



Minutes Tempe Aviation Commission October 13, 2009

Minutes of the Tempe Aviation Commission meeting held on October 13, 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
Karyn Gitlis
William Justus
Gloria Regensberg (Chair)
Barbara Sherman
Alyson Star
David Swanson (Vice Chair)
Duane Washkowiak

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Gary Goren (Excused)
Dick Collins (Excused)
Curtis Ritland (Excused)
Connie Thompson (Excused)

City Staff Present:

Oddvar Tveit, Environmental Quality
Specialist

Citizens Present:

Shannon Dutton

Meeting convened at 6:32 p.m.

Gloria called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

There were no public appearances.

Agenda Item 2 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes (September 8th, 2009)

With Karyn suggesting correcting a typographical error on the second page of the draft minutes, Barbara moved to approve the corrected minutes presented for approval at the meeting. Karyn seconded the motion. With 7 votes for and 1 member abstaining the amended minutes were approved by members present at the time.

Agenda Item 3 – Updates From Staff

Council Transportation Committee Presentation:

Staff talked about the presentation to the Transportation Committee at their September 22, 2009 meeting of the Commission's letter of recommendation to Mayor and Council on working with the City of Phoenix to improve the flow of storm water in the Salt River west of the Town Lake to the west border at SR 153/Sky Harbor Expressway. Staff updated the members on City of Phoenix low flow channel improvement plans on the west side of the border presented in a

Clean Water Act 404 block permit application, and talked and answered questions about the south runway east end RSA (Runway Safety Area) improvement project.

Agenda Item 4 – Commission Composition Recommendation

Staff explained about difficulties with gathering a quorum at meetings in 2008 due to 3 vacancies being open most of the year. Because 4 members have opted not to continue serving after the end of their terms this year, the problem could present itself again in 2010. Duane moved to recommend to the Mayor and Council that membership be reduced from 13 to 9 members. Dave seconded the motion. Discussing the motion, members expressed the importance of having representation from all impacted neighborhoods in Tempe to secure the Commission's function as an organization of neighborhood representatives that understands the City's history with Sky Harbor and also understands the aviation industry. Attrition could also be a problem for smaller commissions.

Alyson joined the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

With 4 members voting for the motion and 5 against the motion, the motion failed. Tara moved to recommend a reduction in membership from 13 to 11 members. Karyn seconded the motion. With 8 members voting for the motion and 1 member opposing the motion, the motion passed. The members also noted that the staggered term requirement might require term adjustments if the membership is reduced.

Agenda Item 5 – Commission Powers and Duties Recommendation – expansion of scope

The chair reminded the members about the advisory function of the Commission on aircraft noise and related matters in Tempe. She got general acceptance for the difficulties the Commission can face when aviation issues presented to the Commission or brought up by Commission members are about airports or aviation impacts, but not about noise or directly related to noise from aircraft or Sky Harbor operations. This has caused apprehension about overstepping the charge and unnecessary debates over what the Commission can or cannot discuss at its meetings, in particular when discussing future topics and strategy. Tara moved to recommend the Mayor and Council to expand the charge to include advice on any topic the Commission deems appropriate regarding airport impacts on Tempe. Karyn seconded the motion. Duane asked for the motion to state that wherever aircraft noise appears, it would count as airport impacts. After discussions of the proposed amendment, Tara withdrew her motion and made a new motion recommending the Mayor and Council to expand the scope of the Aviation Commission to include advice on aircraft and airport impacts on Tempe. Alyson seconded the new motion, which was approved by a unanimous vote. Barbara moved to recommend that the commission should include at least 7 members with neighborhood experience on aircraft or airport related impacts inside Tempe, if the charge for the Commission is expanded. Sally seconded the motion, and after a discussion of the appropriateness of proposing qualifying membership criteria when recruitment to the Commission has been an issue, the members voted with 3 members voting in favor of the motion and 6 voting against the motion. The members proceeded discussing the members' ability under the current charge to get education out to the neighborhoods about aviation impacts. The members did not see immediate needs to ask for any amendments to the charge, to accomplish improvements in public awareness about airport and aircraft impacts in Tempe.

Agenda Item 6 – Commission Strategies and Priorities

The Chair expressed the need for the members to agree on what the Commission's priorities are. Action items suggested at the May 6th 2009 meeting was included in the handouts and concern was expressed about action items being marked by staff according to the wording as either being considered to be within or outside their charge. The marked items did not intend to expand the Commission's advisory function. Sally moved not to start any strategy/priorities discussions until after a discussion of the update of the history on Tempe airport issues had taken place. Barbara seconded the motion. After a vote, the motion failed with 2 votes for the motion, 5 votes against, and 2 abstentions. The Chair asked each member to state what the number one priority for the Commission should be. The members listed the following action item categories:

- 4 members listed "Noise and Air Quality"
- 2 members listed "History"
- 3 members listed "Operations"

Agenda Item 7 – Commissioners' Business (topics for future discussion)

The members suggested the following items:

- Discuss an update of the Tempe history with the airport.
- Discuss a public outreach program for the City to increase awareness about airport issues.

Staff would extend an invitation to City of Phoenix Councilmember Michael Johnson, and if accepted ask him to talk about airport issues and the airport relocation program at a future meeting.

Agenda Item 8 – Schedule Next TAVCO Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for November 10, 2009.

Agenda Item 9 – Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Prepared by: Oddvar Tveit

Reviewed by: Don Hawkes

Authorized Signature
Water Utilities Department Manager