

SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY ADVISORY COMMISSION

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

Chairman:	Anthony Trujillo	Commissioners:	Alex Romero
Vice Chairman:	Beverly Chavez		Don Kaufman
Ex-Officio Commissioner:	Gary Oppedahl		Larry Garcia
			Larry Rainosek
			Scott Throckmorton



MINUTES from July 15, 2014

ATTENDEES:

Anthony Trujillo
Don Kaufman
Larry Garcia
Larry Rainosek
Scott Throckmorton
Alex Romero
Beverly Chavez

GUEST:

John Moore
Brennan Williams

STAFF:

Cheryl Rein
Jenny Walters
Donna Griffin
Gary Oppedahl

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Trujillo at 7:35 a.m.

No changes or additions were made to the Agenda.

The May minutes were approved by the Commission.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER THROCKMORTON
SECOND BY COMMISSIONER GARCIA
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Presentation/Overview of Innovate Central—Gary Oppedahl, Director of Economic Development, City of Albuquerque

Gary Oppedahl provided an overview of the following downtown initiatives:

Innovate ABQ
Innovate Central
ABQid

Innovate ABQ (InnABQ) is a collaboration between the City, UNM, County and the private sector. Geographically “InnABQ” will be housed at the first Baptist site on the corner of Central and Broadway, 7.2 acres. Gary advised that the collaboration is creating the new center of New Mexico and it is a true collaboration, not just a ribbon around six smoke stacks. The collaboration is working hard to ensure they are one voice with people working well together. The intent is to be a one stop shop of innovators and entrepreneurs who will start businesses in Albuquerque and grow them.

Gary further explained, we are trying to democratize entrepreneurship. In urban development terms they call it place making, I prefer to call it “making a scene with unique actors and a great story”. The book “Startup Communities” by Brad Feld, advises gathering everyone in a single site to collide/share ideas, intentional matchmaking until it explodes out to the surrounding areas and impacts the whole State. The idea is a maker space similar to a high school shop where we will have metal working, wood working tools, and 3D printers so that anybody who has an idea can make it into something that is a reality. Four takeaways from Brad Feld book:

1. Has to be run by entrepreneurs
2. Give before you get attitude
3. Includes everyone
4. Constant activities that engage community/entrepreneurs

Gary’s vision upon entering InnABQ is to have a coffee shop with a bunch of white boards. The cashier introducing patrons to others that create a beehive of collaborations. At any technical park it is good to have large companies/corporate sponsors. Gary is committed to getting these sponsors to work with the innovators and to provide more resources.

Gary talked about the first week in August and what the City is referring to as “Inflection Week” because of all of the amazing things scheduled in related to InnABQ; investing in things that will have a high ROI right away

- CNM is having its first 9 week coder school
- Microsoft first digicamp for middle school boys/girls
- ABQid first cohort starts for companies
- Fatpipe incubator at the old Albuquerque high school
- Leadermatchabq.com
- Invention Lab party
- One million cups (1MC)

Gary explained that Innovation central includes a vibrant downtown which is necessary to support a successful and growing City. The City is working on installing Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) which is similar to a subway except above the ground. BRT will run down Central, the first route is planned to run in the middle of Central from Louisiana to Coors. The Federal Government has placed Albuquerque on the acceleration program which means we are fast tracked with up to 80% matching funds. The city is very sensitive to the businesses along the way, so there will be resources available to help with business interruption during the implementation of BRT.

Innovate Central, geographically refers to the area around InnABQ from Lomas to the Railyards and downtown to UNM . In 2010 the Living Cities Program picked four cities and gave them 85 million dollars in direct resources and programs. Now in 2014 they picked five cities and Albuquerque is one of them. We will share 100 million dollars. Robin Brule, in the Mayor's office, is heading up the initiative. Living Cities will support our economic development strategy that encompasses 5 areas: Business Development, Community Development, Talent/Skill Development, Capital Development, and Culture of Entrepreneurism & Inclusion. The mission is job creation and economic mobility. Authentically inclusive economic development where there are no barriers for anyone to enter in and participate.

Within each of the five areas are programs to implement each initiative. One program is called ABQid, which the "id" stands for identifying people who should be entrepreneurs, entrepreneurs who should start businesses and small businesses who should become successful job creators and possibly our next unicorns. Also, to identify Albuquerque as a place entrepreneurs want to be. Gary had a handout that reflected how companies who go through an accelerator have an increased chance of being successful. Typically out of 10 startup companies, the number that finds success with no help from an accelerator program is 1 to 2, leaving 8 to 9 of them failing. However, the companies that go through a program such as ABQid will have 7 to 8 successes with only 1 to 2 failures. There are over 130 accelerator programs in the world producing successful businesses daily. The plan for ABQid in Albuquerque is to give \$20 thousand to each company who goes through the program and then an additional \$50 to \$100 thousand at the end for successful companies. The City is not allowed to give money directly to companies. ABQid which is a non-profit, will be funded through with EDAct funds (clawbacks from Schott Solar). Additionally the private sector has raised two million with the goal of raising five million. In place are program related investment (PRI) commitments from major foundations to match funds for whatever is raised from the private sector. If the goal of five million is met it could mean up to fifteen million with the matching funds. That is a game changer for Albuquerque.

There was time allotted for Q/A with the Commissioners and Mr. Oppedahl.

Chairman Trujillo commented that he advocates for small business period, without any care to the call centers coming into town. He asked Gary to advocate for the 30,000 small businesses that are already here.

Gary's response was that it is never a question of "OR" with him but it is always "AND"; meaning to include recruiting out of State businesses AND help existing businesses. It is all about coordination, distribution, and flow. He explained that what he presented today was just the new stuff going on and does not reflect what his department is working on for already existing businesses.

Chairman Trujillo asked how many full time job estimates these initiatives will yield for the community.

Gary's response was that Mark Lautman (Job's Council/State) says we need 60K over the next ten years and if we do nothing then that number is zero or negative. We are putting metric's together to try and figure out how we are affecting the job market, how we keep more of the jobs here, how we keep high school seniors here, how we create more jobs and what is the ROI on each dollar spent here.

Commissioner Romero commented that he completely supports Mr. Oppedahl stating that he has done an amazing job with enthusiasm and energy. He thinks that his work will pay off and he thanked him for all that he is doing especially with regard to collaboration and inclusivity. He said that the business leaders understand the big movement and huge impact these initiatives that Mr. Oppedahl shared today are going to have on the community.

Update City Ordinance (Food Trucks)—Brennan Williams, Code Compliance Manager

Mr. Williams discussed the request he received to issue a new or modified declaratory ruling regarding food trucks on private property as an outside activity.

He stated that the bad news would be that planning would not issue a declaratory ruling as it relates to the food trucks but the good news is that planning has a solution to achieve the goals of the committee while at the same time making sure that it meets all zoning code standards.

The current rub is that the code in certain commercial zones does not allow outside activity, which food trucks fall into, or it necessitates approval from a public hearing for special approval or exception. Historically one way that we have dealt with food trucks is that if the zoning designation of a particular property allows them to go through the public hearing process, we advise them of that. This process normally takes around sixty days after request is received by hearing examiner to secure conditional use approval for food trucks on private property. This is site specific. He advised that nine times out of ten we instruct them to park on the right of way (on the street).

He advised that Planning is proposing modifying the existing special events process. Basically that would result in working with regulatory agencies that would oversee the food trucks, coming up with an expedited shortened process that would allow folks to propose to the review committee a site specific location, then garner all the other approvals, police, fire, environmental health , zoning , possibly other departments to specify a designated time period. From the enforcement stand point that is our primary concern in order to allow the activity to take place. In the next 8-10 days we will be meeting with the reviewing agencies that would be part of this process and hopefully we would have something by the end of the summer.

Cheryl asked if that meant that the food truck would have to get a special event permit every week. Mr. Williams responded hopefully that would not be the case, discussions have included a designated time period of six months to a year.

Donna made the argument that we may be drawing the line to close to the end of the spectrum. On one end you have food trucks that park in front of city right a ways, parked in front of bars eight hours at a time, controlled by health ordinance where they go to commissaries and get cleaned out every night, they are free to roam. Then you have the other end, of organized pods like the Talin Market where because it's an organized event you run into requirement for bathrooms, litter control, etc.

She suggested the proposal pushes too close to this organized pod scenario; further stating that what was supposed to be a simple request has turned into something proposing additional restrictions and rules i.e. either parking in right a way or having to have an organized event which involves many more challenges. The Commission is trying to emulate an entrepreneurial spirit this proposal would not necessarily reflect that .

Cheryl asked what the argument is of not extending the declaratory ruling from two hours to five hours and how does the city allow for food trucks on city property and UNM property. Mr. Williams's response: Nothing in the code allows for a food truck to be parked for any amount of time to begin with except for the special approval or exemption. We are working to adopt a unified development ordinance in the long run that might help to address these concerns. The city property and UNM property is not subject to the restrictions of the zoning ordinances.

Ms. Rein asked Mr. Williams for a written response within two weeks confirming the planning departments denial on the request for a Declaratory Ruling .

Mr. Williams advised that food trucks could appeal the 1985 declaratory ruling and make the argument to City Council for the extended time frame. Lastly he suggested that the zoning/planning code is going through major review, this process is slated to take around three years

There was a motion to ask the UNM Anderson students to research other cities code enforcement/special permitting for food trucks.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER THROCKMORTON
SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CHAVEZ
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Meeting adjourned at 9:36 a.m.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER KAUFMAN
SECOND BY COMMISSIONER RAINOSEK
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Minutes submitted by:  Date 8/19/14
Cheryl Rein-Borunda

Minutes approved by:  Date 8/19/14
Anthony Trujillo, Chairman of the Board

