

**Pima County Small Business Commission
County Administration Building
130 W. Congress, 1st Floor
Thursday April 16, 2015
3:00 P.M.**

Members Present

Lyra Done
Ken Goodman
Lucretia Free
Rhonda Pina
Gabrielle David (telephonically)
Patricia Brown
Jerry Long
Linda Morales

Others Present

Patrick Cavanaugh
Marion Hook
Tina Norton

Members Absent

Edie Lake
Joy Soler

Call to Order- The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Done at 3:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance- Commissioner Morales led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introductions- the Commissioners introduced themselves to Tina Norton, Assistant Superintendent COO, and guest speaker from JTED.

JTED Presentation- Tina Norton gave a presentation on JTED. Joint Technical Educational District (JTED) is a program with courses offered in the traditional high schools. New State budget cuts will affect JTED drastically causing a domino effect.

- The loss will result in insufficient funding to maintain programs at premier/industry standard level
- Insufficient funding will eliminate teacher salaries
- Eliminating teacher salaries will close programs, with less students attending school.
- With less students attending, the Average Daily Membership (ADM) will lower.
- Lower ADM will be less money for the students who are still attending
- Graduation rates will go down
- Drop-out rates will go up
- Academic achievement and retention will go down
- Fewer students will graduate high school/college
- There will be no future workforce for Arizona

Commissioner Goodman asked what the SBC could do to help JTED. It was suggested to contact their Supervisors and Legislators. Commissioner Free will run articles in the Vail Voice in support.

Commissioner Long suggested incorporating graphs to show the changes in student numbers and funding. As a school board member for Flowing Wells School District he has noticed it is easier for parents to understand the differences if they see it in a comparison chart or graph.

Approvals of Minutes- The minutes from the March 19, 2015 meeting were approved, unanimously.

Pima County Coordinator's Report- Patrick Cavanaugh- Mr. Cavanaugh asked for input from the Commission on the Pima County Economic Development Plan at the March meeting. The Commission voted unanimously its support and endorsement of the ED Plan as presented and feels several of the plan's initiatives will be particularly beneficial to assisting and supporting small business in Pima County. The Commissions' comments were forwarded to County Administrator C.H. Huckelberry through a memo from Chairwoman Done.

Chair's Report- Chairwoman Done presented her streamlined version of the 2015 Work Plan to be review by the Commission. She will be contacting Carmine DeBonis regarding the Sign Code, also has made arrangements with Rick Murray, CEO, of ASBA to come and speak to the Commission regarding the Crowd funding issue.

Vice Chair's Report-Vice-Chair Pina reported on the Pima County Prosperity Fund/Access to Capital (PPF). She has done research regarding the collaboration of banks and financial institutions funding small businesses. There is an investment pool with several banks that have funds available for small businesses, Arizona Multi Bank, who also partner with ACCION. She would like to have someone from Arizona Multi-Bank come and speak to the Commission. Being this is very similar to what the PPF would like to do; Patrick Cavanaugh will do further research as to how many small businesses have been helped, and how much money has been loaned.

JTED- Commissioner Goodman- following the JTED presentation of today, Commissioner Goodman would like to have the Commission send letters to the Legislators in support of JTED. Commissioner Goodman presented a motion for the Commission to write a support letter to the Governor and the Legislature on behalf of JTED. Commissioner Morales seconded the motion. At this time Patrick Cavanaugh reminded the Commission that this is an advisory body to the BOS. The motion was withdrawn and it was decided for the Commissioners to advocate to their appointing Supervisors. Patrick Cavanaugh will discuss this with County Administrator CH Huckelberry for a possible Resolution by the BOS supporting JTED. Commissioner Goodman is concerned that it is not widely know that if this dies at this time the whole program will be gone forever.

City of Tucson SBC- Marion Hook spoke about the Broadway Expansion Project. There were two meetings held and it seemed like the process was lacking. All the groups who were invited to share opinion never got the correct information as to where the meetings were being held. There were also handouts given with different maps with parameters set in three different colors making it very difficult to see where the changes will be made. They also distributed a booklet with historic buildings that will be taken down. There are 35 structures to be demolished. There will be an updated report next month.

Short term rentals-the City Council decided that any business who habitually rents property for short term is to be considered to be a business and will be required to get a license and have it posted. There is still a great deal of debate about the taxes. There is a law that states if your business can accommodate six or more persons; you have to pay the taxes. Now the City is trying to figure out how to work with a law that was set by the State regarding taxation. If you are going to be exempt from the taxes you need to be unoccupied 50% or more of the time. There will be further discussion at a future date.

Call to the Public- No response.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 P.M.