the Proposal and 9th grade funding will be partially restored. Hopefully the HB 2176 will be passed and JTED 9th grade funding will be restored.

Commissioner Goodman also handed out the 2013 JTED Annual Report. The packet includes the Legislative updates for the 2013.

Chairman Ward entertained a motion to write a letter to the Legislature backing up the motion, motion seconded by Vice Chair, motion passed unanimously. Chairman Ward will write a memo to be sent to the Legislature.

Outlying Pima County – Commissioner Done was assigned to contact Catalina to see if there was anything the SBC could do to help. At this time it doesn't seem like there is anything the SBC can do, but Commissioner Done will continue to contact the area businesses to see if the SBC can help.

Marion Hook- City of Tucson Small Business Commission- No report due to lack of quorum. The City is looking to fill vacancies. Wards 6 and 5 have appointed someone but they are still short of a quorum.

Future Agenda items-

- Commissioner Goodman spoke to Lisa Lovallo from Cox Communications and she agreed to come speak to the SBC regarding Cox and small businesses.
- Pima County Sheriff's Department relationship with small businesses
- Rural and unincorporated areas-possible meeting at unincorporated town-td
- Job order contracts-JOCS
- Lea Marquez Peterson-President-Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Call to the Public- No response.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 P.M.