

Pima County Small Business Commission

**County Administration Building
130 W. Congress, 1st Floor
Thursday, January 18th, 2007
3:10 p.m.**

SUMMARY OF MEETING

Note: The following is a summary of what transpired at the January 18th, 2007 meeting.

1. Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m.

Members Present

Britton Dornquast
Ken Goodman
Rigoberto Lopez
Lisa Lovallo
Lea Peterson - Marquez
Tom Ward

Members Absent/Excused

Barbara Carino
Melanie Larson
Carol Klinefelter
Frank Hamilton

Others Present

Jeanne Madlangbayan
Tom Moulton
Lee Smith
Becky Pallack
Kathleen Skinner

2. Approval of the Minutes

November minutes were not approved and will be given to Commissioners at a later date.

3. 2006 Old Business

Chairperson report

Lisa Lovallo brought attention to the Commission that her term will be expiring in the next few months, and extended an invitation to anyone on the current Board if they have any interest in being Chairperson to please feel free to submit their name. Lisa does not have an issues with chairing another year, but does want to leave it open if someone else has interest.

Tom Moulton suggested that the Commission possibly elect a new Vice Chair and that Lisa Lovallo stay on until October and Vice Chair then take over her term.

Lea Peterson will look into bylaws and see what options the Board has.

Lea would like some suggestions of names for positions currently open and she would need them by March, so when someone new is appointed they can be commissioned by April's meeting.

4. Lee Smith – TREO

Lee Smith is the Senior Vice President of TREO. He is responsible for all Business Development, Retention Expansion, and Incentive Programs.

Lee explained to the Commission that the Blue Print has been going for several months, and TREO is actually beginning to receive back some evaluations and results. TREO had over 5000 sources of input and are seriously looking at this data. TREO wants to make sure that they have a very clear sense of what the Blue Print has brought forward. TREO does not want this plan to be a document that sits on a shelf, and are hoping to have a community buy in to what the Blue Print states. This is just the very beginning.

Expecting a February or March release of all data, including recommendation, and then looking forward on how to implement this data.

TREO states that they will be asking for help with the implementation of this plan.

TREO's Mission is to provide the Insight, Infrastructure, Resources, and Development Support.....to accelerate economic prosperity throughout the Southern Arizona region. Economic prosperity meaning raising the standard of living for our region.

Two major focuses – Retention/Expansion and Attractions.

Business link does still exist. Within the next sixty days TREO will release the Business Link that will be more powerful.

Business hotline number is (520) 243-1905. Cards have been printed out and will be handed out as soon as possible. Things will be handled differently with this hotline.

TucsonLocator is an expensive tool, but a good one. You can get many different demographics for your company with this tool.

TREO is moving away from the Grant mentality. They are starting to contract for services. Some examples would be Chambers, SAIT, Lenders, and Builders. TREO is stating that this community needs outreach, and to work as a community, with more of this to come. The whole group that is focusing on outreach meets monthly. One goal is to get more people involved.

Ken Goodman wanted to know how TREO is approaching businesses to be a part of TREO's plan. Ken stated that he has several employees and has never been approached by TREO. The Commission stated that they were interested in how TREO choose who it approaches. Many feel that larger Businesses are driving the train for TREO. Ken stated that he knows many companies that would like to be invested and have not been approached. Lee Smith stated that this was not at all the case, and would love to have Ken and his company as an investor.

TREO will be putting on workshops in the future. These workshops will help with Grant writing, and no fee will be charged.

Three important things Lee Smith will be working on this year – Regional Business Convergence Center – this will be an on-line resource and support information tool. This will hopefully done by June 30th. Permitting Process Improvement Strategy and Regional Business Outreach Expansion Strategy.

5. Commissioners Report

Britton Dornquast stated that he would like to have the County's Small Business assistance program director to come to a future meeting. He also would like to hear from the Director of Transportation.

Ken Goodman stated that he would like to see the Commission take a stand on items. Get a letter out to the Board of Supervisors about what issues the whole group takes a stand on.

Tom Ward attended the Board of Supervisor meeting and wanted to let the Commission know that the Supervisors voted 5 to 0 in favor of opposing against the passing of the Rosemont Mine.

Lea Peterson- Marquez wanted to let the Commission know that she was appointed to the Governors Small Business Council. Lea is also on the panel for the selection of the Business Consultant for the closure of the I-10 project. She will keep the Commission informed of this process.

6. Future Agenda Items

The Commission would like to have the following at future meetings:

- I. Director of Transportation for Pima County.
- II. Pima County Business assistance program coordinator.

7. Call to the Public

No members of the public spoke at this time.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.