

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
San Luis Economic Development Commission
San Luis Business Incubator Conference Room
415 North Industrial Avenue
August 17, 2016
11:30 A.M.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION WILL ATTEND EITHER IN PERSON, TELEPHONE, OR VIDEO CONFERENCE COMMUNICATION.

CALL TO ORDER Chair Maria Gonzalez called the meeting to order at approximately 11:45 a.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Maria Gonzalez, Chairman
Emma Torres, Vice-Chair
Olivia Zepeda, Member
Jenny Torres, Member
Randy Nelson, Member
Henry Chavez, Member
Jezreel Ramirez, Member

ABSENT: Christian Espinoza, Member

OTHERS PRESENT: Vanessa Castillo, Small Business Development Center Business Analyst
Dania Castillo, Administrative Assistant of Community Development
Rogelio Martinez, Secretary of Community Development

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES OF

- Regular meeting held on July 20, 2015.

MOTION: Member Randy Nelson/ Chair Maria Gonzalez to approve consent agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

1. Discussion and possible action on any and all matters regarding the San Luis Business Incubator applications, installation of fiber optic and mission/vision. (Randy Nelson)

Based on the information that was gathered using GrowthWheel, a summarized PDF file will be forwarded to members of the Economic Development Commission so that the mission and vision statements can be addressed on the next scheduled meeting.

Randy Nelson requests that members read the summary, provide their own ideas, and reply with feedback a week before the next meeting. This will enable both Randy and Vanessa to develop a report to be presented on the next scheduled meeting.

2. Presentation of Border Business Case and Focus Future Report. (Jenny Torres)

Ms. Jenny Torres, City of San Luis Economic Development Director, presented the border business case that focused on: rail, currently exploring options of what is available and what can be utilize to satisfy the demand for rail in the region; port of entry, the United States General Administration Services (GSA) obtained funding required to perform a feasibility study on the commercial port of entry to open access to privately owned vehicles (POVs); gas line, different projects are being presented for consideration as a long-term project; tourism, currently working on a binational agenda to communicate upcoming events throughout the community, and analyzing options to compete with Algodones, Baja California, in medical tourism; economic development, ongoing advertising by attending expos and conferences; education, Northern Arizona University (NAU) is working with Sonora and Baja California in partnerships between their universities.

Ms. Torres continued her presentation with the focus future report on ongoing efforts for the short-term, mid-term, and long-term projects: business retention and expansion strategy, documentation is ready but development of a program designed for the City of San Luis is pending; financial institutions are closing of along the border; local branding, the development of a marketing committee by the City of San Luis to promote the city; business attractions, current focus in street infrastructure, city held a Denny's groundbreaking ceremony, and use of a feasibility study to seek additional funding from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the newly established urgent care center in San Luis; incentive policies: a pillow manufacturer, garbage truck manufacturer, the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES), and NAU have interest in establishing operations in San Luis; recreational projects, currently seeking funding for development of bicycle pads and pedestrian walkways; governance/branding strategies, passing of Ordinance No. 348 to allow lower tax rates on high priced items; community development and infrastructure, status on future developments from Arizona Western College to address the concern of increasing number of students throughout the county; downtown projects, re-development of the district by seeking additional local business participation to employ a business retention and expansion program which will allow for additional infrastructure.

3. Discussion and Possible Action on any and all matters regarding selecting this year's objectives.

Item not discussed.

4. Discussion and Possible Action on any and all matters regarding scheduling of next meeting.

Ms. Jenny Torres, City of San Luis Economic Development Director, suggested that meetings held on a quarterly basis will prove more beneficial as it will assist on keeping track of the program's effectiveness.

Members agreed and decided the next meeting should be held on Thursday, September 15, 2016, from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., tentatively at the San Luis Business Incubator.

5. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Chair Maria Gonzalez/Member Jezreel Ramirez to adjourn the meeting at approximately 1:19 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.