



MINUTES

Economic Development Commission
22350 S. Ellsworth Rd, Queen Creek, AZ
Historic Town Hall
June 27, 2018
7:30 am

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Lee Ester called the meeting to order at 7:40 am. The following people attended:

Commission Members: Lee Ester, Chair; Cindy Barnes; Jason Barney; Perry Berry; Chris Clark (arrived at 7:50 am); Richard Graham; Courtney Kleinebreil; Derek Neighbors; Shane Randall; Perry Rea; Steve Sossaman; Grant Tayrien;

Town Staff: Doreen Cott, Economic Development Director; Jennifer Lindley, Downtown Development Manager; Marissa Garnett, Economic Development Coordinator; Bruce Gardner, Assistant Town Manager; Gloria Moore, Budget Administrator; Ryan Fielder, Sr. Budget Analyst; Kyle Barichello, Planner; Rob Sachs, Real Estate Coordinator

Absent Members: Bill Smith, Vice Chair; Carson Brown; Warde Nichols; Mark Schnepf; Vice Mayor Turley; Council Member Oliphant

2. Introductions & Announcements

The Chair initiated a round-table introduction of commissioners, staff and guests in attendance. Guests included Angelo Rea, Queen Creek Olive Mill; Travis Tolmachoff, Sossaman Farms and Dr. Gregory Peterson, President of Chandler Gilbert Community College.

3. Public Comment:

None

4. Items for Discussion and Possible Action

A. Consideration and possible approval of the May 23 2018 minutes

Motion to approve the May 23, 2018 minutes as presented.

1st: Shane Randall

2nd: Cindy Barnes

Vote: Approved unanimously

B. Discussion and possible action on the Chair and Vice Chair positions

Economic Development Director Doreen Cott explained the duties of the Chair and Vice Chair positions, which are elected annually for a one-year term and she asked for nominations. Lee Ester was nominated for Chair and Shane Randall was nominated for Vice Chair.

Motion to elect Lee Ester as Chair and Shane Randall as Vice Chair of the Economic Development Commission.

1st: Derek Neighbors

2nd: Grant Tayrien

Vote: Approved unanimously

C. Discussion and possible approval of the Annual Work Plan priorities for FY18-19

Ms. Cott presented the draft work plan prepared by staff and asked for feedback:

- Implement recommendations outlined in the Town Center Plan Update
- Plan an Economic Development Summit in early 2019
- Review Façade Improvement Program applications
- Provide input and recommendations on new economic development programs/projects that may benefit Queen Creek.
- Review Major General Plan Amendments as appropriate
- Continue with implementation of the Economic Development Strategic Plan
- Provide input on educational updates and speakers at monthly meetings
- Work with the new Arts Commission to establish a consistent art plan

Commissioners discussed the work plan items and presented ideas for future educational topics and speakers; Town Center signage; place making; and the new Arts Commission and art plan.

Ms. Cott thanked the commission for their input and said the 12-month work plan is required to go to Town Council for approval.

Motion to approve and recommend to Council the Annual Work Plan suggested by staff with the addition of establishing a consistent art plan with the new Arts Commission.

1st: Courtney Kleinebreil

2nd: Grant Tayrien

Vote: Approved unanimously

D. Discussion on topics for an Economic Development Summit

Ms. Cott reviewed potential dates, times and topics for the Economic Development Summit. The commissioners discussed topics for the summit such as annexations; accreditation update; educational programs; regional connections; CIP; transportation; employment tiers; Town Center Plan updates; SkyBridge Master Plan; airport updates and agritainment. They also discussed the target audience and key focus areas. They suggested speakers in the agritainment area who can relay Queen Creek success stories.

Ms. Cott said she would draft up an agenda with the ideas presented and asked the commissioners to provide a list of attendees.

E. Presentation and discussion on the Home Rule Renewal (alternative expenditure limitation) scheduled for the August 28 election

Budget Administrator Gloria Moore introduced Ryan Fielder, Sr. Finance Analyst. Mr. Fielder gave a history of home rule option and explained the two options for home rule – renewed every four years by the voters or a permanent base adjustment approved by voters. Mr. Fielder said it is important to educate voters and clarify that the home rule proposition is not a new tax nor is it a revenue question. He explained that home rule allows us to legally spend money that is already budgeted for services that are required and requested by the community. He discussed the consequences if home rule does not pass and said the Town cannot advocate for home rule but can only provide facts to the voters on what a yes or no vote would mean. Mr. Fielder said public safety groups, boards, commissions, Chamber of Commerce and Mayor and Council can actively campaign for home rule. He asked the commissioners to help get the word out to voters on the importance of voting yes for home rule.

D. Summary of current events – Reports from Chair, Committee Members and Economic Development staff.

Commissioner Chris Clark:

- Queen Creek Chamber of Commerce 2018 Educational Summit is on August 29. The event helps prepare Queen Creek youth for the workforce.

Downtown Development Manager Jennifer Lindley:

- Joint Planning & Zoning and EDC meeting will be held on August 8 at 6 p.m.

- The Economic Development Department is working with Gangplank and Old Ellsworth Brewing Company for Entrepreneurship Week 2018. A summit for entrepreneurs will be held on November 15 (location to be determined) followed by a happy hour reception at Old Ellsworth Brewing Company.
- Thank you to Perry Rea and QC Olive Mill for providing refreshments at today's meeting.

Director Doreen Cott:

- Jennifer Lindley has been reclassified to the position of Downtown Development Manager and Marissa Garnett has been reclassified as the Economic Development Coordinator.

Assistant Town Manager Bruce Gardner:

- Chris Anaradian is no longer with the Town and Brett Burningham was appointed as the Interim Development Services Director.
- Mayor Barney was selected as the Chair of Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), which is very important for Queen Creek in light of upcoming transportation issues and Prop 500.

5. **Announcements**

6. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

TOWN OF QUEEN CREEK

Lee Ester, Chair
Economic Development Commission

Prepared by:

Joy Maglione
Town Clerk Assistant

PASSED AND APPROVED ON: August 22, 2018