

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

**Monday, October 4, 2010**

Present: Charles Fletcher, U.L. Gooch, Dwight Greenlee, Willis Heck, John Hennessy, David Murfin, Kevin, Myles, Thomas Pryor, Dr. Thom Rosenberg, Bill Ward, Brent Wooten

Absent: Ron Estes, Rebecca Pilshaw

Airport Staff: Victor White, Ernie Campos, Brad Christopher, Kelly Fabrizius, Traci Nichols, John Oswald, Valerie Wise, Jean Zoglman

City Staff: Jay Hinkel, Deputy City Attorney  
Branden Hall, Budget Analyst

Others: Michael Carter, AECOM

Chairman Greenlee called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

*Motion by Heck to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2010 Wichita Airport Advisory Board meeting. Motion carried unanimously.*

**Director's Report**

Victor White, Director of Airports, advised that since the Board just recently met, there will only be a few items in the Director's Report today.

Brad Christopher introduced Ernie Campos, who is here to receive his ten year service award. Ernie is a Custodial Supervisor and is also the leader of the Airport Green Team, the airport recycling program. That program has really taken off in the last year or two and Ernie is the person who is primarily responsible for that. In the next few weeks the airport website will be updated with a page on the Green Team and information on the recycling program. Mr. Christopher said that Ernie is one of the most capable, accomplished and effective building custodial management personnel he has ever had the pleasure of working with and we are glad to have him at the airport. Chairman Greenlee presented him with a letter from City Manager Bob Layton in recognition of his ten years of service. Scott Loesch also will be receiving this award.

Mr. Christopher advised that the airport lost one of its employees and good friends last week. Terry Dishon, Airfield Maintenance and Equipment Operator, passed away on September 28<sup>th</sup>.

Terry had been with the airport from 1987 to the mid-1990's as a Mechanic and then he recently came back to the airport two years ago as an Equipment Operator. It is a big loss for the airport both from the standpoint of losing a friend as well as a valuable employee.

We recently had the great honor and privilege of welcoming the World War II veterans on the return of the Honor Flight on September 29th. Mrs. Wise reported that there were approximately 700 to 800 people in attendance and it was quite an overwhelming experience to be here and to see all of the veterans come in. There is a possibility there might be a smaller contingent of veterans making a trip in November and if that develops we will let you know. Mr. Christopher said a lot of Airport and TSA staff came to help push wheelchairs and greet the veterans. Mr. White passed out to the Board photographs from the occasion. Mrs. Wise said that there are also pictures of the event on the Airport's Facebook page.

Mr. White advised that as he reported last month the FAA Reauthorization Bill has still not been passed. Although, Congress did pass another extension which will last until December of this year. This was the 16<sup>th</sup> extension and more than likely there will be another extension in December.

### **ACT 3 Project Update**

Michael Carter, AECOM, presented to the Board a PowerPoint presentation providing an update on the current schedule and upcoming meetings.

Chairman Greenlee mentioned that the workshop with the City Council will be held tomorrow and the Board is invited to attend. Dr. Rosenberg asked if the Council Members would be seeing the plans for the new terminal. Mr. White said this time it will strictly be a financial presentation. If the Council would like to proceed with advertising for bids then a lot of things will happen. One of the next steps would be to have a workshop with the City Council on the art work for the new terminal. The interview process for the engineering firms for the design of the parking facilities would also resume.

Mr. Hennessy asked Chairman Greenlee how he would frame his comments to the City Council at the upcoming workshop. Chairman Greenlee asked if there were any suggestions. Mr. Hennessy said he thinks that the City Council will be looking at a potential shortfall and that can be taken care of with the elimination of the Public Safety Fee. He does not think there is justification for it and does not know if the City Council is aware that the airport is being charged a safety fee. Chairman Greenlee said that at the last meeting it was relayed to the City Manager that this issue is something that should be taken under consideration. Mr. Fletcher said he does not think that this presentation is necessarily the most appropriate time to bring up the issue. Mrs. Zogman said that issue was brought up in the Risk Assessment that the City prepared and the City Manager's reviewed, and they have a better understanding now than they have ever had as far as the concerns with respect to federal law requirements.

There was continued discussion regarding the impact of and methodology behind the Public Safety Fee.

## **Other Business**

Mr. Fletcher asked if there was any discussion on Southwest's purchase of AirTran. Mr. White said he is personally excited about the potential that it means for this airport and the opportunity that it could present. Southwest has said that they will look at each and every market and make a case by case decision on whether they will stay in that market. Mr. Fletcher said given what their press release said and the part he has played in past negotiations with Southwest, it seems to him that it will happen. Also, in their press release Southwest said they would be expanding into smaller markets that they have not serviced before.

Mr. Gooch said he just had an incident of people from outside the state wanting to come to Wichita to attend a funeral. They had to delay the funeral because the people were used to using Southwest and going somewhere on short notice, but they can not get to Wichita on short notice without it costing them a significant amount of money. Mr. Gooch said he thinks there is a point of interest that even though you may not be utilizing the airport, there is an advantage in helping other people coming to Wichita. Mr. White said one of Southwest's selling points is the fact that they do not charge near as much as the other airlines for last minute fares.

Mr. Murfin asked who is funding the new \$700,000 snow removal equipment and if that is a replacement or something new. Mr. Christopher said it is essentially a replacement vehicle. The airport has three 1983 Osh Kosh's still in service. After 27 years we have received quite a useful life out of those. One of those is being rotated out of the system. For efficiency purposes we have migrated to these multi-purpose vehicles which have broom capabilities, a snow plow and in this case, also a blower head attachment so we can use one vehicle for all three purposes instead of three different sets of vehicles. Mrs. Zoglman said that the funding for this equipment was included in the PFC application that was approved at the end of July.

Mr. Murfin asked about how the Terminal Program Management Team is being funded during this lull. Mr. White said the Airport Authority extended their contract for six months back in July. We did not want to shut it down and send them home if there was a chance we were going to do the terminal project in that six month period. If the Council does authorize us to proceed with the project as planned, then we would enter into a new contract with AECOM for construction management.

Mr. Murfin asked about the status of the capital projects. Mr. Oswald provided the Board an update on the recently finished, current and future projects scheduled at both Mid-Continent and Jabara airports.

Mr. White offered that at one of the upcoming meetings the Board could take a tour on our shuttle bus and we could drive around and show you firsthand the projects we are working on. Dr. Rosenberg suggested the possibility of doing that at the November 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

The next WAAB meeting will be Monday, November 1, 2010 at 2:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

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Kelly Fabrizius, Clerk