

**Pima County Small Business Commission
Meeting**

Thursday, May 22, 2020
3:00 P.M.

Telephonic Meeting

SUMMARY OF MEETING

Committee Members Present

Kent Blumenthal, Chairman
Bernie Wiegandt, Vice-Chair
Ken Goodman
Jenni Zimmerman
Raul Aguirre
Gabrielle David
Juan Padres
Mark Miller
Guillermo Gallegos

Committee Members Absent

Lucretia Free

Staff that Addressed the Committee

Pima County:

Patrick Cavanaugh, Economic Development
Deseret Romero, Economic Development

Guests on the call:

MOTIONS

MOTION: Commissioner Goodman moved, seconded by Commissioner Wiegandt, to approve the April 23, 2020 meeting minutes. Motion approved 8-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Goodman moved, seconded by Commissioner Aguirre, to modify the Commission's meeting schedule during the COVID-19 pandemic from weekly to bi-weekly, pending a need to return to weekly meetings. The Commission's next meeting would be June 4th. Motion approved 9-0.

MOTION: Commissioner David moved, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved 9-0.

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Call to Order

The meeting began at 3:01 p.m.

2. Roll Call

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

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Commissioner Goodman moved, seconded by Commissioner Wiegandt, to approve the April 23, 2020 meeting minutes. Motion approved 8-0.

4. Chair's Report

a. Repository for small business-generated 'best practices' operating procedures during COVID 19 pandemic: Chairman Blumenthal moved item for discussion under item #6 on the agenda.

b. Pima County Best Practices Pledge Badge: At the request of the Chairman, Commission Coordinator Patrick Cavanaugh provided the Commission with a brief narrative of the Pima County Best Practices Pledge Badge program.

Commissioner Aguirre noted his participation of working with the County on the Back-2-Business Taskforce to create the program and the positive response received from businesses.

Vice-Chair Wiegandt shared his support for the program but wanted to see the program reach beyond restaurants and into other industries such as retail. Vice-Chair Wiegandt also felt that the fire districts could possibly assist with some oversight, specific to fire code restrictions.

Mr. Cavanaugh stated that he would share the Commissions comments with the Health Department.

Commissioner Aguirre also noted that he would share this information with Back-2-Business Taskforce Committee.

c. 2020 Small Business Awards program/criteria: Chairman Blumenthal discussed creating a subcommittee to work on modifying the 2020 Small Business Commission awards to include an award that recognizes businesses efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Cavanaugh recommended that the item be moved to the next meeting agenda. Chairman Blumenthal agreed.

5. Coordinator's Report: Technical Issues Associated with Teleconference Meeting

Mr. Cavanaugh provided a brief update as to the logistics of organizing the video conference vs teleconference options for the Commission. In summary, Mr. Cavanaugh noted that after much consultation with County IT staff, we believe that we will be able to host our next Small Business Commission meeting with Microsoft Teams.

6. Discussion: Public and PCSBC Commissioner comments on Pima County COVID 19- related proclamation and regulations

Chairman Blumenthal started by thanking Mr. Huckelberry for his quick response to the Chairman's recent letter regarding the County's DRAFT COVID-19 Proclamation. The Chairman also noted several of the Commissioner's individual comments submitted to the County during the public comment process.

The Commission discussed the Commission's role and whom the appropriate continued communication should be with. The Commission discussed possibly communicating directly with the Governor's Office, City of Tucson and Pima County.

Mr. Cavanaugh noted as an advisory body of the Board of Supervisors, communication should be done through the Board.

The Commission also shared concerns that communications directly with the Governor's Office or the City of Tucson may interfere with conversations County Administration and the Board of Supervisors may already be having.

Commissioner Aguirre shared his recent positive communication with Juan Ciscomani of Governor Ducey's Southern Arizona Office.

Mr. Cavanaugh suggested inviting Mr. Ciscomani to a future Commission meeting to answer general questions about small business issues during the COVID-19 pandemic but that he would need to consult with County Administration to make sure that this would not interfere with any ongoing conversations that administration was having with the Governor's Office.

7. Update: Board of Supervisors revisions to May 13, 2020 Proclamation concerning COVID 19 - related Regulations

Chairman Blumenthal opened the conversation up to the Commission for discussion.

Commissioner Gallegos – seeking clarification on item #6 (eating at bar counter tops). Mr. Cavanaugh read the revised language for item #6 of the finalized Proclamation.

Vice-Chair Wiegandt – glad to see the revisions approved by the Board. Original version was too restrictive. Would like to see that the revised proclamation gets out to the businesses as soon as possible.

Commission Aguirre – great job done by County Administration. The County has been moving fast, listening to businesses and being transparent. Feels it is important for restaurants to implement, as we are not out of hot water.

Commissioner Miller – improvement from original version. In speaking with other businesses, they wish to comply but are having difficulty simply surviving. Customers are not yet comfortable with getting out.

Commissioner Goodman – good revision. Concerns with the President opening churches with no guidelines.

Commissioner David – concurs with fellow Commissioner comments. Agreed that bar seating was confusing.

Commissioner Zimmerman – will continue to do take-out only. Concerns with opening restaurant fully, due to changing guidelines, employee staffing and patron compliance to guidelines.

Chairman Blumenthal – county has done a good job protecting the citizens based on the approved guidelines. They acted when others did not.

Commissioner Padres – concerned that business owners will not understand the Proclamation. County needs to proceed with caution, as this is people's livelihoods. Did the County consult with other local governments to follow their lead?

Mr. Cavanaugh noted that local governments over the US are dealing with similar issues. The County acted by creating the Back-2-Business Taskforce comprised of health experts and local business groups. The Board held many public meetings listening to the public's comments/concerns.

8. Nomination and selection process to fill Small Business Commissioner at-large vacancy

Mr. Cavanaugh shared with the Commission his completion of the DRAFT At-Large Commission Appointment application process and submission to the Clerk of the Board and County Attorney for review. He also noted his addition of a resume requirement, to better assist the Commission with their review process. The next steps would be to advertise the request for applications for 8 to 10 days. The advertisement would be posted on the County's website and social media. Mr. Cavanaugh would also be sending to the Commissioners for distribution to their community partners.

Vice-Chair Wiegandt suggested sending to the Chambers and local trade organizations.

9. Agenda Items for May 28, 2020 Meeting

Chairman Blumnthal opened the item up to the Commissioners, asking if the Commission would like to modify the Commission's meeting schedule and any new agenda items.

Vice-Chair Wiegandt – The meeting frequency has provided robust attendance, however the Commission may not need to meet as frequent at this time. Possibly bi-weekly meetings.

Commissioner Padres – agreed with meeting every other week.

Commissioner David – agree with every other week.

Commissioner Zimmerman – agree with every other week.

Commissioner Goodman – agreed with every other week but wanted to make sure the Board did not want the Commission to meet more frequently.

Mr. Cavanaugh stated that with the Proclamation being completed he did not believe there was a need to meet weekly.

Chairman Blumenthal suggested that the next meeting be held on June 4th at 3:00 p.m.

Commissioner Miller – agreed with meeting bi-weekly, however the Commission should be ready to meet more frequently if needed. Considering the regulations will start to be implemented.

Commissioner Aguirre – yes, bi-weekly.

Commissioner Gallegos – yes, bi-weekly.

MOTION: Commissioner Goodman moved, seconded by Commissioner Aguirre, to modify the Commission’s meeting schedule during the COVID-19 pandemic from weekly to bi-weekly, pending a need to return to weekly meetings. The Commission’s next meeting would be June 4th. Motion approved 9-0.

The Commission discussed the following agenda items for the June 4th meeting.

- Governor’s Southern Arizona Office – Juan Ciscomani Attend
- 2020 Small Business Commission Awards
- At-Large Commission appointment Update

10. Adjournment (4:32 p.m.)

MOTION: Commissioner David moved, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved 9-0.