

**Pima County Small Business Commission
County Administration Building
130 W. Congress, 1st Floor
Thursday, October 18, 2012
3:00 P.M.**

Members Present

Ken Goodman
Tom Ward
Lyra Done
Edie Lake
Pat Brown
Dabney Philabaum
Hal Burns III
Joy Soler
Jerry Long

Others Present

Tom Moulton
Marion Hook

Members Absent

John Peck

Call to Order- The meeting was called to order by Chairman Goodman at **3:00** pm.

Pledge of Allegiance- Chairman Goodman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approvals of Minutes- The minutes from the September 19, 2012 meeting were approved, unanimously.

Chairman's Report-

JTED- Chairman Goodman reported on PC JTED Funding Restoration. State Law does not allow a company to offer/provide a training center for a JTED School District unless it is on JTED "owned & operated" property. Freeport MacMoRan, and Raytheon are currently attempting to start apprenticeship programs so that students can take core academic classes in their home high school then attend classes at the training institutes; after which they will have direct employment once they are done with high school. Unfortunately, this option is not available since JTED does not own the training institutes.

Chairman Goodman would like to assist JTED in changing the current language in the State Law that restricts JTED District from "owned and operated" to "operated by a joint technical education district" for programs in business owned/provided facilities. A motion was called by Vice-Chairman Ward, and seconded by Chairman Goodman, to contact the Education Committee to attempt to make changes to the wording and restore the funding for the 9th grade enrollment in JTED, motion passed unanimously.

M-3 Engineering Letter- Chairman Goodman received a letter from George Widugiris, of Procurement. M-3 Engineering is a local engineering company with 377 local employees. M-3 has been working with Pima County for over 25 years and no longer qualifies for preference points due to the changes recently made to the A&E criteria, which states a small business is defined as less than 99 employees. Motion was made by Commissioner Soler to write a letter to George Widugiris in response to the letter, and the SBC supports the Statute as written. Motion passed unanimously. Vice Chairman Ward will draft the letter and send to the Chairman and Mr. Widugiris.

Directors Report-

MTCVB- the MTCVB Audit was completed in early July and the BOS ratified the contract in October. The audit findings were used to draft a list of suggestions for the CVB to follow. The CVB is now using those suggestions to meet its' goals, which were also part of the audit findings. All of this would not have been possible without the cooperation of the CVB.

COT Small Business Commission Report- Marion Hook gave a report to the SBC. There are still 3 open positions for the City of Tucson SBC, 2 from Ward 4 and one from Ward 5.

The City of Tucson is also pursuing a change to their local contractor preference points, such as the PCSBC did. There will be more on that issue after their next meeting. Chairman Goodman presented the Statute that was done by the PCSBC to assist the City in working on theirs.

City of Tucson Ombudsman- Maricella Solis gave a report on Economic Development and Small Businesses. The original plan was for Ms. Solis to represent small businesses, it seems as if she is now working on economic development. The COTSBC is asking for more data as to what is being done for small businesses, as opposed to economic development.

Other Commissioners Reports-

Vice Chairman Ward

Library Board- there will be a report from the Library Board as to how they will be able to help small businesses at the next meeting.

Vice Chairman Ward passed out copies of the Pima County Economic Development Plan for 2012-2014.

There will be a for profit hospital built in Green Valley, the 124,000 sq. ft. building, will have 64 rooms, 4 operating rooms, and doctor offices. Tucson Medical Center will be the operator. It will generate a lot of jobs during the building process and after.

Commissioner Lake Credit Card Issues- Commissioner Lake will be writing a letter to the National Retail Federation regarding the ethics issues concerning the small businesses. Vice Chairman Ward will be working on a draft to present to the BOS.

Commissioner Soler- discussed the issues regarding the Fourth Avenue Merchants and the construction. Some of the businesses are requesting assistance from the City of Tucson and the State of Arizona. They are lots of promotions going on to bring people to Fourth Avenue during the construction, Halloween Trick or Treating, Fourth Avenue Winter Street Fair in December as well as others. There are still various parking restriction issues, with some street still being closed. The main goal is to keep people employed.

Commissioner Burns- Racing in Tucson, there are a few people trying to make Tucson a racing hub. Racing is a multi-million dollar industry. The Tucson Raceway Park facility now has a new operator who is doing a lot of work in attempting to re-open the facility. Racing could be very big in Tucson due to the excellent weather. Firebird Racetrack in Phoenix will be closing in the next year which will leave a lot of racing for Tucson.

Call to the Public- No response

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 P.M.