

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF WICHITA
WICHITA AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, September 12, 2005 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Tim Austin, Bill Calloway, Ron Estes, Charles Fletcher, U.L. Gooch, Dwight Greenlee, Willis Heck, David Murfin, Jay Russell, Jeff St. Clair, Bill Ward

Absent: Dion Avello, Jay Swanson

City Staff: Doug Moshier, Dale Miller

Airport Staff: Victor White, Tom Nolan, John Oswald, Sandy Coykendall, Valerie Wise, Jean Zoglman, Mike Carter

Others: James Mendenhall, public; Molly McMillin, Wichita Eagle; Gordon Basham, KFDI

Chairman Fletcher called the meeting to order.

Victor White, Director of Airports, was introduced to the Board.

Public Agenda

James Mendenhall addressed the Board about the needs of the aging population and how those needs should be considered in the terminal planning process. The White House Conference on Aging will take place in December and building design for an aging population is on the agenda. Mendenhall stated that Congress will be rewriting the Older Americans Act next year which will affect compliance issues.

Mendenhall recommended another issue to be discussed within the new terminal building is a clinic. Mendenhall has been involved in discussions with the Mayo Clinic about the possibility of using the Mayo Clinic brand, which would be its first in an airport. According to Mendenhall, this is important because of the need for small-scale health provision and to better serve the customer by allowing for small medical needs.

Mendenhall and Dan Robinson, an Administrator who designed a clinic in Hutchinson, have spoken with the Kansas University Medical Center. Via Christi and the Sedgwick County Health Department will also be pursued. Mendenhall stated a proposal will be forthcoming.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Austin to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2005 Wichita Airport Advisory Board meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Land Use Planning

Dale Miller with the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission, presented the zoning plans for Mid-Continent and Jabara Airports. Zoning maps of both airports were distributed to the Board.

Miller stated that neither of the airports has an overlay similar to McConnell AFB. Each zoning district has its own height restrictions, which would be the primary land use control that applies to properties on and around the airports.

Another control is the Wichita-Sedgwick County airport hazards zoning map that identifies areas where height would be a concern. If a project falls within that area, a review would be conducted to make sure the project does not include a structure that would conflict with aircraft operations.

Regarding subdivision property, an avigational easement essentially holds the City harmless for any aircraft activity conducted in a legal manner. This avigational easement is included with the plat and is reported. This information would be disclosed to anyone buying property.

Another restrictive covenant on the plat deals with noise. At closing time it requires that buyers are aware of potential noise and, therefore, builders are advised to take measures to baffle the noise.

Tom Nolan stated that a noise exposure model is part of the master plan that was recently completed. Also, noise contours at Mid-Continent Airport have no impact on the residential areas surrounding the airport and there are no noise issues at the airport.

There was discussion related to recent land acquisitions. Two property owners near Mid-Continent Airport have approached airport staff about selling their properties to the airport. Those acquisitions are underway.

Quarterly Financial Report

Jean Zoglman presented the airport's financial report for the quarter ending June 30, 2005.

Terminal Project Update

Mr. Nolan stated that considerable time is being spent to formulate a contract for the scope of services with the architect, HNTB. Mike Carter expects a contract with HNTB early this fall.

A solicitation for an architect for the cargo building has been issued. A selection committee composed of City staff will be involved in the selection of the architect.

Mr. Murfin expressed a desire for the Board to be very involved in the design process of the terminal building. Mr. Carter stated that the contract will require several workshops with the Board.

July 2005 Statistical/Project Report

Total passengers in July 2005 were down just .95% from July 2004. For the year, net total passengers have increased .27%.

Other Business

Mr. Nolan distributed a chart depicting the breakdown of AIP funding. The FAA issues grants in a manner consistent with the priorities it sets forth, and terminals are not a very high priority. The FAA is more prone to runway projects.

Nolan stated that the Small Community Air Service Grant Application that was submitted to the U.S. Department of Transportation for air service enhancements at Mid-Continent Airport was unsuccessful.

In response to a question from Mr. Murfin, included in the contract with DMJM is a feasibility study to determine the financing for the new terminal building. A financial consultant has been hired to make sure the plan is realistic and manageable. The draft of that study will be presented to the WAAB.

Murfin asked if there was anything airport staff could do to expedite the passenger screening process. The passenger screening area is staffed by the Transportation Security Administration which monitors the length of time passengers wait at the checkpoint. During the early morning when the line extends to the Magic Flight statue, the wait is about 15-20 minutes. Nolan stated that recently a speaker was added with a repetitive message informing passengers to be prepared to show their ticket and ID. Staff is also working with the TSA to modify the lane in such a way to help lessen the drag during peak times. It was pointed out that TSA recently reduced staff from 110 to 87.

Mr. White stated that it is important to maintain a good relationship with the TSA in order to prevent customer service problems. It may be necessary to encourage Congress to add TSA personnel if needed.

It was suggested to place signs along the passenger screening line showing the approximate wait times from each location.

Greenlee asked airport staff to look into conducting a noise study. Oswald has had discussions on this topic with senior FAA staff, the master planner, and Dale Miller of the Planning Department. The senior planner with the FAA in Kansas City advises against doing this type of study unless there are significant problems. The Planning Department and airport staff have reported virtually no noise complaints. There is the possibility that if this study is initiated, it would give the impression that a noise problem exists. The layout plan for Mid-Continent Airport shows that about 100% of the noise contour is on airport property. Airport staff has written operating instructions relating to aircraft engine testing and run-up that restrict time of aircraft testing. At Jabara Airport, 100% of the noise contour is also on airport property.

The Board recognized Tom Nolan for his efforts this year as Interim Director of Airports.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Valerie Wise, Clerk