



Minutes Tempe Aviation Commission August 11, 2009

Minutes of the Tempe Aviation Commission meeting held on August 16, 2009, 6:30 p.m., at the Public Works Conference Room, Garden Level, City Hall Complex, 31 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Sally Clements
Tara Ellman (On Phone)
Karyn Gitlis
Gary Goren (On Phone)
Barbara Sherman (On Phone)
Alyson Star
David Swanson (Vice Chair)
Duane Washkowiak

Citizens Present:

Bill Butler, Riverside Sunset NA
Shannon Dutton, North Tempe NA
Jonathan Thums, Riverside Sunset NA

City Staff Present:

Oddvar Tveit, Environmental Quality Specialist

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Dick Collins (Excused)
William Justus (Excused)
Gloria Regensberg (Chair)
Curtis Ritland (Excused)
Connie Thompson (Excused)

Guests Present:

City of Phoenix Aviation Department:
Chad Makovsky, Deputy Aviation
Director, Operations
Randy Payne, Program Manager
John Sawyer, Aviation Superintendent

Meeting convened at 6:47 p.m.

David called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

Bill Butler talked about how the Riverside Sunset Neighborhood Association had raised the bird strike issue at one of their association meetings because of concerns over the excess water being dumped by the city into a canal at 40th and 32nd streets by the Maricopa freeway, and irrigation water going through a head gate at 1045 W. 1st Street. It is not unusual to see water going into drains at 48 and 24th street. This supply of excess water had created a jungle of vegetations under the freeway and created wild life habitats not usually found in a desert. He also addressed OEI (One Engine Inoperative) flight procedures that include departure turns over residential areas in Tempe in emergency situations. Jonathan Thums added to Bill Butler's comments regarding the vegetation and how it had been allowed to flourish, creating a situation that unabated could bring more airlines to avoid flying over the riverbed. He presented photos

and aerial depictions of the vegetation clusters and wild life habitat areas and an aeronautical map that did not contain any directions to pilots to adhere to the riverbed noise mitigation flight procedure. Shannon Dutton expressed her interest in learning from the members about noise mitigation, including the Phoenix gate, which Tempe had not agreed to, and asked if the members considered safety of the Tempe residents under the flight paths to be a concern for TAVCO.

Agenda Item 2 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes (revised May 12th, 2009 and June 16th 2009)

Gary moved to approve the revised May and the June meeting minutes. Barbara seconded the motion and got a confirmation from staff as to what was changed in the revised May meeting minutes. Both minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 3 – Updates From Staff

Tour of WGA:

Staff encouraged members who had not signed up for the tour on August 25th 2009, to let staff know if they would like to attend.

Wild Life Strike Database

Staff did a presentation of wild life strike data made available to the public after the DOT decided to have the FAA make the wild life strike database available on-line in April 2009. Reported strikes at Sky Harbor were displayed with strike numbers east and west of the airport and with the relatively large number of registered strikes that could not be traced to specific airlines or phase of flight of an aircraft. Strike numbers for La Guardia were compared to strikes registered for Sky Harbor between 2000 and 2008.

Agenda Item 5 – Airport Noise Impact Evaluation

Staff had distributed a draft letter of recommendation to the Mayor and Council on the aircraft noise impact evaluation done for the City by QED Airport & Aviation Consultants. Karyn moved to approve the letter as written. Barbara seconded the motion provided an edit was made in the last paragraph on page 2 of the draft. Karyn agreed to change the wording of the motion to accept the letter as amended with a second from Barbara. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 4 – Update from the City of Phoenix Aviation Department

Randy Payne informed the members about the replacement of microphones and hardware at the NFTMS sites in Phoenix and Tempe. Prior to accepting the replacement work, which was expected to take place in September, 2009, Phoenix might decide to go for a cellular connection at all sites depending on the how reliable existing phone lines proved to be during the testing period. He commented that aeronautical charts typically have information on airspace boundaries and contain no specifics on flight procedures, e.g. the instrument departure procedures out of Sky Harbor.

Gary left the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

John Sawyer explained about wild life management at Sky Harbor and the wild life hazard assessment and management plan that was updated and approved by the FAA earlier this year. The airport had a study done that has recommendations on addressing some areas of concern, one being to secure that the water from the Tempe Town Lake follows a controlled, flowing

channel with no seepage. He emphasized that the information registered in the wild life strike data base is not based on a common practice, and can be misleading depending on how thorough airports and airlines are in reporting bird strikes. A strike can be registered in the database if remains of an animal are found at the airport property. This is what Phoenix reports. There is no requirement to have evidence of it being the result of an animal being struck by an aircraft. Thus comparing the wild life strike data for Sky Harbor with La Guardia data is problematic. Sky Harbor does not have the big fowl present at La Guardia. He also addressed a recent Clean Water Act 404 block permit from the Army Corps of Engineers, which gave the airport administration carte blanche authority to mitigate vegetation in a larger area, not restricted to certain zones as previous permits did. The 404 permit was an important improvement to their management authority, because the locations of habitat areas in the riverbed change over time.

Members expressed concerns that the data from the strike database give a false impression of the wild life hazard at Sky Harbor, and that focus should be on cooperating with Phoenix on effectively mitigating the hazard to aviation.

Payne addressed the work ADOT is doing on the Broadway curve, which should take care of the Tempe drain issue. He also mentioned Tempe's work on a Rio Salado pathway project.

Follow up:

Randy would look into providing TAVCO with the new wild life hazard management plan for Sky Harbor, and make inquiries about ADOT timelines for Broadway curve project.

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

The following items were suggested:

- Have a discussion of a revised proposal for the Tempe history with Sky Harbor
- Discuss the Tempe monthly noise monitoring reports.
- Have the Rio Salado Administration come talk to the members about habitat control
- Continue discussion of future strategies/ actions

Agenda Item 7 – Schedule Next TAVCO Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for September 8, 2009.

Agenda Item 8 – Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Prepared by: Oddvar Tveit

Reviewed by: Don Hawkes

Authorized Signature
Water Utilities Department Manager