

**Pima County Small Business Commission
Meeting**

Thursday, January 17, 2019
3:00 P.M.

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

SUMMARY OF MEETING

Committee Members Present

Ken Goodman, Chairman
Gabrielle David (via conference call)
Rhonda Pina
Kent Blumenthal
Lucretia Free (via conference call)
Michael Mallozzi
Jenni Zimmerman

Committee Members Absent

Mark Miller
Juan Padres
Lyra Done

Staff that Addressed the Committee

Pima County:
Patrick Cavanaugh, Economic Development
Deseret Romero, Economic Development

Guest Speaker:

Chris Poirier, Development Services

Guests:

Supervisor Steve Christy, Direct 4 Office
Beth Borozan, District 4 Office

MOTIONS

MOTION: Juan Padres moved, seconded by Rhonda Pina to approve the August 2018 and October 2018 meeting minutes. Motion approved 7-0.

MOTION: Kent Blumenthal moved, seconded by Rhonda Pina to elect Ken Goodman Chair and Mark Miller Vice Chair. Motion approved 7-0.

MOTION: Kent Blumenthal moved, seconded by Juan Padres to approve and send the provided DRAFT letter to the Arizona Corporation Commission. Motion approved 5-0.

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Call to Order

The meeting began at 3:10 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Commission led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Chris Poirier, Deputy Director, Pima County Development Services

Mr. Poirier provided the Commission with an update on improvements that the Development Services Department has been implementing related to customer service:

- Faster turnaround (processing of payments, permits, five-day turnaround, etc..)
- Infill Incentive District Improvements (County Code)
- Review and Removal of unnecessary processes for new businesses
- Overall review processes (multiple person review – less hold up on one person)
- Bridging gaps with other jurisdictions
- Sign Codes
- Inspection Portal (online appointment booking, next day service, and Skype inspections)
- Rural zone incentives

Several additional ideas were provided by Commissioners, such as guidelines for best business practices and additional guides for new businesses.

4. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Juan Padres moved, seconded by Rhonda Pina to approve the August 2018 and October 2018 meeting minutes. Motion approved 7-0.

5. Election of Officers from November 2018 Nominations

MOTION: Kent Blumenthal moved, seconded by Rhonda Pina to elect Ken Goodman Chair and Mark Miller Vice Chair. Motion approved 7-0.

6. Chairman's Report

Chairman Goodman updated the Commission on the Governor's recent actions to restore funding for freshman JTED and career and technical education.

In addition, Chairman Goodman provided a showcase flier for JTED to the Commission.

Commissioner Mallozzi noted recent introduced legislation by State Representative Andres Cano to provide funding for STEM education.

7. Vice Chair's Report

No report.

8. Coordinator's Report

Commissioner Coordinator Patrick Cavanaugh, provided an update on the DRAFT Pima County 2019-2021 Economic Development Plan Update. Mr. Cavanaugh noted the DRAFT Plan's emphasis on workforce.

Mr. Cavanaugh also noted ongoing discussions with Pima Community College and JTED on how Pima County can assist with necessary programs/infrastructure to meet the workforce needs of the community. Mr. Cavanaugh provided a recent example of funding provided by the Pima County Industrial Development Authority (IDA) for program tools.

9. Discussion of PCSBC letter to Amazon: Distribution Center and Local Small Business

Mr. Cavanaugh noted the delay in any response by Amazon. He elaborated that this delay may be related to a new Amazon initiative targeting small businesses and incorporating a program called "Marketspace" that was launched at the beginning of 2019. Mr. Cavanaugh suggested holding off on the Commission's letter to Amazon until he could do more research on the initiative and speak with the County Administrator.

Chairman Goodman shared concerns with recent fliers produced by Amazon purporting to support small business were not comprehensive.

10. Discussion: Commissioner Padres and the Workforce Investment Board

No report.

11. Community/Rural Outreach: Mt. Lemmon (subcommittee)

Commissioner Free inquired as to the pending membership letters for the Mt. Lemmon Bee. Commissioner Zimmerman noted that she was continuing to work on the letters.

Commissioner Zimmerman discussed resident comments/concerns related to:

- Trash from visitors
- Increase in traffic (270,000 vehicles in 72 days)
- Communications with Sheriff Deputies

12. Ajo Utility rates and the impact to small business: Arizona Corporation Commission letter

Commissioner David shared grave concerns for the Ajo community if the rates were to be implemented.

Mr. Cavanaugh noted the County's involvement as a "formal intervener" and provided the Commission with a DRAFT letter from the Commission, as discussed at the previous Commission meeting. Noting that this letter would represent the Commission only and would be separate from the County.

MOTION: Kent Blumenthal moved, seconded by Juan Padres to approve and send the provided DRAFT letter to the Arizona Corporation Commission. Motion approved 5-0.

13. JTED Update/Discussion of Pima County Assistance to JTED

As discussed in item 6 (Chairman's Report) and item 8 (Coordinator's Report).

14. Other Commission Reports

None.

15. Future Agenda Items

Chairman Good provided the following suggestions:

- Invite Business Advisor Bill Nordbrock to one of the next meetings.
- Small Business Awards
- Invite the Sheriff to Sheriff/small business issues

16. Call to the Public

No one spoke.

17. Adjournment (4:45 p.m.)