

CEDS COMMITTEE MEETING

SEPTEMBER 26, 2018

M I N U T E S

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bobby Davis called the meeting to order at 2:33 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Bobby Davis, Jennifer Evans, Sandie Smith, Marissa Garnett, Tim Kanavel, Evelyn Casuga, Jeff Fairman, Fernando Garcia, Elan Vallender.

Staff Present: Brad Mecham

Guests: Mark Apel, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension

A quorum was established.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, May 30th, 2018

Ms. Evans made a motion to approve the May 30th, 2018 CEDS Committee minutes as presented. Ms. Casuga seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Achieve Pinal Presentation – Evelyn Casuga

Ms. Evelyn Casuga presented on Achieve Pinal, an initiative organized by the Pinal Alliance for Economic Growth. Achieve Pinal is an effort to strengthen relationships across education levels to promote a healthy talent pool for existing and future jobs in Pinal County. They have adopted the “Achieve 60” program, which is an effort to have over 60% of Pinal County’s population with a postsecondary degree or certificate.

As part of this effort, a Parent Academy has been created. This is in partnership with Arizona State University. All of these efforts are in response to employers needing to find skilled and qualified workers for jobs that are coming to the region.

B. Area Sector Analysis Presentation – Mark Apel, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension

Mr. Mark Apel presented information on their upcoming Area Sector Analysis Process (ASAP). The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension is seeking EDA funding to evaluate industry sector strengths and opportunities in distressed communities across Arizona. The process consists of six modules:

Module One – The Steering Committee is presented an overview of the ASAP process so that they understand the logistics and goals and they understand their responsibilities.

Module Two – The ASAP goals and assets surveys are presented to the Steering Committee. Plans are made to complete one asset survey and make plans to have a broad segment of committee residents complete the goals survey.

Module Three – The completed goals and asset surveys are returned to the ASAP team by Steering Committee members. These surveys will then be sent to University of Nevada-Reno where the model will be run. An overview of local and national economic development trends is then presented. This knowledge will assist the steering committee in developing their strategic plan.

Module Four – Results of the ASAP model are presented to the Steering Committee. Information about how to read and understand model outputs is provided.

Module Five – Typically, the ASAP model will determine between 10 and 70 industrial sectors that are both desirable and compatible. Between Modules Four and Five, the ASAP team works with the Steering Committee to reduce the number of targets to about 12. During this module, detailed information is presented on the 12 selected sectors.

Module Six – The ASAP team and the Steering Committee work together to select 2-6 sectors to be included in a final strategic plan.

This process has been used throughout the mountain west, and will take approximately 6-8 months to complete. There is no cost to the communities associated with this project as the Cooperative Extension is seeking grant funding to complete the process. The term of the grant will be three years, and additional rounds are anticipated with additional communities to be identified at a later date.

Mr. Apel is looking to CAG to identify 2-3 communities that would benefit from this process and asked the Committee for a letter of support. Mr. Mecham was instructed to provide a letter of support to Mr. Apel.

C. Opportunity Zones Discussion

Mr. Mecham encouraged the Committee to discuss any updates on opportunity zones within Arizona, including any knowledge of funds or investment groups that have shown interest in the region.

Mr. Vallender shared that there was interest from a real estate investment group out of California that was completing their due diligence. He noted that he would reach out to the investors to see if he could share their contact information with other zones in the CAG region.

D. CEDS Committee Roundtable

Ms. Smith reported that the Pinal Partnership is hosting monthly breakfasts on issues affecting Pinal County. They are waiting to hear more on the Pinal Regional Transportation Authority and the potential appeals process.

Mr. Garcia reported that Casa Grande is working with an Americorps Vista member to work on a shop local program in coordination with Local First Arizona, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Pinal Alliance.

Ms. Garnett reported that Queen Creek is anticipating a new Hampton Inn that will break ground in December. Zoning for downtown Queen Creek will be completed in November. The town also recently obtained accreditation through the International Economic Development Council.

Ms. Evans provided an update on Innovation Pavilion and the Town of Florence is still being assessed. A Downtown Redevelopment Plan will be going out to RFP in the fall, and the general plan will need to be updated next year.

Mr. Fairman reported that the City of Eloy Economic Development Strategic Plan process was underway with ESI. The city is also looking into a façade renovation program. The city will also recover 100 manufacturing jobs and another expansion is pending.

Mr. Vallender reported that the general plan process was complete to designate 40 acres for industrial use. Zoning and platting should be complete by the end of the calendar year. Apache Junction has also received some interest in their opportunity zone as well as their downtown areas. The city will be initiating a multimodal transportation plan as well as a general plan in the next year.

Mr. Davis reported that the Town of Payson has a new mayor and a few new councilmembers. The town has a new Dutch Bros., and two new microbreweries, and will be launching a new bus line for northern Gila County. Mr. Davis also reported that Ammo Inc. will be expanding and adding another 20+ employees.

Mr. Mecham reported on the City of Coolidge's announcement for Nikola Motor Company to add nearly 2,000 jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in investments.

VI. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 5th, 2018 at 2:30 PM.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bobby Davis adjourned the meeting at 3:16 PM.