

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF WICHITA  
WICHITA AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD**

**Monday, April 4, 2005 – 3:00 p.m.**

Present: Tim Austin, Dion Avello, Charles Bouilly, Bill Calloway, Ron Estes, Charles Fletcher, Willis Heck, Dorothy McKay, Dave Murfin, Jay Swanson and James Thompson

Absent: Mitch Faroh and Beth Garrison

Airport Staff: Tom Nolan, Steve Flesher, John Oswald, Sandy Coykendall, Jean Zoglman, Valerie Wise

City Staff: Doug Moshier

Chairman Austin called the meeting to order.

**Public Agenda**

James Mendenhall requested that the Wichita Airport Advisory Board require the new terminal design team to address specific improvements that deal with the aging population. Mendenhall also requested to be informed of any plans the airport may have in dealing with the Airbus 380 super jumbo jet as it relates to the new terminal. Mendenhall stated that Wichita's geographical location makes it an excellent choice for a cargo hub.

**Approval of Minutes**

*Motion by Fletcher to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2005 Wichita Airport Advisory Board meeting. Motion carried 10-0.*

**Master Plan/Terminal Plan Update**

Oswald clarified information provided at the last meeting, saying the master plans, the Mid-Continent Airport layout plan and technical report will soon be going to the FAA for review.

Regarding the terminal plan, an independent cost estimate is underway on all negotiations with the program management firm. If this cost estimate verifies that those negotiations meet industry standards, a program management contract will be forwarded to the FAA for approval. Once received back from the FAA, it will be presented to City Council for final approval.

**February 2005 Statistical /Project Report**

Total passengers in February showed at 2.83% increase over 2004.

**Airport Advertising**

Airport staff is working with Sullivan Higdon & Sink on a program focused on passenger travel and stimulate markets needed for this airport. It is important that the advertising campaign includes the outlying areas. The budget for the advertising campaign this year is \$600,000. Once a program is finalized, it will be presented to the WAAB. It is necessary to bring before

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the City Council as the Wichita Airport Authority a request for approval of expenditure of those budgeted funds. Nolan requested support of this initiative from the WAAB.

Nolan mentioned that besides air service, there are other economic development issues that this airport needs to undertake. Airport brochures and trade show displays could be used to attract businesses to locate on this airport.

Discussion ensued. Economic development of the airport presently relies on the City of Wichita's Economic Development Department and GWEDC.

With regard to Fair Fares support from the outlying areas, Flesher stated there has been an effort to redirect the Essential Air Service passengers to Wichita Mid-Continent Airport. According to Flesher, there are many politics involved and they are trying to find their own solution rather than a partnership solution with the City of Wichita and Mid-Continent Airport. It would require dramatic changes in how the Essential Air Service program is administered.

*Motion by Swanson to move aggressively with an airport advertising campaign to promote the airport for the purpose of increasing passenger volumes through Mid-Continent Airport. Motion carried 10-0.*

## **Other Business**

### **Sanitary Sewage Treatment Plant**

The City Council will discuss the location of a sanitary sewage treatment plant on April 19, 2005. The recommendation of the Water and Sewer Department is to locate it on airport property and to commence the permitting process.

Discussion ensued. The Director of the Water Department has stated that pursuant to the City Council ratifying a site, there are prerequisites for consideration on airport property, i.e., air space analysis, proper placement so as not to crowd other development areas, wetlands, etc.

It was the Board's understanding that the Water Department was to again approach the WAAB before going to the City Council. The master plan does not specifically call for this type of development, even though it does mention that this area is developable. Nolan stated that the WAAB has taken a position that, due to the public necessity of such a project, it would be of benefit to the airport and the community to accommodate it. Nolan further stated that there would be a cost associated with a sewage treatment plant on the airport, and a rental structure would be established.

There was discussion as to the Board's previous action on this project. According to Murfin, the Board's previous action did not support locating the sewage treatment plant on the airport. Austin stated that the Board was not opposed to it being on airport property, subject to meeting all criteria. The December 2004 WAAB minutes were read in which the motion stated as follows:

*Motion made by Murfin that, if necessary, the Wichita Airport Advisory Board would not be opposed to a sewage treatment facility located on airport property as long as all airport and commercial criteria are satisfied. Motion carried 10-0.*

Several members of the Board were under the impression that it would have the opportunity to review this proposal again if there were no other locations for the sewage treatment plant, before it was presented to City Council. The necessity of having it located on the airport was questioned.

The minutes from the December 2004 meeting also stated:

*Warren stated that after all boards and committees have provided their input, a presentation will be made to City Council. Warren stated that the Airport is not locked in to locating the facility on its property and it would not be presented as such.*

Estes stated that this was the context that led to the Board's motion.

Nolan stated that he has had discussions with the Water and Sewer Department about variations to the selected site (site 18), to minimize its impact on future development. If it is necessary for it to be built on airport property, it could be in a location that is not identified for development and generate lease revenue in an area where otherwise there would have been none.

*Motion was made by Estes that before a final approval is determined on a site that the plan is presented to the Wichita Airport Advisory Board for review and input. Motion carried 10-0.*

#### Airport Marketing

Austin stated that long-term marketing of the airport is a topic for the Board to be thinking about.

#### Airport Conferences

Avello will not be able to attend the Jumpstart Conference in Calgary. The Commissioners' Conference is in July in San Francisco. Estes and Fletcher may attend the July conference.

#### KTTI Update

Airport staff has accepted the lead role in procuring an architect for the KTTI project.

#### Honeywell

Even though construction has begun, a groundbreaking ceremony will be held soon.

#### Director of Airports Position

The City of Wichita has hired a headhunter firm and will start advertising for this position soon.

#### Engineering Award

Oswald reported that the Missouri-Kansas Chapter of American Concrete Pavement Association presented the airport staff with an airfield pavement award for the Taxiway "N" project that was

recently completed. It will go to national competition. Ritchie Construction was the contractor, Professional Engineering Consultants was the consultant, and airport staff did the interfacing.

#### May WAAB Meeting

Nolan reported that he will be attending an American Association of Airport Executives conference the first week in May which conflicts with the May 2, 2005 WAAB meeting.

*Motion was made by Murfin to move the May meeting to May 9, 2005. Motion carried 10-0.*

#### Fair Fares Activities

Austin reported on the status of the contract between the City of Wichita and AirTran. The City of Wichita will guarantee up to \$2.5 million, Sedgwick County will guarantee up to \$1 million, and the private sector will fund up to \$1 million. Also, AirTran will add a third flight. The private sector will underwrite enhanced frequent flyer miles on AirTran for a limited time.

Murfin felt that the fare savings due to AirTran's presence needs to be better communicated to the public. Flesher stated that fare savings from May 2002 through August 2004 exceed \$220 million. Avello stated that AirTran has brought industry here, and that message needs to be advertised.

Austin recognized Steve Flesher, Dion Avello and Tom Nolan for their air service efforts.

Flesher stated there is an initiative driven by the private sector. There will be promotional dollars that will communicate the AirTran message to the business community, and it will be very aggressive. It will be funded and managed privately.

According to Heck, the REAP organization is ready and waiting to do its part.

#### Resignation

Steve Flesher announced his resignation to the Board due to pressing family reasons which demand his immediate and complete attention. He thanked everyone and expressed how much he appreciated being involved in such an important initiative.

#### New Cargo Building

A Request for Qualifications will be advertised shortly for cargo building design services.

Meeting adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

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Valerie Wise, Clerk