

**Pima County Small Business Commission  
Meeting**

Thursday, September 24, 2020  
3:00 P.M.

Video Conference/Telephonic Meeting

**SUMMARY OF MEETING**

**Committee Members Present**

Kent Blumenthal, Chairman  
Bernie Wiegandt, Vice-Chair  
Jenni Zimmerman  
Josh Jacobsen  
Ken Goodman  
Natasha Herzig  
Raul Aguirre (Joined during Item #6)  
Juan Padres  
Gabrielle David

**Committee Members Absent**

Mark Miller  
Guillermo Gallegos

**Staff that Addressed the Committee**

Pima County:

Patrick Cavanaugh, Economic Development  
Deseret Romero, Economic Development

Guests on the call:

Steve Christy, District 4 Supervisor  
Maria Klucarova, Supervisor Sharon Bronson's Office  
Beth Borozan, Supervisor Steve Christy's Office

**MOTIONS**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Juan Padres moved, seconded by Commissioner Josh Jacobsen, to approve the July 30, 2020 meeting minutes. Motion approved 8-0.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Ken Goodman moved, seconded by Commissioner Josh Jacobsen, to approve the September 3, 2020 meeting minutes. Motion approved 8-0.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Ken Goodman moved, seconded by Commissioner Jenni Zimmerman, to create a subcommittee to review Pima County's COVID-19-related 'Ready for You' program and provide a report to the Small Business Commission of possible program modifications and improvements no later than October 15, 2020. Motion approved 9-0.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Ken Goodman moved, seconded by Commissioner Raul Aguirre, to extend the 2020 awards deadline by 30 days. Motion approved 9-0.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Raul Aguirre, seconded by Commissioner Jenni Zimmerman to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved 9-0.

## MEETING SUMMARY

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting began at 3:02 p.m.

### 2. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted by Deseret Romero to start the meeting.

### 3. Approval of Minutes

**MOTION: Commissioner Juan Padres moved, seconded by Commissioner Josh Jacobsen, to approve the July 30, 2020 meeting minutes. Motion approved 8-0.**

**MOTION: Commissioner Ken Goodman moved, seconded by Commissioner Josh Jacobsen, to approve the September 3, 2020 meeting minutes. Motion approved 8-0.**

### 4. Chair's Report: Review of the agenda and video conference meeting protocols

Chairman Kent Blumenthal provided a brief overview of the meeting protocols and the review of the meeting agenda.

### 5. Coordinator's Report: Update on Federal, State and Local Small Business COVID-19 Assistance

Commission Coordinator and Economic Development Deputy Director Patrick Cavanaugh deferred his time to Item #9.

### 6. Commission discussion with the Pima County Health Department as it pertains to Small Business

Pima County Food and Safety Division Manager Loni Anderson provided a brief review of the responsibilities of the Pima County Health Department's Consumer Health and Food Safety Division. Ms. Anderson then opened questions up to the Commission.

Commission questions and Ms. Anderson's responses below:

How is the Health Department helping businesses with employees with medical exemptions? Do businesses know that mitigation plans are options? (Herzig)

- The Health Department is requesting that businesses create a mitigation plan in order to come into compliance. (examples: face shields in absence of face masks and relocating employees to back – no public contact) When a complaint is received, the Health Department contacts the business to inform the business of the COVID-19 resolution, answers questions and provides guidance to the business on how to come into compliance.

The Health Department has been very helpful in other meetings. Does it seem like the number of complaints are improving? Are there fewer violations being issued? Is the Health Department involved in contact tracing? (Jacobsen)

- Yes, there has been a decline in the number of complaints, as businesses are coming into compliance. The violations seem to be declining due to the education and guidance provided to businesses. A different division of the Health Department is working with the community on contact tracing.

Is the Health Department involved in the University of Arizona COVID-19 increase in cases? With University of Arizona cases increasing and having a negative impact, are there plans in place to target these groups with education? Has the Health Department thought to do an FAQ on the website? (Jacobsen)

- Yes, the Health Department is working with the University to provide education and testing. (Mr. Cavanaugh noted the County Administrator's memorandum update.) Believe there is an FAQ on the website and can send to Mr. Cavanaugh for distribution.

What businesses industries does the Health Department oversee? Does the county's resolution provide broader jurisdiction and does the Health Department regulate these businesses? (Wiegandt)

- The Health Department oversee the food establishments (including public events w/ food, food trucks, etc...), Aquatic facilities (hotel/lodging pools included), RV parks (sanitation), etc... The Health Department also works with other businesses to come into compliance with the County's mask resolution and the Governor's Executive Order.

Does the Health Department examine gyms and health centers? (Blumenthal)

- The Governor's Executive Orders regarding gyms and fitness centers have been modified a couple of times during the pandemic. The Health Department works with the establishments to come into compliance with the County's pandemic proclamation.

Do the inspectors receive special training regarding COVID? Does the Health Department oversee businesses like Skate Country? (Herzig)

- Yes, there are weekly trainings/meetings on how to improve and keep up with the Executive Orders. Yes, Skate Country has a food permit.

Has the list of responsibilities increased for staff and is the Health Department able to keep up with the demand? If COVID gets worse, how can we improve to make things better? (Goodman)

- Yes, COVID has been a challenge and the Health Department has had to adapt by hiring and training new staff members. If the pandemic were to take a turn, the Health Department would continue to follow state guidelines, most likely increase education and continue active communications with schools and others.

7. County Administrator Huckelberry's response to the September 11, 2020 letter regarding the Health Department's 'Ready for You' program.

Chairman Blumenthal provided a brief review of Mr. Huckelberry's September 11<sup>th</sup> memorandum and opened the conversation up to the Commission.

Commissioner Jacobsen noted what a great resource the Health Department has been but that the 'Ready for You' program creates an adversary for businesses. Commissioner Jacobsen believes that it is time for the Supervisors to modify the 'Ready for You' program by adding county-wide education, expand to include other businesses and get rid of the complaints process.

Commissioner Zimmerman agreed with Commissioner Jacobsen that the "tattle tale" line should be removed. Commissioner Zimmerman also noted how the complaints and negative social media effect businesses.

Commissioner Padres agreed that the Board should take a second look at the 'Ready for You' program, as it is hurting businesses.

Commissioner Herzig agreed with Commissioner Jacobsen that the complaint line should be removed. The complaint line allows people to "make up" complaints and shared her experiences. Commissioner Herzig inquired if there was a Commissioner who contracted with the County for the 'Ready for You' program.

Mr. Cavanaugh noted that Mr. Aguirre's contract predates his appointment to the Commission. (Note: Mr. Aguirre having technical difficulties was not present during this part of the conversation.)

Commissioner Goodman noted how the program was in the early stages and that a large burden was on the restaurant businesses. Commissioner Goodman suggested the idea of creating a subcommittee to assist, as was done with the Mt. Lemmon subcommittee previously created by the Commission.

Chairman Blumenthal recommended the following:

- Subcommittee meet to discuss modifications/updates to the 'Ready for You' program.
- Bring those updates back to the full Commission for review.
- The full Commission send to the Board of Supervisors.
- Subcommittee members – Jacobsen, Zimmerman, Herzig, and Aguirre

The Commissioner discussed the organization of the subcommittee modifying the subcommittee members – Ken Goodman (Chair), Bernie Weigandt (Vice-Chair), Josh Jacobsen, Jenni Zimmerman and Natasha Herzig.

Mr. Cavanaugh expressed concern about the Arizona Open Meetings Law and noted that the specific item being discussed was not on the agenda. If the Commission wished to take action on an item, it would need to be on the agenda.

The Commission disagreed and moved forward with the following motion.

**MOTION: Commissioner Ken Goodman moved, seconded by Commissioner Jenni Zimmerman, to create a subcommittee to review Pima County's COVID-19-related 'Ready for You' program and provide a report to the Small Business Commission of possible program modifications and improvements no later than October 15, 2020. Motion approved 9-0.**

8. Temporary expansion of restaurant seating areas into non-contiguous areas during pandemic emergency (May 15, 2020 Memo from C.H. Huckelberry)

Due to time, Chairman Blumenthal deferred the item to the next meeting.

9. Pima CARES for Small Business grant program: Information and Commission participation

Mr. Cavanaugh updated the Commission on the recent launch of the Pima CARES for Small Business grant program. Mr. Cavanaugh had provided the Commission with the Pima CARES for Small Business grant program press release and memorandum from the County Administrator.

10. Update: Pima County Development Services Economic Opportunity planning

Mr. Cavanaugh noted that the zoning code amendments would be heard before the Planning and Zoning Commission in October and the Board of Supervisors in November.

11. Update: 2020 Small Business Commission Awards

Ms. Romero updated the Commission on the following:

- 14 applications received
- Deadline September 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

Commissioner Aguirre recommended extending the deadline of the awards.

**MOTION: Commissioner Ken Goodman moved, seconded by Commissioner Raul Aguirre, to extend the 2020 awards deadline by 30 days. Motion approved 9-0.**

12. Update: JTED

Commissioner Goodman updated the Commission on the following:

- His recent attendance to the JTED BIC meeting.
- New building grand opening
- 4<sup>th</sup> year funding looking positive

13. Commission Updates

No one spoke.

14. Commission Meeting Schedule

No one spoke.

15. Agenda Items for Future Meeting

Chairman Blumenthal noted all agenda items should be sent to Mr. Cavanaugh.

16. Call to the Public

The following attendees spoke at call to the public:

- Supervisor Steve Christy, District 4
- Maria Klucarova, Supervisor Sharon Bronson's Office greeted the Commission.
- Beth Borozan, Supervisor Steve Christy's Office greeted the Commission.

17. Adjournment (5:00 p.m.)

**MOTION: Commissioner Raul Aguirre, seconded by Commissioner Jenni Zimmerman to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved 9-0.**

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