



Minutes Tempe Aviation Commission May 13, 2008

Minutes of the Tempe Aviation Commission meeting held on May 13, 2008, 6:30 p.m., at the Public Works Conference Room, Garden Level, City Hall Complex, 31 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Gary Goren (on phone)
William Justus
Gloria Regensberg (on phone)
Curtis Ritland
David Swanson (Vice Chair)
Connie Thompson
Duane Washkowiak (Chair) (on phone)

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Ross Meyer
Sandeep Gopalan
Alyson Star (Excused)
Edwin R. Wiggington (Excused)

Citizens Present:

Barbara Sherman

City Staff Present:

Oddvar Tveit, Environmental Quality
Specialist, Water Utilities
Department

Meeting convened at 6:34 p.m.

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

There were no public appearances.

Agenda Item 2 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes (April 15, 2008)

The Vice Chair asked the members for comments to the minutes. Gary suggested an amendment under agenda item 6, and to add a request to staff to get back to the members with information clarifying the voting requirement for boards and commissions after the code was changed. Connie moved to approve the minutes as amended. Gloria seconded the motion. The amended meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Agenda Item 3 – Updates From Staff & Chair

Quorum:

Staff explained that the code change that required votes of a majority of the total number of members, (quorum), to pass any business before the Commission, would be changed back to how the requirement was worded for the Commission before the code change. A majority among the members of a quorum would again become sufficient if accepted by Council.

Barbara Sherman joined the meeting 6:42 p.m.

Let's Talk Tempe:

The Vice Chair commended the Chair and staff and expressed that a televised meeting with the Mayor was an accomplishment. Commission members were encouraged to remind the City Council about the need for attention to airport issues. Aviation had yet to appear in the May 20 runoff election campaign.

Follow up: The members asked staff to get CD copies of the tape from the meeting.

Sky Harbor NFTMS:

The recommendation from the City of Phoenix RFP for a Noise and Flight Track Monitoring System Review Board to contract with ERA Corporation was recently presented to the Phoenix Aviation Advisory Board Planning & Development subcommittee. The airport staff's plan is to get the approval from the Phoenix Council to sign a new contract with ERA in June and get a new contract started in July 2008.

Staff was asked to comment on an observation by one of the members; aircraft on departure to the east appear to be flying higher and more over the riverbed. Preparing the noise report for April 2008 staff had found significant decreases in high average noise level events (Ldn A) at the Tempe monitors compared to previous months. There were less large carrier departures going east compared to previous months, and the number of high level events caused by MD80 aircraft was down quite considerably. The members discussed a possible letter of appreciation to the airport and the possible impact from reductions in scheduled flights because of higher fuel prices, and how fuel prices also might influence where airlines want the departures to go, east or west relative to route destinations.

Follow Up:

Staff was asked to investigate any changes in average departure altitudes and volume over the last 3 years.

Agenda Item 4 – Environmental Impacts of Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport

The item had been placed on the agenda after feedback received by the Chair's at his appearance on Let's Talk Tempe. Air quality could be an appropriate vehicle for the Commission to bring airport issues forward, considering the PM-10 non-attainment situation for the Phoenix metropolitan area where the airport is located. The Commission should look at the possibility of partnering with e.g. ASU to have actual data as basis for giving the Council input on how address the impacts of Sky Harbor and traffic congestions around the airport, e.g. to help channel truck traffic out of the downtown area.

Staff explained how the City is engaged as a member of MAG in regional transportation and air quality planning, activities depending on access to federal funding sources, (CMAQ Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality).

Follow up: Gary would do research to come up with ideas on how the members should proceed.

Agenda Item 5 – Invitation to Glendale to talk about airport development in west valley

Gloria reported on input she had received from the City of Glendale Economic Development Department. The City of Glendale has a 20 year Master Plan for Glendale airport, and they plan to lengthen the runway. The reason for the extension is to accommodate corporate flights to facilitate the use of the stadium and big events. Airport information is publicly available on the Glendale web site and also at Coffman & Associates' web site where environmental studies can be accessed. There are no specific studies done to explore the airport's commercial potential, and Glendale has no plans to partner with other cities to lobby regional solutions.

Follow up: She would get back to the members with the outcome of contacting the Maricopa Association of Governments.

Agenda Item 6 – Commissioners' Business (topics for future discussion)

It was suggested that the members discuss how the City could initiate a regional approach to address the airport situation and for the Commission to support to Representative Mitchell's statement on the future potential of WGA instead of a 4th runway expansion at Sky Harbor.

Agenda Item 7 – Schedule Next TAVCO Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled to June 10, 2008.

Agenda Item 9 – Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Prepared by: Oddvar Tveit

Reviewed by: Don Hawkes

Authorized Signature
Water Utilities Department Manager