

**Pima County Small Business Commission
County Administration Building
130 W. Congress, 1st Floor
Thursday, July 21, 2011
3:00 P.M.**

Members Present

Tom Ward
Lea Marquez-Peterson
Ken Goodman
Lyra Done
Joy Soler
Dabney Philabaum
John Peters
Edie Lake
Patricia Brown
Jerry Long
John Peck

Others Present

Catherine Strickland
Debbie Chandler (MAC)
Karen Burns (MAC)
Stephanie Arendt (SACASA)
Hank Atha

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. New member was introduced; John Peck from Ajo, AZ. Commissioner Peck is an editor and writer for the Ajo Copper News and partner of the Oasis Café. He was appointed by Sharon Bronson of District 3.

Approvals of Minutes- The minutes from the May 19th and June 21st meeting were approved, unanimously.

Chamber Forum-The Chamber Forum held on June 21st was the first meeting of all the Chambers with the SBC in the last five years. Of the 9 Chambers 8 were represented by their presidents or past presidents. The Tucson Metro Chamber was represented by its' Government Affairs Staff Director. The group made a decision to choose an Ad Hoc Committee to continue on to the Next Steps. The group chosen was Sheldon Fishman, SACCA President, Bob Childs Sahuarita/Green Valley President and Chairman Ward from the SBC. Also Debbie Chandler Executive Director of MAC was selected. They will be meeting in the next few weeks. It was also suggested more SBC/SAACA meetings in the future.

Chairman's Report

MTCVB Audit Committee- the report was presented to the BOS and was very well received by the Board. Chairman Ward distributed copies of the findings of the report. Copies of the full report are available upon request. The Performance Audit Committee has been reconstituted as an Oversight and Compliance Committee to monitor the progress of the MTCVB for one year.

Health Department Fees- the Health Dept. is reviewing its fees for permits and services. They have increased the cost of birth certificates by \$5.00. It was decided not to raise the fees for restaurants, push carts etc.

The SBC Annual Report- The report is done. Everyone will receive a copy of the report as soon as it is returned from the printers. It will be presented to the Board of Supervisors at the BOS meeting of August 2nd. Chairman Ward would like for the Commissioners to be present at the BOS meeting on August 2nd to present the report to the BOS, so the Board can see the folks who are doing all this work.

Standing Committee for Legislative Education (CLE)- a committee to monitor the legislature will be formed. Because all the Commission members have access to various reports outlining possible legislation that could affect their individual businesses, the Commission will create a standing committee, headed by the vice chairman, to monitor the Legislature's actions. In this manner, the Commission hopes to be even more effective in its legislative educating process.

NEW BUSINESS

Revolving Loan Funds- Debbie Chandler from Micro Business Advancement Center (MAC) was introduced. Debbie spoke about the MAC Micro-Loan Fund. Establishing a loan fund is a very involved process. MAC loans are made at their discretion.

Karen Burns, also from MAC, spoke regarding setting up a revolving loan fund with Pima County. Micro-business lending programs are mostly non-profit entities. Some are sponsored by the US Gov't.; Small Business Administration or US Treasury, and also public-private partnerships.

Ms. Burns gave very useful information on starting a revolving loan fund, and will prove to be very informative in helping the SBC to establish a Pima County Revolving Loan Fund. Both women are available for questions at any time.

City of Tucson SBC- Commissioner Ken Goodman reported on the City SBC. One of the goals for the COTSBC is obtaining an Ombudsman. The Tucson City Council is looking for an OMBUDSMAN for small businesses.

Call to the Public- Stephanie Arendt from Southern Arizona Center Against Sexual Assault (SACASA) spoke about a program being started by SACASA. The Safe Streets AZ Program which is attempting to use local businesses as a safety zone for LGBT youths. Safe Sites would allow youths to take haven in the local businesses and get aid if needed. There will be stickers in the business windows to indicate Safe Sites. The SBC will endorse the program and send a letter to Sheldon Fishman of the GLBT Chamber of Commerce for more support. Motion to endorse Safe Streets AZ and solicit support from the GLBT in advocating this program was called by Chairman Ward, motion seconded by Commissioner Long. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM