

**Pima County Small Business Commission  
Meeting**

Thursday, September 3, 2020  
3:00 P.M.

Video Conference/Telephonic Meeting

**SUMMARY OF MEETING**

**Committee Members Present**

Kent Blumenthal, Chairman  
Bernie Wiegandt, Vice-Chair  
Jenni Zimmerman  
Josh Jacobsen  
Ken Goodman  
Natasha Herzig  
Raul Aguirre  
Juan Padres

**Committee Members Absent**

Mark Miller  
Gabrielle David  
Guillermo Gallegos

**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 Raul Aguirre moved, seconded by Commissioner Bernie Wiegandt, to approve the August 13, 2020 meeting minutes. Motion approved 8-0.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Ken Goodman moved, seconded by Commissioner Juan Padres, to approve the proposed 2020-21 Work Plan. Motion approved 8-0.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Jenni Zimmerman, seconded by Commissioner Juan Padres to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved 8-0.

## MEETING SUMMARY

1. Call to Order

The meeting began at 3:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted by Commission Coordinator Patrick Cavanaugh to start the meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes (August 13, 2020)

**MOTION: Commissioner Raul Aguirre moved, seconded by Commissioner Bernie Wiegandt, to approve the August 13, 2020 meeting minutes. Motion approved 8-0.**

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

Chairman Kent Blumenthal provided a brief overview of the meeting protocols and the review of the following agenda items:

- REVISED DRAFT 2020-21 Work Plan
- Health Department Questions and County Administrator Memorandum Response

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

Commission Coordinator Patrick Cavanaugh provided the following updates:

- County: Small Business Grant Program
  - \$1.5 million CARES Act/CRF funding
  - Small Businesses only
  - Up to \$10,000 per business
  - 30 employee (maximum)
  - Unincorporated Pima County only
  - Possibility to extend to other Pima County jurisdictions
  - Daycares still able to apply (40 have applied)
  - PCSBC review: application, marketing and outreach
- Federal: No update.
- State: No update.

6. Commission questions forwarded to the Pima County Health Department and the Pima County Administrator August 19, 2020 memorandum response

Chairman Blumenthal opened the discussion up to the Commission.

Commissioner Jacobsen shared his concerns that the County Administrator's response did not emulate the image of what he and other restaurant owners were experiencing.

Commissioner Jacobsen also questioned the actual effects of the Ready for You program, believed it needed actual data and felt that the program was counterproductive.

Commissioner Herzig provided an update on her personal business' experience with the Health Department COVID-19 compliance.

- Received notice from Pima County Attorney's Office
  - Must come into Compliance
  - Believes she is going above and beyond
  - Provide a written mitigation plan
  - The Health Department has now begun working with her for a resolution

Commissioner Wiegandt conveyed his disappointment that the Ready for You program does not extend to businesses that are not regulated by the Health Department. Commissioner Weigandt expressed his difficulties with finding educational materials related the COVID-19 for his business.

Commissioner Aguirre provided an update on the Ready for You program as he is a Back to Business Commissioner.

- While restaurants were the focus, the County is looking to expand to other businesses.
- 600 restaurants have registered
- Positive local business response
- Positive impact on emphasizing public safety
- Supporting local businesses by letting the customers know that this business is in compliance and safe.
- County is trying to be flexible with businesses where it can.

Commissioner Goodman and Commissioner Aguirre discussed how businesses could possible pivot by modifying their type of service to generate revenue.

Commissioner Goodman inquired if Commissioner Herzig felt that she was receiving special treatment by the Health Department. Commissioner Herzig noted that she did not feel like she was receiving special treatment and that the Health Department was treating her business like it would any other business.

The Commission continued to discuss their appreciation for the Health Department and views of the Ready for You program.

Chairman Blumenthal proposed that he draft a letter to the County Administrator thanking him for his recent response and request a Health Department official attend the next Small Business Commission meeting to answer additional questions by the Commission. The Commissioners agreed.

#### 7. Discussion: Pima County Small Business Commission 2020-21 Work Plan

Chairman Blumenthal provided a brief review of the DRAFT 2020-21 Work Plan and then opened the discussion up to the Commission.

No one spoke.

Chairman Blumenthal proposed approving the draft 2020-21 Work Plan.

**MOTION: Commissioner Ken Goodman moved, seconded by Commissioner Juan Padres, to approve the proposed 2020-21 Work Plan. Motion approved 8-0.**

8. 2020 Small Business Commission Awards program and communications status

Mr. Cavanaugh provided the following update on the 2020-1 awards program:

- Press Release sent on 8/28/2020
- Application active on website
- Both Channel 13 and 9 produced pieces on the awards.
- Deadline September 28<sup>th</sup> by 5:00 p.m.
- Will request another push by Communications via social media

At the request of Mr. Cavanaugh, Ms. Romero provided the following additional details.

- 10 applications received (two – for same company by two different people)
- Chairman Blumenthal's letters to the Chambers were distributed on Wednesday.
- Two Chambers have responded that they will share with their membership.

9. Pima County Development Services Economic Opportunity Planning

Mr. Cavanaugh provided updates on the County's recent efforts to improve the adaptive reuse of businesses property, the proposed zoning changes adjacent to The Loop and the Sign Code revisions.

10. JTED Update

No update.

11. Commissioner updates

Chairman Blumenthal sought updates from the Commission.

Commissioner Zimmerman noted the recent announcement of the \$5 million FLAP grant designated to improving the parking issues on Mt. Lemmon. (5.4 percent County match). Commissioner Zimmerman thanked Coordinator Cavanaugh for assisting Commissioner Zimmerman throughout the process.

Commissioner Goodman had no update but was grateful that Superintendent Prather attended the previous meeting and believed the state legislation that would greatly assist JTED seemed to be progressing.

Chairman Blumenthal announced his recent honor of having the Green Valley Recreation pickle ball court named after him. He will be inviting the Commission to the ceremony.

12. Commission meeting schedule

Item was not addressed.

13. Agenda items for future meeting

Chairman Blumenthal opened the item up for discussion.

No one spoke. Chairman Blumenthal stated he hoped to have a representative of the Health Department at the next meeting or at a meeting that would allow for a Commission quorum and accommodate the schedule of the department.

It was noted that the next meeting would be on September 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.

14. 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.

15. Adjournment (4:49 p.m.)

**MOTION: Commissioner Jenni Zimmerman, seconded by Commissioner Juan Padres to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved 8-0.**