

**Pima County Small Business Commission
Meeting**

Thursday, April 16, 2020
3:00 P.M.

Telephonic Meeting

SUMMARY OF MEETING

Committee Members Present

Kent Blumenthal, Chairman
Ken Goodman
Jenni Zimmerman
Lucretia Free
Bernie Wiegandt
Gabrielle David
Juan Padres

Committee Members Absent

Mark Miller

Staff that Addressed the Committee

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

Guests:

None Identified

MOTIONS

MOTION: Bernie Wiegandt moved, seconded by Gabriel David to approve the February 20, 2020 meeting minutes. Motion approved 7-0.

MOTION: Lucretia Free moved, seconded by Jennie Zimmerman to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved 7-0.

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Call to Order

The meeting began at 3:02 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted to start the meeting.

3. Review Telephonic Meeting Protocols

Chairman Kent Blumenthal provided the Commission and public with a review of the Small Business Commission meeting protocols.

4. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Bernie Wiegandt moved, seconded by Gabriel David to approve the February 20, 2020 meeting minutes. Motion approved 7-0.

4. Chairman's Report

- a. Chairman Blumenthal provided a brief review of the Commission's reactivation by the Board of Supervisors.
- b. Chairman Blumenthal discussed his recent letters to the Supervisor Valadez and Supervisor Villegas seeking assistance with appointments for their current vacant seats on the Small Business Commission.
- c. Chairman Blumenthal requested that the Commissioners provide individual accounts for their recent experience with COVID-19 and their business. Each Commissioner then provided their individual experience.

- Vice Chairman Bernie Wiegandt:

- o Typically high season, however business has come to a halt
- o Supplier concerns
- o Slowed Revenue
- o Hearing from other businesses that they needed to close, not directly related to COVID-19
- o Would ask Board of Supervisors to encourage working with regional partners to avoid duplication

- Commissioner Ken Goodman:

- o Federal Funding (PPP) confusing and multiple difficulties with large banks
- o SBA loan process experience better

- Commissioner Lucretia Free:

- o Provided feedback from other business owners in the Vail community that were experiencing hardships due to COVID-19. (examples include - revenues down considerably and hard keeping employees on payroll)
- o Noted that the Small Business Commission was poised to have an active role to assist the Board of Supervisors in crafting the re-opening of businesses.

- Commissioner Gabriel David:

- o Hospitality layoffs difficult for Ajo community
- o Community group that provides weekly dinner may close
- o Some community groups coming together
- o Online Book sale are up

- Commissioner Juan Padres:

- o Business Revenue down

- Commissioner Jenni Zimmerman:

- o Majority of Mt. Lemmon businesses closed
- o PPP experience confusing and difficult with large bank

6. Coordinator's Report: Pima County COVID-19 Activities as they pertain to Small Business

Commission Coordinator Patrick Cavanaugh provide the Commission with brief updates on the following:

- Pima County Economic Development Office collaboratively working to assist businesses with resources available to them. (Federal, state, etc...)
- Pima Works Website
- Pima County coordinating with other community organizations
- Local Economic Forecast (UA – George Hammond)

7. Discussion: COVID-19 federal, state and local business resources/Pima Works

Mr. Cavanaugh provided a brief review of the PimaWorks webpage and invited the Commission to review and provide input.

8. Discussion: Effectiveness of Federal COVID-19 Financial Assistance in Pima County/Report

Mr. Cavanaugh noted that he was working on a DRAFT report to the County Administrator regarding businesses and their experiences with the COVID-19 small business loan processes and would provide to Commission once approved by the County Administrator and the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Cavanaugh noted that he anticipated more direction for the Small Business Commission by the County Administrator and Board of Supervisors at the April 21st Board of Supervisors meeting.

9. Update on Planning Activities related to Future Economic Recovery in Pima County

Mr. Cavanaugh noted to the Commission that he anticipated direction to the Small Business Commission at the April 21st Board of Supervisor meeting.

The Commissioners discussed their thoughts on how the Small Business Commission could assist the business community.

- Open with Limited Services
- Recovery protocols
- Making sure rural areas are included
- Creating a timeline
- Commitments from elected officials

Mr. Cavanaugh shared the recent comments by the Governor's office related to following the medical data in order to start re-open the businesses.

Mr. Cavanaugh also noted the recent partnership by the Arizona Commerce Authority and Sun Corridor Inc. to create a regional taskforce to start discussing strategy for economic recovery after the pandemic emergency.

10. Nomination and selection process to fill Commissioner-at-large Vacancy

Mr. Cavanaugh shared the resignation of long-time Commissioner Lyra Done. Mr. Cavanaugh provided the process for the Commission to appoint a replacement.

11. Frequency of Commission Meetings during the COVID-19 Emergency Declaration

Chairman Blumenthal suggested meeting weekly (Thursdays) until further notice. The Commission agreed to this suggestion.

12. Meeting Dates and Future Agenda Items

See item #11.

13. Call to the Public: Telephonic

No one from the public spoke.

Commissioner Free shared concerns that the Commission were unable to identify participants and if the Commission was permitted to hold ZOOM meetings rather than telephonic meetings.

Pima County staff Deseret Romero reported that staff reached out to the active Pima County Commissions and Committees during the COVID-19 pandemic to analyze how they were hosting their meetings. The consensus was to hold the meetings as telephonic meetings, as it allowed more of the public to participate. While webinars were considered it would limit the participants, as you would need a computer and internet.

Commissioner Free asked County staff to explore the option of hosting a ZOOM meeting for the Commission by seeking guidance from the County Attorney.

14. Adjournment (5:02 p.m.)

MOTION: Lucretia Free moved, seconded by Jennie Zimmerman to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved 7-0.