

**Pima County Small Business Commission  
Meeting**

Thursday, August 13, 2020  
3:00 P.M.

Video Conference/Telephonic Meeting

**SUMMARY OF MEETING**

**Committee Members Present**

Kent Blumenthal, Chairman  
Bernie Wiegandt, Vice-Chair  
Gabrielle David  
Guillermo Gallegos  
Jenni Zimmerman  
Josh Jacobsen  
Ken Goodman  
Natasha Herzig

**Committee Members Absent**

Mark Miller  
Raul Aguirre  
Juan Padres

**Staff that Addressed the Committee**

Pima County:

Patrick Cavanaugh, Economic Development  
Deseret Romero, Economic Development

Guests on the call:

Maria Klucarova, Supervisor Sharon Bronson's Office  
Beth Borozan, Supervisor Steve Christy's Office

**MOTIONS**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Ken Goodman moved, seconded by Commissioner Jenny Zimmerman, to modify the Small Business Commission meeting schedule from meeting every two weeks to meeting every three weeks. Motion approved 8-0.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Gabrielle David moved, seconded by Commissioner Jenny Zimmerman to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved 8-0.

## MEETING SUMMARY

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting began at 3:04 p.m.

### 2. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted by Ms. Deseret Romero to start the meeting.

### 3. Chair's Report: Introduction of two newly appointed Commissioners

- Chairman Kent Blumenthal welcomed newly appointed, Commissioner Natasha Herzig (District 4 Appointment).
- Chairman Blumenthal provided a brief note of Agenda Item #8 – DRAFT Work Plan.
- Chairman Blumenthal provided a review of the meeting protocols.

### 4. Kathy Prather, Superintendent/CEO of Pima JTED: small business workforce training

Superintendent Kathy Prather provided the Commission with the following updates related the JTED.

- School Started: Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup> with 100% online learning.
- Limited In-Person Start: Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup>
- JTED recently received their certificate of occupancy for their new building at The Bridges.
- New Programs: Aviation (FAA drone certification), Robotics and Engineering, Healthcare Pathway Expansion, Nurse/Healthcare Giver, Medical Assistant (Comprehensive health) and Animation (Gaming design/3D Studio)
- TUSD Day Program: 400 students at The Bridges full time. (Regular classes and JTED classes)
- The Bridges Financing: Public/Private Partnership
- Other Locations: Waiting lists, 2019 – 21,000 students and online

Ms. Prather answered Commissioners questions:

- Hands-on program management? – By front loading OSHA certifications and virtual projects.
- Request for tour of The Bridges. – After pandemic for safety.
- How can Commission help JTED? – Getting out the word on JTED and support for freshman and internship funding but State Legislature.

### 5. Approval of Minutes

Commission Coordinator Patrick Cavanaugh noted that the July 16, 2020 meeting minutes would be provided at the Commission's next Commission meeting.

6. Coordinator's Report: Update on Federal, State and Local Small Business Assistance

Commission Coordinator Patrick Cavanaugh provided the following updates:

- Federal: Congress in recess. Still waiting for additional stimulus relief. Possibly September.
- State: No update.
- Local: Save for item #8 of agenda.

7. Discussion: Pima County Small Business Commission 2020-2021 (draft) Work Plan

Chairman Blumenthal introduced his DRAFT 2020-21 Work Plan for the Commission's review.

Coordinator Cavanaugh noted that the DRAFT Work Plan was included the existing plan along with items related to COVID-19 and small businesses.

No action was taken by the Commission.

8. Pima County Administrator July 21, 2020 memorandum: "Pima County COVID-19 Expenses and Planned Expenditures Associated with the Public Health Response"

Commission Coordinator Cavanaugh provided a brief review of the County Administrator's July 21, 2020 memorandum referenced above.

- Business Assistance at local and state level
- Majority of CARES funding going to public health response (PPE assistance)
- \$4.5 million for small business assistance
- NEW \$2 million small business grant program for childcare providers (possibly some left over for non-childcare provider businesses)

Commissioner Jacobsen shared his concerns for the "macro scenario" of the Pima Ready for You program.

- Great Marketing
- How do we know it's working? What is the review process?
- Concern with people being able to make complaints against businesses.
- Is it actually mitigating or is it spreading the Health Department too thin?

Commissioner Herzig shared her personal experience with her business not coming into compliance with County COVID health proclamation.

- Employees with medical condition not wearing masks.
- Multiple visits by Health Department.
- Health Department referring her business situation to the County Attorney for review, as there are no exemptions included on the proclamation.

Commission Coordinator Cavanaugh noted that the Health Department are the experts on this topic and that while they are extremely busy he could try once more to see if someone might be able to attend a Commission meeting.

Commissioner Jacobsen expressed concern for the widespread confusion by Health Department, public and restaurants.

Chairman Blumenthal requested that the Commissioners submit concerns/questions Commissioner Jacobsen. Commission Coordinator Cavanaugh recommended that the Commission submit any concerns/questions to himself and Deseret Romero. Noting that Commission discussing Commission business outside of a publically noticed meeting would be in violation of the open meetings law.

Chairman Blumenthal agreed and requested that Commissioners supply their concerns/questions for the Health Department to Commission Coordinator Cavanaugh to be compiled. All concerns/questions should be supplied by 5:00 p.m. on Friday.

Chairman Blumenthal also requested that if Commissioner Herzig received the County Attorney review that she supply to Commission Coordinator Cavanaugh.

9. Pima Ready for You program update (Commissioner Aguirre)

Chairman Blumenthal noted that item #9 was to be addressed by Commissioner Aguirre, however he was unable to attend and the item would be continued to the next meeting.

Commissioner Wiegandt noted the limited market place for the Ready for You program.

Commission Coordinator Cavanaugh noted the Ready for You program was created to help ensure that the public knew that a business who met the appropriate safety criteria was safe to visit.

10. 2020 Small Business Commission Awards planning and scheduling

Commission Coordinator Cavanaugh provided the following update:

- Program timeline/process moving along as noted by Commission.
- Allowed for time if low response.

Chairman Blumenthal shared his frustration with not being able to utilize the Ready for You program business contacts for the 2020 Awards.

Commission Coordinator noted the County's concern for utilizing the business contact information for purposes unrelated to the Ready for You program. The businesses provided their contact information for the Ready for You program not another purpose.

Chairman Blumenthal asked that he be able to review the final draft of the 2020 Awards program prior to being activated.

11. Old Business: Pima County Economic Opportunity Zoning Text Amendment: Letter of support

Commission Coordinator Cavanaugh provided the commission with an update on the current status of the Economic opportunity Zoning Text Amendment and a recent community complaint by the Tucson Mountains Association.

12. Commissioner updates

Chairman Blumenthal sought updates from the Commissioner.

Commissioner Jacobsen addresses his continued concern/frustration for a community education plan. It would have been better to create an education plan had been put into place prior to the Ready for You program, instead of singling out certain sectors of the business community.

13. Commission meeting schedule: Chairman's proposal to meet every three weeks

Chairman Blumenthal suggested moving the Commission meeting schedule from two weeks to three weeks.

**MOTION: Commissioner Ken Goodman moved, seconded by Commissioner Jenny Zimmerman, to modify the Small Business Commission meeting schedule from meeting every two weeks to meeting every three weeks. Motion approved 8-0.**

The next Commission meeting would be held on September 3, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

14. Agenda items for future meeting

The Commission discussed the following agenda items for the next Commission meeting:

- 2020 Awards update
- Zoning Text Amendment update
- Pima Ready for You program update
- DRAFT Work Plan (resubmit for consideration)
- JTED (spending and new building)

12. Call to the Public

The following attendee spoke at call to the public:

- Maria Klucarova, Supervisor Sharon Bronson's Office greeted the Commission.
- Beth Borozan, Supervisor Steve Christy's Office greeted the Commission.

11. Adjournment (4:53 p.m.)

**MOTION: Commissioner Gabrielle David moved, seconded by Commissioner Jenny Zimmerman to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved 8-0.**