

**Pima County Sales Tax Advisory Committee  
Meeting**

**Friday, October 27, 2017  
9:30 A.M.**

**Abrams Public Health Center  
3950 S. Country Club Road  
Tucson, Arizona**

**SUMMARY OF MEETING**

**Committee Members Present**

Wendell Long, Chair  
Michael McDonald, Vice Chair  
Sergio Arellano  
Allan Cameron  
Mark Clark  
Dan Eckstrom (left at 11:15 a.m.)  
Kelly Fryer  
Larry Gibbons  
Bob Gugino (left at 11:30 a.m.)  
Larry Hecker (left at 11:38 a.m.)  
Curt Lueck  
Robert Medler  
Dennis Minano  
Charles Wetegrove

**Committee Members Absent**

Rick Price  
Anita Smith-Etheridge

**MOTIONS**

**MOTION: Dan Eckstrom moved, seconded by Sergio Arellano, to adopt Phase 1 as presented. Motion approved 13-0.**

**MOTION: Dan Eckstrom moved, seconded by Bob Gugino, in favor of Phase 1 and 2 as discussed. Motion approved 13-0.**

**MOTION: Robert Medler moved, seconded by Dennis Minano, to approve the September 29, 2017 meeting summary as amended. Motion approved 13-0.**

**MOTION: Sergio Arellano moved, seconded by Curt Lueck for purposes of discussion, to place Supervisor Christy's road repair program on Committee's next agenda for action, as well as proposed modifications in response to questions. Robert Medler moved a substitute motion, accepted by Sergio Arellano and Curt Lueck, to include on the agenda Supervisor Christy's proposal for the next meeting for discussion purposes only, and invite to the next meeting RTA representatives, as well transportation representatives from each of the local jurisdictions. Motion approved 10-0.**

## MEETING SUMMARY

### 1. Welcome

The meeting began at 9:34 a.m. with a quorum.

### 2. Pledge of Allegiance

### 3. Introductions and Opening Comments

Chairman Wendell Long and Vice Chair Michael McDonald made opening comments. Chairman Long made an open invite to elected officials to attend and speak to Committee. Charles Wetegrove, representing the Southern Arizona Lodging and Resort Association (SALARA) reported that SALARA's Board of Directors met recently and unanimously voted to try to get Pima County Supervisor Ally Miller to attend one of these meetings since approval of a sales tax requires a unanimous vote of the Board and appears from materials sent to the Committee that Supervisor Miller is not willing to consider a sales tax. There was discussion as to whether a motion was needed to invite Supervisor Miller to the meeting. Nicole Fyffe stated that staff could extend an invite on behalf of the Committee. Robert Medler stated that there should be an expectation that each Supervisor attend meetings in their district. Each of the Committee members introduced themselves.

Chairman Long reiterated the responsibility of the Committee to make recommendations specific to the following questions:

1. Should the Board of Supervisors adopt a half-cent general sales tax?
2. Should the sales tax be used for road repair, property tax reduction, or some combination of both?
3. Should the sales tax be temporary or permanent?

### 4. Call to the Audience

No one spoke at this time. A member of the audience did later submit a speaker card, asking not to speak, but requesting that public meetings be held at a time that more working people can attend – suggesting noon, 4 p.m. or 5 p.m. Her speaker card is attached to this meeting summary.

### 5. Committee Meetings and Organization

Dennis Minano presented a possible path forward regarding committee meetings and public input. As proposed, Phase 1 would be focused on education, information and listening, and would include three meetings/listening sessions in November, December and January to hear from the public and interested organizations. Phase 2 would be focused on the Committee's deliberations on its three specific tasks in order to make a recommendation to the Board in March.

**MOTION: Dan Eckstrom moved, seconded by Sergio Arellano, to adopt Phase 1 as presented. Motion approved 13-0.**

Mr. Minano suggested that notices for the listening sessions include the three questions the Committee must address so that speakers can be prepared to address those questions. Vice-Chair McDonald suggested meeting at community centers like El Pueblo, in order to get input from the general public that is not associated with interested organizations.

Robert Medler suggested a subcommittee to work with staff to identify meeting locations, a list of organizations to invite, etc. Charles Wetegrove and Kelly Fryer volunteered to assist Mr. Medler with this.

Ms. Fryer spoke in support of meeting in the evening or on the weekend to allow for other members of the public to attend, would like to discuss a communications strategy, and asked how the Committee would receive input from people that cannot attend the meetings. Nicole Fyffe responded that a member of the audience had just submitted a speaker card asking the committee to meeting at times that working people can attend, and that staff has been receiving comments via a dedicated feedback form on the sales tax website, which are then provided to the Committee. Ms. Fyffe also stated that if it is just three people interested in meeting to develop a list of meeting locations, etc., then those discussions can occur with staff without setting up a formal subcommittee and holding a public meeting.

Curt Lueck offered to work with staff to develop a fact sheet that could be provided to the public in advance of them providing comments.

Bob Gugino asked on which transactions a County sales tax would apply. Nicole Fyffe and Craig Horn (Pima County Finance Department) replied that a County general sales tax would exclude the same items excluded by the State sales tax: unprepared food, prescription medication, residential rentals over 30 days and commercial leases. The RTA sales tax is almost identical, but does apply to commercial leases, and therefore the RTA revenues from a half-cent sales tax are slightly higher than projected County half-cent sales tax revenues.

There was a lot of discussion about whether to hold just three meetings over the next three months, or whether to also hold additional meetings (some referred to these additional meetings as satellite meetings in more remote rural locations, or listening sessions); and whether this process was worthwhile if at least one County Supervisor has stated her opposition to a sales tax; and the timing of this public process in relation to Supervisor Christy's proposal.

Chairman Long asked for a show of hands for how many Committee members were in favor of three meetings only during phase 1 or three meetings plus additional satellite meetings. Committee members voted 8 to 2, with at least 1 abstention, to support three meetings plus additional satellite meetings.

**MOTION: Dan Eckstrom moved, seconded by Bob Gugino, in favor of Phase 1 and 2 as discussed. Motion approved 13-0.**

It was clarified that the Committee did not see a need for subcommittees at this time. Time limits for speakers at meetings would be up to the discretion of the Chairman.

**MOTION: Robert Medler moved, seconded by Dennis Minano, to approve the September 29, 2017 meeting summary as amended. Motion approved 13-0.**

6. Pima County Supervisor Steve Christy's "Just Fix the Roads Program" Presentation

Supervisor Christy presented his proposal to repeal the road property tax, adopt a half-cent sales tax for 10 years, and transfer the revenues to the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) to administer a road repair program county-wide. Chairman Long and Committee members Mr. Minano, Mr. Arellano, Mr. Medler, Ms. Fryer, Mr. Gugino and Mr. Hecker thanked Supervisor Christy for his proposal and asked questions. In response to questions, Supervisor Christy stated that the sales tax could be extended beyond 10 years if the Board and the RTA agreed; funding road repair out of the County's general fund could negatively impact County services; it is unlikely the State Legislature would increase the gas tax or redistribute HURF revenues; the RTA would be the best administrator as they are like "Switzerland" and have shown no evidence of succumbing to undo influence by one jurisdiction over another; RTA has a citizens oversight committee and recently had a glowing review as a result of a State audit; even though fixing roads may be a local issue, the RTA has proven itself; allocating 1% of the sales tax revenues to RTA would not be a waste as other jurisdictions would be hard pressed to administer such a program for such little of a cost; RTA leadership is in favor of this; the poor condition of our roadways is the number one issue facing the County; companies look at two key issues when considering relocating to Tucson (road conditions and education); poverty related issues cannot be addressed without a sound road system; support for prioritizing contract awards to minority and women-owned contractors to fix the roads; RTA will not bypass low income neighborhoods when implementing a road repair program; and supports allocating a portion of the sales tax revenues for transit.

**MOTION: Sergio Arellano moved, seconded by Curt Lueck for purposes of discussion, to place Supervisor Christy's road repair program on Committee's next agenda for action, as well as proposed modifications in response to questions.**

Mr. Minano, Mr. Medler, Mr. Wetegrove, Mr. Lueck, and Mr. McDonald all expressed concerns that acting on Supervisor Christy's proposal next month would mean skipping the public input process that was just agreed to by the Committee, and was unnecessary since the existing road property tax can't be repealed until July 1, 2018. Mr. Medler also said he was concerned to hear that Supervisor Christy may now be advocating for use of the sales tax revenue for transit and landscape of medians. Mr. Lueck emphasized that the first task of the Committee is to determine whether or not to even recommend a sales tax and that the Committee needs to answer that question first.

Supervisor Christy responded that he was flexible as to when he would take the plan to the Board of Supervisors for a vote (could be as late as April) and would certainly want this Committee's input before asking the Board to vote on it. Mr. Arellano explained that his motion was to keep Supervisor Christy's proposal on the front burner.

**MOTION: Rob Medler moved a substitute motion, accepted by Sergio Arellano and Curt Lueck, to include on the agenda Supervisor Christy's proposal for the next meeting for discussion purposes only, and invite to the next meeting RTA representatives, as well**

transportation representatives from each of the local jurisdictions. Motion approved 10-0.

7. Call to the Audience

No one spoke at this time.

8. Adjournment

Due to the meeting running long, the rest of the agenda was tabled for the next meeting.

**Robert Medler moved, seconded by Mark Clark, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.**

DRAFT

## SPEAKER CARD

If you would like to address the Committee on any agenda item, please fill out the following and give to the Chairman.

- I do wish to speak on this item
- I do not wish to speak but submit the following comments:

(Circle One) **OPPOSED/SUPPORT/UNDECIDED**

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 4

AGENDA ITEM DESCRIPTION:

Organizing + mtgs

(Please Print)

NAME Hyatt Simpson

ADDRESS 4601 N. Via Arroyo

CITY Tucson STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP 85749

TELEPHONE NUMBER 520-971-0708

COMMENTS Public meetings should be held at a time that more working people can attend - Noon?

4:00/5:00 pm?