

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

**Monday, October 4, 2004 – 3:00 p.m.**

Present: Dion Avello, Charles Bouilly, Bill Calloway, Ron Estes, Mitch Faroh, Charles Fletcher, Beth Garrison, Dorothy McKay, Jay Swanson, James Thompson

Absent: Tim Austin, Willis Heck, and Dave Murfin

Airport Staff: Bailis Bell, Shannon Feltes, Steve Flesher, Valerie Wise, Jean Zoglman

City Staff: Doug Moshier

Beth Garrison, Chair pro tem, called the meeting to order.

**Approval of Minutes**

*Motion by Fletcher to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2004 Wichita Airport Advisory Board meeting. Motion carried unanimously.*

**Mid-Continent Airport Land Acquisitions**

John Oswald, Director of Airport Engineering and Planning, pointed out an area of land north of the Post Office that has been designated in the master plan as a potential land acquisition for the airport. This area is mostly residential. County records show that many of these houses were built in the 1950s. The master planner identified this land as an opportunity purchase. Public workshops were held to inform the landowners of the details in the master plan. Landowners in this area had voiced concern that the airport will buy this land in the short-term, but they have been assured that this is long-range planning and that nothing is imminent. Some landowners have indicated their desire to sell their homes to the airport now.

In discussions with the Planning Department, the area south of Kellogg is zoned for industrial transportation, which is compatible land use. The FAA has not yet reviewed this potential land acquisition. Typically the FAA forecasts 20 years out and there is a chance that it will determine this land is not eligible for funding. However, it is possible to purchase the land with airport funds.

Sedgwick County records show that typical valuation of the land with improvements is in the \$60-70,000 range. There are 24 residences, and the last home built in this area was in 1955. The area is zoned for light industrial.

There was discussion regarding the various concerns of the landowners in the area. Bell stated it is in the best interest of the airport to purchase that property for commercial aviation development. It was suggested that it might be advantageous for the airport to purchase the land from those people who are willing to sell now rather than wait ten years. The area does not have runway or taxiway access.

It was suggested that the homeowners be invited to an Advisory Board meeting to provide their input.

*Motion by Avello to table action on this item until January 2005. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.*

*Motion by Fletcher to invite the landowners to the January 2005 WAAB meeting. Motion carried unanimously.*

### **Air Service Briefing**

Steve Flesher, Air Service Development Director, discussed air service developments at Mid-Continent Airport. Northwest Airlines has added a fourth flight to Minneapolis in October. Delta Air Lines will begin non-stop service to Salt Lake City on January 31, 2005. Delta will also add a sixth flight to Atlanta and a third flight to Cincinnati effective January 31. Delta will discontinue non-stop service to Dallas, effective December 1, 2004. American Airlines will be adding a fourth daily flight to Chicago effective November 1. New, non-stop hub service will be announced within the next two weeks.

### **Airport Name Discussion**

There was discussion regarding a Wichita Eagle article suggesting renaming Mid-Continent Airport to Dwight D. Eisenhower Airport. Faroh suggested the cost of changing the name needs to be researched. Bell stated that in order to change the name of an airport, it requires the owner to change the name. The three-letter designators are controlled by the International Civil Aviation Organization, which is an arm of the United Nations. It is extremely difficult to change those designators. The general consensus of the board was not to change the airport name.

### **Master Plan/Terminal Plan Update**

FAA approval of the overall master plans is expected within one month. On October 12, 2004, the terminal area plan will be presented to City Council. The intention will be for the City Council to endorse the recommendation of the Terminal Area Task Force to build a new terminal building.

### **August 2004 Statistical/Project Report**

Total passengers in August 2004 increased .59%. Total passengers to date in 2004 are up 7.44% over 2003.

### **Other Business**

Construction of the remote parking lot is to be completed before Thanksgiving. There will be two rented shuttle buses to transport passengers to/from the terminal building.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.