

**Pima County Small Business Commission
County Administration Building
130 W. Congress, 1st Floor
Thursday, March 17, 2011
3:00 P.M.**

Members Present

Tom Ward
Ken Goodman
Lyra Done

Joy Soler
Jerry Long
Edie Lake
Patricia Brown
John Peters

Others Present

Tom Moulton
Hope Sikora
Hank Atha (arrived at 3: 20pm)

Members Absent

Pat Taviss
Lea Marquez-Peterson
Dabney Philabaum

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

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

Introductions-Commission introductions were made.
Hope Sikora from Pima County Procurement Department was introduced.

Approval of Minutes- Minutes from February 17th meeting were approved, unanimously.

Hope Sikora- (Pima County Procurement Dept.) Ms. Sikora spoke about the policy changes that came about with Proposition 107. In July 2009, the county implemented the Small Business Enterprise Program which was race and gender neutral after Prop 107 passed, women and minority owned business firms were shifted to the SBE program. It no longer matters the gender or ethnicity, now it's based according to their net worth, for which the cap has been raised from \$750,000.00 to 1.3 million. When Prop 107 was approved by the voters, Pima County already had the SBE in place so it did not substantially affect the women and minority owned businesses.

Commissioner Goodman suggested that the word be sent out to all businesses to alert them that there are now new criteria and training workshops. It was suggested the Procurement Department join with the SBC and send out a press release. Chairman Ward will meet with George Widugiris to prepare a press release.

CHAIRMANS REPORT

MTCVB Audit Committee- the MTCVB Audit Committee has met three times and is in the process of hiring an independent consultant to assist the Audit Committee.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Film Incentive Bill- The film incentive bill is moving forward and is still going through one more Committee. Too date it has passed the House. The Resolution passed last year by the Small Business Commission will be re-sent to the proper legislative officers.

Jobs Bill-all the Municipalities in Pima County are in the process of meeting several times with TREO to put together a comprehensive package that will combine the state jobs bill and any other incentives available, be it through the foreign trade zone in Pima County or impact fees criteria, construction fee rebates or any other incentives available. At this time there is no consolidated package available to hand out to new prospective businesses. Pima County and TREO will sit down with the real estate brokers and put together the packet.

MTCVB Performance Audit Committee- The Performance Audit Committee has held three meetings. They are looking into independent consulting companies to put together all the data collected. They number of companies are limited that can conduct performance audits. Four or five special consultants will be looked at within the next couple of weeks. The Committee is really taking a hard look at consultants that have no ties to Tucson. The next meeting on March 30 will be to select a Consultant.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Review of Proposed Development Services Fees- a memo was distributed by Chairman Ward to the Commissioners (see attachment). The Development Services Dept will be proposing that some fees be reduced. The Board of Supervisors sent a memo to the Planning Commission asking for its position. The SBC's recommendation will also be forwarded to the Planning Commission.

Motion was proposed by Chairman Ward to recommend to the BOS to approve the Development Services Report. Motion seconded by Commissioners Goodman and Lake. Motion carried.

Letter to Senator Antenori- Chairman Ward wrote a letter to Sen. Antenori re: the HB 2338 (see attached). If passed, the Bill would freeze the tax rate for library districts and allow only minor increases based on future growth. The Chairman would like for SBC to take a position in opposition to HB 2338.

A motion was proposed to direct the Legislative representatives in Pima County districts 25-30 to vote no on HB 2338. Motion seconded by Commissioner Done. Motion carried.

Annual Small Business Award- the SBC has received a qualified nomination for the SBC Business of the Year Award. The Green Valley/Sahuarita Chamber of Commerce has nominated Johnnie Lake's Gasoline Alley. Chairman Ward moved to award the SBC Award to Gasoline Alley, motion seconded by Commissioner Goodman, motion carried. Commissioner Lake recused herself from the vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Forum of Pima County Organizations Tasked with Aiding Small Business- As part of the Commission annual scope of work a meeting with all the Chamber in a public form was proposed. Chairman Ward would like to have this forum with all the Chambers and other organizations tasked with aiding small businesses. May 12th was set aside for the Forum. The chairman is concerned that preliminary work has not begun and also as to whether there is enough time to plan by May 12th.

Other Commissioners Reports-

Ken Goodman- spoke about the City of Tucson Small Business Commission meeting. Commissioner Goodman suggested Debbie Chandler report on the City of Tucson SBC meeting; since she is the liaison from COT. The Tucson SBC is meeting at different Council offices.

One of the Tucson issues is medical insurance for domestic partners. The City Council will be working on creating an ordinance that anyone doing business with Tucson will have to offer medical insurance for domestic partners.

Edie Lake-Commissioner Lake and her husband went to a JTED meeting at Sahuarita HS and toured the automotive department. They are building a new high school and JTED is now moving into the old school building. JTED is growing in Sahuarita.

Call to the Public- No response

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM