



Thursday, August 18, 2016

3:00PM

<p><u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u> Lucretia Free Lyra Done Linda Morales Marion Hook Kent Blumenthal Gabrielle David Joy Soler Mark Miller Rhonda Pina Ken Goodman</p>	<p><u>MEMBERS ABSENT</u> Patricia Brown</p> <p><u>OTHERS PRESENT</u> Marisol Flores-Aguirre Patrick Cavanaugh Aurora Hernandez Grace Gugenheimer</p>
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Call to order-the meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Free at 3:05 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance – the pledge was led by Chairwoman Free.

Approvals of Minutes- Minutes of the July 21st meeting were approved unanimously.

Chair’s Report- Chairwoman Free opened the discussion of the SBC Award application process. Commissioner Blumenthal has been working with the Green Valley Rec Center IT folks to create an application that can be filled out on line. Commissioner Blumenthal discussed adding non-profits as a new category to the awards. This will be discussed next year since that would require an additional \$500. Commissioner Blumenthal made a motion to move forward on two categories and remove non-profit for 2016 and weigh the questions, Commissioner Hook seconded the motion, motion carried. Commissioner Blumenthal and his team will continue to work on the application.

Women’s Business Center -Marisol Flores-Aguirre- Marisol Flores Aguirre, Director of the Women’s Business Center spoke to the Commission. The YWCA and the Microbusiness Advancement Center with the primary program, the Women’s Business Center have joined forces in assisting women, immigrants and low income entrepreneurs in accomplishing several of the Pima County’s 2015-17 Economic Development Plan.

The WBC is the only program in Pima County offering a full range of small business training, classes and counseling in both English and Spanish. They are the only business development organization with a fully bilingual, bi-cultural staff that has culturally relevant curriculum delivered in two languages. They have a strong relationship with the Mexican Consulate, and they work closely with UNAM the National Autonomous University of Mexico. The WBC is collaborating with UNAM to create Professional/Business Spanish language courses specifically designed for medical, tourism, and business sectors. They also work with Bi-national Start-Up Support to work with start-ups and entrepreneurs in Mexico to guide them in incorporation and legal processes for doing business in the US.

In conjunction with Pima County CDBG funding has been awarded to build a commercial kitchen at the House of Neighborly Service. The kitchen program will train food entrepreneurs and incubate small food businesses, enhancing the 23 miles of Mexican Food initiative launched by Visit Tucson and the City of Tucson.

The commercial kitchen at HNS will be the first food processing and incubator site of its kind in the City of South Tucson, serving all of Pima County.

The kitchen will incubate food related micro-entrepreneurs, provide meals and healthy cooking classes for low income community members and enable expansion of YWORKS Culinary and Hospitality Job training program for at-risk-women.

At the end of 2015 they had created twenty (20) new businesses, created and retained 29 new jobs, assisted 1094 clients, completed 37 business plans, 6,327 training hours and the gross sales by WBC clients have totaled \$1,200,000.

Other Commissioners Reports – No reports.

Call to the Public- No response.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM.