

**Pima County Small Business Commission
Meeting**

Thursday, October 18, 2018
3:00 P.M.

County Administration Building
130 W. Congress, 1st Floor
Tucson, Arizona

SUMMARY OF MEETING

Committee Members Present

Ken Goodman, Chairman
Lyra Done (via conference call)
Mark Miller (via conference call)
Juan Padres
Gabrielle David (via conference call)
Rhonda Pina

Committee Members Absent

Karen Schutte
Kent Blumenhal
Lucretia Free
Michael Mallozzi

Staff that Addressed the Committee

Pima County:

Patrick Cavanaugh, Economic Development
Deseret Romero, Economic Development

Guest Speaker:

Amber Smith, Tucson Metro Chamber

MOTIONS

MOTION: Rhonda Pina moved, seconded by Ken Goodman to support the proclamation for "Small Business Saturday" at the Board's November 24th meeting. Motion approved 6-0.

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Call to Order

The meeting began at 3:07 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Commission led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Update on Staff support for the Pima County Small Business Commission

Commission Coordinator and Economic Development Deputy Director, Patrick Cavanaugh updated the Commission on the staff support changes for the Commission.

4. Chairman's Report

Chairman Goodman deferred the item to be combined with Item #13 JTED Update.

5. Vice Chair's Report

Commissioner Miller noted no report but inquired as to the local economic development condition.

Mr. Cavanaugh provided the following information.

- State jobs had dropped (teachers)
- 6.7% job growth in aerospace and defense
- Construction jobs up
- Retail jobs flat or negative

Commission discussed the various industry jobs that are hurting, i.e. construction and health.

6. Coordinator's Report

Mr. Patrick Cavanaugh note the new District 3 appointment of Jenny Zimmerman. Mr. Cavanaugh inquired as to the preference of the Commission on the December meeting. The Commission agreed to forgo the December meeting as permitted in their bylaws.

7. Discussion of Amazon Distribution Center Supply Chain and Small Business

Mr. Cavanaugh suggested the Commission may wish to draft a letter from the Commission to Amazon directly.

The Commission briefly discussed, however no action was taken.

8. Amber Smith, President and CEO of the Tucson Metro Chamber

Ms. Smith discussed the Metro Chamber's new focus.

- Better involvement and coordination with business community groups, i.e. Sun Corridor and Visit Tucson
- Workforce (aerospace & defense)
- Supports infrastructure and parks improvements (Site selector advice)
- Stronger presence on the Small Business Commission

The Commission and Ms. Smith discussed the points above.

9. Discussion: Commissioner Padres and Workforce Investment Board Liaison

Commissioner Padres provided an update on the following:

- Workforce
- Need for Trades
- How is technology going to disrupt the next five years.
 - Example being call centers. Some jobs will disappear and others will be replaced.
- Importance of Pima Community College and JTED
- Labor force – 4.5% unemployment rate

10. Community/Rural outreach: Mt. Lemmon (subcommittee)

Mr. Cavanaugh reported that the last two meetings did not occur due to the lack of a quorum. The meetings are scheduled for the forth Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. – Bear Canyon Library.

11. Commissioner Malozzi: Consideration of resolution request for “Small Business Saturday”

Mr. Cavanaugh provided background on Commissioner Malozzi’s request for a Board proclamation to create a small business Saturday.

- Non-political
- Advocates for small businesses

MOTION: Rhonda Pina moved, seconded by Ken Goodman to support the proclamation for “Small Business Saturday” at the Board’s November 24th meeting. Motion approved 6-0.

12. Discussion of possible Pima County direct assistance to JTED

Mr. Cavanaugh stated how Mr. Huckleberry has spoken about the need to reinforce the importance of JTED. Pima County has been reaching out to the various education groups for some time and JTED needs the same assistance.

Mr. Cavanaugh and Commission continued to discuss the importance of JTED, including.

- Workforce focus
- Job shortages
- Funding/Needs

13. JTED Update

As discussed in item 12.

14. Other Commission Reports

Commissioner David discussed the Ajo small business crisis with potential massive utility rate increase.

- Electric increase 100%
- Water increase 300%
- Wastewater increase 450%
- Meeting next week
- Thankful to the County for participating as a convener.
- ACA Comment period (November 13th)

Mr. Cavanaugh noted that he would speak to the County representative in regards to a possible Commission support letter.

The Commission briefly discussed Commissioner David's comments above.

15. Future Agenda Items

Mr. Cavanaugh suggested the following for the next agenda.

- Workforce/Talent Attraction (Brent DeRaad – Visit Tucson)
- Wastewater
 - Sewer bills for small businesses
 - Billing system
 - Connection fees

16. Call to the Public

No one spoke.

17. Adjournment (4:47 p.m.)