

Pima County Small Business Commission
County Administration Building
130 W. Congress, 1st Floor
Thursday, March 20, 2014
3:00 P.M.

Members Present

Tom Ward
Ken Goodman
Lyra Done
Patricia Brown
Gabrielle David
Jerry Long
Edie Lake
Joy Soler

Others Present

Patrick Cavanaugh
Marion Hook

Members Absent

Shelby Hawkins
Mark Finchem

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.

Approvals of Minutes- The minutes from the February 20th, 2014 meeting were approved, with corrections, corrections made.

Patrick Cavanaugh – Coordinators Report- Mr. Cavanaugh reported on the BEAR (Business Expansion And Retention) Committee from the Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. The Committee went out to 129 companies that had more than 100 employees and interviewed CEO's about the business climate in Tucson. The report has been posted on the Metro Chamber website. <http://tucsonchamber.org/>

SBC & Mexican Trade Forum- Mr. Cavanaugh is still working on organizing a meeting with the panelists before the official forum. At this time he is inviting, Eric Nielsen- US Commercial Services- Teresa Bravo, Pima County-, JP Padres, City of Tucson- Felipe Garcia, VisitTucson, - Lea Marquez Peterson, Tucson Hispanic Chamber- he is having a hard time getting them all together since they are international trades' specialists and are out of the country very often. He will continue to attempt to get them together.

MicroBusiness Advancement Center- MAC has lost its' Executive Director Michael Landy. Board Member Bill Leady has stepped in and donated the executive director salary to help get the organization back on track. They have hired Debbie Chandler back as a Consultant and she is attempting to help by turning out grants. It seems as if they are well on their way to getting back on their feet.

TESLA- TESLA is looking to expand and Mr. Cavanaugh did an analysis of the incentives being offered by different states. TESLA is looking for a minimum of 900 acres, vast amounts of water, waste disposal, a well-educated workforce; railways and mining material access are also very important in the process. With ample availability to all these pre-requisites are keeping the state of Arizona in the running.

Chairman's Report- Chairman Ward- HB 2176 - Chairman Ward spoke about the letter written to Representative Olson on HB 2176; JTED funding for the 9th grade. These letters were sent to the all the State Representatives and Senators. Commissioner Goodman stated he has been told that it does not look good. It is looking like a monetary issue. Chairman Ward asked if the Commission would like to send out more letters. It was decided the Commissioners will be sending individual letters.

Opposition to HB 2379 Limiting Library Districts Taxing Authority- A letter was also sent to the State Representatives and the Senators opposing this Bill. At this time it has been removed from the Bill.

Fourth Avenue Merchants Association (FAMA) - Commissioner Goodman and Marion Hook from the City of Tucson brought this up at the City SMWBC. The City SMWBC would like a formal invitation from FAMA. At this time an invitation to FAMA for a presentation to the SBC would help the Commissioners better understand what the issues are and be able to extend the information to the SMWBC. This will be revisited at the next meeting after the Fourth Avenue Spring Street Fair. Vice Chair Edie Lake will draft a letter to FAMA and present at the next meeting.

Pima Prosperity Fund- no report

Other Commissioners Reports- Commissioner Goodman reported on JTED. JTED is pushing for more job shadowing and internships. In most recent years companies have not participated but it looks like at this time some companies are stepping up and requesting students.

Long ago the Railroad used to give rail workers places to live while working for the railroad. Recently a house that was used for that purpose was moved to Cienega HS, and was refurbished by architects Swaim & Assoc, and Environmental Strategies. They removed the asbestos, lead paint and other hazardous materials. JTED students are restoring it to its' original condition, thus giving the students hands on training in carpentry and other trades associated with the construction business. Commissioner Goodman will be giving a presentation at Vail HS along with Swaim & Assoc. about how the house was moved and the remediation done by Environmental Strategies.

Outlying Pima County- Commissioner Done reported on Catalina; she gave a very extensive report on the history of the town. She will be meeting with the Village Council and finding out how to contact the businesses to see what the SBC can do to help. This will be revisited at next months' meeting.

Vice Chairman Report – Vice-Chair Lake spoke about the Small Business Award. Vice Chair Lake will be making sure the Fourth Annual Awards will be distributed to the recipients, since they were not finished by the last presentation. She will be visiting Tucson Trophy and look at what is available. There will be a report at the next meeting.

Legislative Priorities- Copies of the proposed legislation for the Land Grants were passed out. It was decided by the Commission this issue is not connected to small business.

Marion Hook- City of Tucson Small Business Commission- SB 1062 was defeated which would have been very detrimental to small businesses. It is unknown how much small business was lost due to the Bill. Calls were made regarding the safety of same sex couples coming to Tucson.

The Small Business Advocate seems to be working. There was a spot on public television, after that the calls started coming in. It seems like most of the calls are complaints from people who are not looking at the Website. All the information is on the Website.

The Women's Business Center- is struggling for funds, leadership, as well as staff. They are having trouble filling the positions needed for the fulfillment of their SBA Grant. The Center falls under the MAC umbrella along with the SBA. The Commission will be looking into how they can assist.

Future Agenda items-

- Commissioner Goodman spoke to Lisa Lovallo from Cox Communications and she agreed to come speak to the SBC regarding Cox and small businesses.
- Pima County Sheriff's Department relationship with small businesses
- Rural and unincorporated areas-possible meeting at unincorporated town-tbd
- Job order contracts-JOCS
- Lea Marquez Peterson-President-Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Call to the Public- No response. **Meeting adjourned at 5:00 P.M.**