

CITY OF WICHITA
WICHITA AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

Monday, October 1, 2001 - 2:00 p.m.

Present: Dion Avello, Bill Calloway, Beth Garrison, Carl Harris, Dorothy McKay, Don Slawson, Jay Swanson, Carrie Williams

Absent: Tim Austin, Charles Bouilly, Dave Murfin

City Staff: Allen Bell, Ernie Garcia, Jay Hinkle, John Philbrick

Airport Staff: Bailis Bell, John Oswald, Jean Zoglman, Valerie Wise

Chairman Avello called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

Swanson moved to approve the minutes of the September 4, 2001 Wichita Airport Advisory Board meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

August 2001 Statistical/Project Report

There was a small decline in passengers, cargo, and operations in August 2001.

Report from the ACI-NA Conference

Avello and Williams attended the ACI-NA annual conference in Montreal September 8-13, 2001. The terrorist attack on September 11 halted some of the activities during the conference. According to discussions Avello had with other airport personnel, it was their impression that there are a number of carriers looking at coming to Wichita.

Other Business

Bell reported on activities at Mid-Continent Airport as a result of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack. There were 22 aircraft diverted to Mid-Continent Airport carrying 1,300 passengers. Most of those people were cleared from the terminal building by noon that day with MTA buses to hotels.

FAA has imposed regulations that have been implemented. A tremendous police presence is now seen. The added expenses cost about \$4,000 per day. These expenses will come out of the Airport budget eventually. Congress is discussing ways to help airports with these expenses. The National Guard will also be present at the airport.

Their mission will be to assist with passenger screening and luggage screening and to provide a military presence on the airport. Bell explained that passenger screening is the responsibility of the airlines. There are several vehicular gates with computerized controlled access that have been closed, with only two open that are manned by guards 24 hours per day.

Prior to September 11, there were 44 flights per day; there are now 40 flights per day. United has added an additional flight to Chicago. Effective October 28, America West will discontinue their two Boeing 737 aircraft to Phoenix, but will replace them with four regional jets per day that are operated by Mesa Airlines, d/b/a America West. This will decrease seat capacity, but increase frequency.

The discussion then focused on the appearance of the terminal concourses. It was suggested that the carpet be replaced immediately, and the walls need enhancements. Slawson questioned spending large amounts of money on a major concourse remodel at this time with the uncertainty of passenger traffic, and suggested some short-term remedies would be better. It was also suggested that the cost of advertising in the terminal be reduced and add more advertising spaces on the walls. The Board felt it was important to take immediate steps to enhance the appearance of the terminal building in order to attract a low fare airline to Wichita Mid-Continent Airport.

Garrison moved that the Wichita Airport Advisory Board recommend to the City Council to pursue new carpeting and painting to the interior of the terminal concourses in an effort to bring immediate enhancements to the appearance of the terminal building with moderate costs. Also, the Wichita Airport Advisory Board recommends restructuring the advertising fees in the terminal building to attract more advertising, in an effort to sell Wichita to the traveling public. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session

Avello moved to recess the regular meeting for five-minutes, followed by an executive session to preliminary discussions relating to the acquisition of real property.

3:05 p.m. Regular meeting recessed
3:10 p.m. Executive session
4:00 p.m. Executive session adjourned. No action was required as a result of the executive session.

The current policies of the Wichita Airport Authority were distributed. Bell stated these are in need of updating. The leasing policies will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.