

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF WICHITA
WICHITA AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, December 6, 2004 – 3:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Beth Garrison and Dorothy McKay

Airport Staff: Bailis Bell, Tom Nolan, Valerie Wise, Jean Zoglman

City Staff: Jessica Johnson

Chairman Austin called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Heck to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2004 Wichita Airport Advisory Board meeting. Motion carried 8-0 (Avello abstained).

Preliminary Discussion – Sewage Treatment Plant Siting

David Warren, Director of Water and Sewer Utilities, presented the status of selecting a site for a wastewater treatment facility. In 1999 the City Council approved a master plan for the City's wastewater facilities. One of the elements in the master plan included a change in the City's philosophy regarding location of and handling of domestic and industrial sewage. The City had transported its entire waste stream from the point where it was generated to the wastewater treatment facility located at 57th Street South and Hydraulic. Moving sewage over long distances creates problems, such as odors, treatability problems, etc. The City Council directed staff to look at satellite sewage treatment facilities that are more localized in their service areas. The first of these satellite facilities is in the vicinity of 131st Street West and 37th Street North. Warren presented a map showing possible areas for another facility. A possible area for a service center is the area from the airport to Goddard, north to Maple Street, and south from the airport. A committee was formed and undertook a series of evaluation exercises. After meeting several criteria, four sites on City parkland were most highly ranked. The evaluation was presented to the Park Board who, at that time, was not interested in locating any sewage treatment facilities on Park Board property and voted against locating a facility on any properties managed by the Park Board. Staff was asked to look at sites further south and located near or on airport property.

In response to a query from Austin, Nolan pointed out that a number of different factors would need to be examined: how it affects navigable airspace, attractant for wildlife, and economic development opportunities lost in the area. Also, the airport is a national pollutant discharge elimination system site, and any effluent coming off this airport is under airport permit.

It was Warren's opinion that the Park Board's opposition was due to timing issues and interference with certain recreational opportunities. Warren stated that the facility would greatly improve the site.

Additional evaluations are now being conducted at the request of a City Council member.

Warren stated that a portion of site 14 was the preferred site if the facility were to be located on the airport. The Board stated that sites 14, 16 and 18 provided commercial development opportunities for the airport.

The Airport Authority owns site 14 and by Kansas law must be used for aviation related or governmental purposes. It was purchased with federal funds and is intended for runway protection. As such, it must be used for aeronautical purposes but if possible could be used temporarily for this purpose. However, there must be agreement to demolish it if the land is needed for aeronautical use. Another option might be to sell the land that is not needed. The land could be leased to the Water and Sewer Department at fair market value and provide revenue to the Airport. Warren stated that the Water and Sewer Department would prefer to acquire the land, but leasing is an option.

According to Warren, effluent issues and bird issues would not be a problem.

Warren stated that the vast majority of site 14 is outside the restricted airport zones. FAA will still have to approve the plan.

Bell explained how instrument landing systems work. Bell also pointed out the land which the City of Wichita purchased at site 16 for an industrial park. There are restrictions imposed upon it. Airplanes cannot be taxied on this land.

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.

Discussion ensued. 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.

Bell stated that the Airport Authority owns 160 acres directly east of site 1 which could be long-term development.

Motion carried 10-0.

A public information fair will be held January 6, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Schulte. A meeting with the District Advisory Board is scheduled for January 19 and it will go to City Council at its first meeting in February.

Request for Land Lease – Fugate Enterprises

This item was deferred.

Passenger Facility Charge Increase

Federal law permits passenger facility charges of up to \$4.50 to fund capital improvements. Currently the passenger facility charge at ICT is \$3.00 per departure. It is recommended that this passenger facility charge be increased to \$4.50 to accelerate the collection of monies to fund the remaining \$7 million in eligible CIP projects. This will allow PFC revenues to be made available sooner for new terminal expenses.

Jean Zoglman, Finance Manager, distributed the PFC application and attachments to it. The Airport is required to provide information to the airlines in a consultation meeting. That meeting is planned for December 15 and the airlines will have 30 days to respond. It will be submitted to the FAA in mid-January. The current program includes paving, terminal building, and security projects, as well as the master plan. There will be no changes in those projects, but the increase is being requested so that funds can be collected faster due to the upcoming terminal project. This will allow the airport to collect approved funds by June 2007. Prior to that time an application for the terminal building will be submitted at the \$4.50 level to be collecting for that.

Motion made by Swanson to increase the PFC to \$4.50. Motion carried 10-0.

Advertising Agency Contract

Currently SHS is the agency of record for the City's Airport advertising activities. The contract terminates at the end of 2004 and an option to renew is part of the current contract. Jessica Johnson, Marketing Coordinator for the City of Wichita, presented background information on the advertising contracts for the past two years. Johnson pointed out that the bid process is cumbersome and time consuming. The Greteman Group had the contract the first year.

Discussion ensued. Bell stated that the WAAB will be very much involved with air service activities in the future. The time involved in pursuing an RFP was also discussed.

Motion made by Fletcher to retain SHS for one more year and issue an RFP when this contract runs out. Motion carried 9-1 (Swanson – no).

Airline Agreements

The current two-year lease and use agreement with the airlines for terminal rentals and landing fees expires December 31, 2004. The airlines are desirous and staff is recommending that the current agreements be extended for two additional years.

Motion made by Swanson to extend the current lease and use agreement with the airlines for an additional two years. Motion carried 9-0.

Rates and Charges

Annually, the Wichita Airport Authority establishes rates and charges for all aeronautical users of Mid-Continent Airport based upon the adopted budget. This will be presented to the airlines on December 15.

Motion made by Murfin to approve the rates and charges. Motion carried 9-0.

WAAB Travel

The travel budget for the Wichita Airport Advisory Board for 2005 will be \$5,000. The ACI-NA Spring Washington Conference will be held March 21-22, 2005. Estes expressed interest in attending.

Master Plan/Terminal Plan Update

The Jabara Airport master plan has been submitted to the FAA, and the Mid-Continent Airport master plan will be submitted shortly. Interviews for the new terminal program manager were conducted.

October 2004 Statistical/Project Report

Total passengers in October showed a slight decline (-.26%) over 2003. Total passengers to date in 2004 are up 6.37% over 2003.

Quarterly Financial Report Ending September 30, 2004

The quarterly financial report for the airport for the quarter ending September 30, 2004 was presented.

Other Business

Avello stated that the Fair Fares Executive Board met on this day. There are personnel changes in the Fair Fares Board. The Fair Fares Board is asking the WAAB to support the Fair Fares' concept. The direction from City Hall has changed as it relates to air service, i.e., subsidizing AirTran.

It was the Board's opinion that it needs to make a strong statement that efforts to retain a low cost airline need to be pursued.

There was discussion relating to pursuing commitments from the business community for travel on AirTran. Avello stated that the City Manager was encouraging the Fair Fares committee to work with the business community to back AirTran.

Bell gave background information on the formation of the Fair Fares Committee and the Fair Fares air service efforts. The City Manager is not in favor of relying solely on city subsidies, but feels there are other strategies that should be pursued. The WAAB will be the air service focal point, according to the City Manager.

Other Business

Austin presented a plaque to Bailis Bell, in honor of his 33 years of service to Mid-Continent and Jabara Airports.

Remarks from the Retiree

Bell is retiring as Director of Airports at the end of 2004. Bell spoke about how the Park Board got involved in the airport business, and how administrative boards oversaw the airports until five years ago when an advisory board was formed. This Advisory Board has no authority except to review policy. Bell stated that the WAAB now has an opportunity with the new City Manager to provide public input to these airports. Bell hopes that someday this board returns to an administrative board.

Bell also stated that in the 1970s he built Jabara Airport and opened it from the air in a Cessna 172 that he was flying and was the first to land on it.

Bell thanked the Board for their service.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Valerie Wise, Clerk