

**Pima County Small Business Commission  
Meeting**

Thursday, October 13, 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 #3)  
Mark Miller (Joined during Item #7)  
Guillermo Gallegos

**Committee Members Absent**

Juan Padres  
Gabrielle David

**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 Ken Goodman moved, seconded by Commissioner Josh Jacobsen, to approve (1) Chairman Blumenthal and Commissioner Goodman attend the Board of Supervisors October 20, 2020 meeting, (2) Chairman Blumenthal and Commissioner Goodman draft and finalize a letter to the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors requesting placement on the Board's October 20, 2020 meeting, and (3) If the item is not placed on the Board's Addendum that Chairman Blumenthal and Commissioner Goodman speak at the call to the public presenting the Commission's request. Motion approved 9-0.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Jenni Zimmerman, seconded by Commissioner Josh Jacobsen 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

Chairman Kent Blumenthal asked County staff to review page 3, 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph of the September 24, 2020 meeting summary – response by Ms. Anderson regarding the Chairman’s question related to gyms and fitness centers.

The Commission decided to “table” the approval of the summary in order for staff to review and update.

### 4. Chair’s Report: Review of the agenda and virtual 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 provided the Commission with a brief update on the County’s CARES Small Business grant program.

- Deadline October 9<sup>th</sup>
- 384 applications – incomplete (home-based businesses, business located within a jurisdiction, missing documentation to be corrected, etc...)
- 260 applications - complete

### 6. Discussion – Commission Aguirre’s involvement in the Ready for You program (Commissioners Aguirre and Herzig)

Chairman Blumenthal noted the request of the agenda item by Commissioner Herzig at the September 24<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting.

Mr. Cavanaugh stated that the County did not find a conflict of interest with Commissioner Aguirre’s contract and his appointment to the Small Business Commission.

Commissioner Aguirre sought clarification on the requested agenda item and what the specific question was.

Commissioner Herzig shared her concerns that there may be a conflict of interest with Commissioner Aguirre being a Small Business Commissioner and having a contract for the Ready for You program.

Commissioner Aguirre clarified that his contract was not directly connected to the Ready for You program but provided COVID-19 education for Spanish speaking businesses and community members. He also noted his recent conversation with Supervisor Villegas, who confirmed that a conflict of interest did not exist. The Small Business Commission does not make policy decisions, nor is the Commission related or connected in any fashion to the contract services of Commissioner Aguirre.

7. Report: 'Ready for You' Program Review Subcommittee (Commissioner Goodman)

Commissioner Goodman read his Subcommittee report to the Commission and opened up comments to his fellow Subcommittee members.

Commissioner Bernie Weigandt provided the following points.

- Some businesses may not have been able to participate at the start of the program and voice their concerns.
- Important to modify the program not eliminate.

Commissioner Josh Jacobsen read Article 3 of the Commission By Laws and this article provided "good reason" for recommending the public hearing.

Mr. Cavanaugh noted the Commission on the multiple ways the public is able to voice their concerns and/or questions to the Board of Supervisors, including the Board of Supervisors meetings.

Chairman Blumenthal noted his appreciation for Mr. Huckelberry's memorandum and the request for specific details related to the Commission's Ready for You program concerns and modifications. Chairman Blumenthal inquired as to the Arizona Restaurant Associations' data collection.

Commissioner Jacobsen shared the Arizona Restaurant Associations' letter to Pima County Chairman Ramon Valadez with regard to their concerns. Also noting that the Arizona Restaurant Association see data one-way and the County sees the data in another way.

Mr. Cavanaugh asked if the letter could be shared with the Commission and if Commissioner Jacobsen could describe his role with the Arizona Restaurant Association. Commissioner Jacobsen stated that he was the Policy Chair of the Association and would send the letter to Ms. Romero for distribution.

The Commission continued to discuss the following:

- No action taken on Small Business Commission COVID-19 Outreach Plan.
- Small Business Commission has previously indicated their recommendation that the Ready for You program be reviewed.

- Should a public hearing be requested for restaurants and/or should other businesses be included?
- Negative social media response due to “wall of shame”. Mostly negative for restaurants not other businesses.
- Restaurants are dealing with the difficulties not the Supervisors.
- Ready for You not a bad program but not helpful to restaurants and Health Department staff.
- Prefer that the website be more educational than a “tattle tale” site.
- As a consumer, Ready for You provides confidence that the business is safe.

Mr. Cavanaugh updated the Commission on the Board of Supervisors recent failed motions to have the Mask complaint website be removed, along with the list of non-compliant businesses. Mr. Cavanaugh also cautioned the Commission against requesting items be placed on the Board agenda that have already failed.

The Commission discussed providing a letter to the Chairman of the Board and the County Administrator requesting the Subcommittee report be placed on the Board of Supervisors October 20, 2020 agenda for discussion and possible public hearing. An alternative was also discussed. If the item was not placed on the addendum, Chairman Blumenthal and Commissioner Goodman would attend the call to the public portion of the Board meeting to address the Board.

The Commission further discussed not including the “wall of shame” in their request, as it would most likely fail. If a public hearing was approved the issue could be brought up at the hearing.

Chairman Blumenthal and Commissioner Goodman were asked to draft and final a letter to the Chairman of the Board with the items discussed above.

**MOTION: Commissioner Ken Goodman moved, seconded by Commissioner Josh Jacobsen, to approve (1) Chairman Blumenthal and Commissioner Goodman attend the Board of Supervisors October 20, 2020 meeting, (2) Chairman Blumenthal and Commissioner Goodman draft and finalize a letter to the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors requesting placement on the Board’s October 20, 2020 meeting, and (3) If the item is not placed on the Board’s Addendum that Chairman Blumenthal and Commissioner Goodman speak at the call to the public presenting the Commission’s request. Motion approved 9-0.**

8. Update: 2020 Small Business Commission Awards

Ms. Romero provided the following update on the 2020 Small Business Commission Awards program to the Commission:

- 18 applications received
- Revised Deadline per Commission direction – October 28, 2020
- Staff try to have the applications prepared for Commission review at their November 5, 2020.

9. Update: Pima County Development Services Economic Opportunity planning

Mr. Cavanaugh noted that there was no update.

10. Update: JTED & Dedication of New JTED Facility

Commissioner Goodman did not have an update.

11. Commission Updates

No one spoke.

12. Next Commission Meeting: Thursday, November 5, 2020 (3:00 p.m.)

Chairman Blumenthal recommended that the Commission meet at their next scheduled meeting of November 5, 2020.

13. Agenda Items for Future Meeting

No one spoke.

14. Call to the Public

The following attendees spoke at call to the public:

- Supervisor Steve Christy, District 4 (Ms. Borozan noted Supervisor Christy attending the meeting.)
- Maria Klucarova, Supervisor Sharon Bronson's Office greeted the Commission.
- Beth Borozan, Supervisor Steve Christy's Office greeted the Commission.

15. Adjournment (5:18 p.m.)

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