



## Minutes Tempe Aviation Commission December 8, 2009

Minutes of the Tempe Aviation Commission meeting held on December 8, 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  
Dick Collins  
Tara Ellman  
Karyn Gitlis  
William Justus  
Gloria Regensberg (Chair)  
Alyson Star  
David Swanson (Vice Chair)  
Connie Thompson (On Phone)  
Duane Washkowiak

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

Barbara Sherman (Excused)  
Gary Goren (Excused)  
Curtis Ritland (Excused)

**Guests Present:**

Bob Whitworth, PHX ATCT Manager

**City Staff Present:**

Oddvar Tveit, Environmental Quality  
Specialist

**Meeting convened at 6:34 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 (November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009)**

Dick moved to approve the November minutes, and Karyn seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

**Agenda Item 3 – Updates From Staff**

*PAUWG Meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup> 2009:*

Sky Harbor RNAV departure procedures were pending publication at the time of the meeting. PHX ATC has proposed modifications to RNAV STARS (Standard Terminal Arrival Routes) by cutting mile lengths of current STARS to enable airlines to save fuel. An RNAV route for Phoenix-Mesa Gateway was also being worked on. Installation of runway lights and other work on the runways will result in runway closures in 2010. ADOT Aeronautics has suffered severe cuts in staffing, so have state funds for aviation. Registration of lighter aircraft has been

transferred to the Motor Vehicle Division, and airports are likely to face further delays in receiving reimbursement for projects eligible for state funding contributions.

Questions were asked about possible impacts of new RNAV procedures. The purpose of the changes is to modify how 6 RNAV STAR routes are aligned outside Tempe boundaries. The incoming RNAV routes end where the downwind leg starts and south Tempe is under the downwind descent paths for two incoming RNAV routes. These routes have resulted in more confined paths over south Tempe because of more accurate navigation by the larger airlines, but there are variations as to where planes are turned in to do final approaches for landing at Sky Harbor. The next PAUWG meeting is scheduled to February 18<sup>th</sup> 2010 at the North Tempe Multi Generational Center.

#### **Agenda Item 4 – Update from PHX ATCT Manager Bob Whitworth**

##### *Sky Harbor air traffic and runway safety:*

Bob briefed the members on the multitude of construction activities that are taking place at Sky Harbor, and challenges this activity poses for the air traffic controllers in the tower. He also mentioned their close cooperation with the Phoenix airport noise office to help them comply with the agreement with Tempe on noise mitigation and the equalization of carrier operations east and west of the airport. Air traffic is down nation wide 8% to 10% and is expected to be down for the next couple of years. The airport is using the downturn as an opportunity to scale up construction activities so as to be finished when higher traffic levels return. Runway status lights are going to be installed on all the runways with 100% coverage on the center runway, which carries about 65% of Sky Harbor operations and is most prone to runway incursions. Sky Harbor is the first airport in the country to install LED lights to increase runway safety. Dates and times of runway closures are still being discussed, but when they occur, the arrival rate at the airport is expected to be reduced from 74 planes an hour to 55 planes an hour. The south runway is connected to the north runway through Taxiways R, S, and T. Taxiway R will be out of service for 6 months. Planes will be backed up, but with help from the airlines' adjustments to departure schedules, severe back-ups of planes on taxiways can be substantially reduced. With regard to new ideas to enhance noise mitigation, the FAA would be receptive to and have resources to address an initiative from both cities. The FAA has not been asked by the cities to help come up with better ways to deal with the noise due to the historic sensitivity of the issue between the two cities.

Members asked about the possibility of using the center runway for landings when no center runway departures are occurring and about the challenges posed by using the two outboard runways for both departure and arrival operations during the period the center runway is to be closed. The members also inquired about plans to issue public announcements prior to closing the runways in 2010, and asked why military fighter jets are using the Air National Guard facility at Sky Harbor.

#### **Agenda Item 5 – Nomination of Candidates for 2010 Officer Positions**

Dick moved to nominate Dave Swanson for the position as Commission Chair for 2010. Bill seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. Bill made a motion to nominate Barbara Sherman for the position of Vice Chair for the Commission for 2010, a motion that was seconded by Alyson. The members voted unanimously to nominate Barbara for the Vice Chair position.

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**Agenda Item 6 – How the City could Increase Neighborhood Awareness about Airport Issues**

Staff had met with Neighborhood Program Director Shauna Warner and Communication & Media Relations Director Nicole Ripley regarding the request from the Commission to invite the Chair of the Neighborhood Advisory Commission Outreach Committee to appear at the meeting to talk about the Committee's activities. Because of the specific purpose of the Committee's work, and diligence required as to avoiding a discussion of issues handled by other City Commissions, the advice was not to invite the Outreach Committee Chair to the meeting. Staff would work with Ripley to come up with an article for the Tempe Today about the Commission and how to access the noise mitigation information posted on the Tempe in Touch web site. Members suggested making use of the public library bulletin boards in addition to on-line posting, and that more input on how the City communicates with its residents would be beneficial. The members also discussed to what extent neighborhoods would benefit from getting information about anticipated, temporary changes in airport operations because of new construction and maintenance activities at the airport.

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

Staff was asked to extend another invitation to the PHX ATCT manager to explore what PHX ATC could provide if the cities followed up on his idea of opening up a discussion of better ways to provide noise mitigation over Tempe.

*Connie left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.*

Staff was also asked to invite the Communication and Media Relations Director for Tempe to talk about City communication to its residents.

**Agenda Item 8 – Schedule Next TAVCO Meeting**

After outgoing members had thanked other members for the time they had served together on the Commission, the members scheduled the next meeting for January 12, 2010.

**Agenda Item 9 – Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Prepared by: Oddvar Tveit

Reviewed by: Don Hawkes

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Authorized Signature  
Water Utilities Department Manager