

Pima County Small Business Commission
County Administration Building
130 W. Congress, 1st Floor
Thursday, May 19, 2011
3:00 P.M.

Members Present

Tom Ward
Lea Marquez-Peterson
Lyra Done
Joy Soler
Dabney Philabaum
John Peters
Edie Lake
Pat Taviss

Others Present

Tom Moulton
Debbie Chandler

Members Absent

Patricia Brown
Ken Goodman
Jerry Long

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. Debbie Chandler represented the COT SBC.

Approvals of Minutes- The minutes from the April 21st, meeting were approved, unanimously.

Chairman's Report

MTCVB Audit Committee- Marshall Murdaugh's 90- page draft report has been sent to the Audit Committee members. This is a performance audit as opposed to the financial audit being performed by the City. The report will be made public when it is presented to the Board of Supervisors (BOS).

Health Department Fees- the Health Dept. is reviewing its fees for permits and services. The Health Dept has gone through some processing for the permits for CHFS (Consumer Health and Food Safety) the SBC will be monitoring the fee increases which will affect small businesses, restaurants, push carts, etc. The SBC had great success with the Development Services fee increases and hope to have equal success with the Health Dept. Health Dept. representatives will be at the July SBC meeting for more clarification.

Solar One Stop Center- the center has been set up at the Public Works Building, 101 N. Stone. The City and County worked together on this project. If any of the Commissioners are downtown they should take a look at it.

County Administrator Huckelberry has sent out a memo asking for information from all the different County departments about solar energy. There is a research paper being done that will be presented to the BOS. There are several solar installations proposed in Pima County and he would like to get feedback as to the pros and cons of Solar Energy. The full report will become public and be distributed when it becomes available. Solar energy can be a small business job generator.

Commissioner Reappointments- Chairman Ward, Commissioners Lake, Goodman and Done have all been reappointed to the Commission. This will also be the last meeting for Commissioner Taviss.

Director's Report

Equine Virus- There has been an outbreak of a very contagious equine virus in the state of Arizona. There have been several parks closed and several horse shows have also been canceled. Pima County has asked several of the County Attractions to close their stables. This is a very contagious virus, which is airborne and tactile. The infected horses seem to be from out of state and nothing has been detected in the Pima County area. It is being spread at horseshows, rodeos, etc.

MTCVB Performance Audit Committee- there will be several more meetings to review the report. There will also be a review by the BOS. Also there is a stakeholder's survey being done. Once the report goes in the BOS Agenda it will be made public.

Many people are unsure what a DMO (Destination Marketing Organization) like MTCVB is supposed to do. When the report is made public it will be distributed to the Commission.

There will also be a meeting with the Executive Committee of the MTCVB after the BOS presentation.

The purpose of the audit is to find out how to improve the CVB not to tear it down.

Film Incentive Bill- the bill did not make it through the Legislature this last year. The Chairman of the House who took the bill off the agenda two years in a row is now gone. Hopefully it will now be easier to get the bill passed.

TREO will be hosting a forum to hear about all the incentives available for business development in Arizona and Pima County.

NEW BUSINESS

Preparation of SACCA meeting agenda- Chairman Ward and Commission Peterson have set a meeting for June 22nd at the Pima County Main Library Downtown for the eight (8) Chambers. This meeting will be considered the regular SBC June meeting. Chairman Ward will draft a memo to be sent to the Chamber presidents. The Green Valley/Sahuarita Chamber has also been invited.

Each Chamber will be allowed two (2) minutes to speak about their Chamber activities. The purpose of the meeting is to see what the Chambers are doing for small business and what the SBC can do to further their goals.

This will be the formal monthly meeting for both SACCA and the SBC.

SBC Goals for 2010-2011- The goals set for the 2010-2011 year were met.

1. Establish CRSPS- and prepare legislation to enhance small business opportunities.
2. SBC Small Business Award 2011
3. Small Business Forum-SBC-SACCA
4. Assisting Tourism-MTCVB Audit
5. Assisting the Construction Industry- Development Services

SBC Goals for 2011-2012- The goals for 2011-2012 are being set.

1. Complete CRSPS work
2. SBC Small Business Award 2012
3. County Revolving Loan Fund

These are tentative goals and will be finalized at a future meeting.

City of Tucson SBC- Debbie Chandler reported on the City SBC. One of the goals for the COTSBC was obtaining an Ombudsman. If the SBC and the COTSBC join forces there may be a possibility of finding funding for that joint position.

The COTSBC received a request from the GLBT Chamber to make a change to the city ordinance that would require vendor compliance for domestic partner insurance. The subject was turned over to the COTSBC by the City Council. The project is to change the ordinance to comply with the City ordinance that states if you provide insurance for employees and spouse, the business should be extended to domestic partners also. There was a split vote in the COTSBC, so it was recommended to change the policy and not the ordinance.

Tucson Means Business Forum- a forum where they bring together all the city components of doing business with the City. Access to capital is a big topic. These forums are being held at different Ward offices. After the meetings they have resource tables available for everyone to get the information they need.

Call to the Public-

Goodbye to Pat Taviss- All the Commission agreed it was a great pleasure to have Pat on the Commission these past few years and she has made some great contributions and will be greatly missed.

Lea Marquez-Peterson- the Hispanic Chamber had a luncheon and was joined by AT&T. AT&T held a press conference to announce a \$50 million investment in Southern Arizona. The south and west side which is predominantly Hispanic has a lot of spots with shoddy wireless service. This will help businesses with better communication.

The Hispanic Chamber has opened an office in Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico. This is to enhance a business to business resource.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM