

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

**Monday, July 14, 2008**

Present: Willis Heck, Charles Fletcher, U.L. Gooch, Dwight Greenlee, Jay Russell

Absent: Robert Beattie, Ron Estes, John Hennessy, David Murfin, Kevin Myles, Tom Pryor, Dr. Thom Rosenberg, and Bill Ward

Airport Staff: Victor White, Brad Christopher, Sandy Coykendall, Kelly Fabrizius, John Oswald, Valerie Wise

City Staff: Joe Allen Lang, First Assistant City Attorney

Others: Mike Carter, DMJM Aviation

Chairman Fletcher called the meeting to order at 2:42 p.m.

No action was taken due to lack of a quorum, however the following topics were discussed:

**Director's Report**

Mr. White provided the Board a briefing on several matters.

Construction is currently underway on the Joint Resealing and Runway Light Replacement project at Jabara Airport. This project requires the runway be closed every night at 10:00 p.m. and reopen at 6:00 a.m. The project began on July 7<sup>th</sup> and runs until August 21<sup>st</sup>.

At Mid-Continent Airport, Phase I of the Apron will begin on July 28th with an estimated completion date of sometime around Thanksgiving.

Remodeling work has been completed at the old National Weather Service Building on Tyler Road which has been vacant for several years. The building will be marketed for rent in the near future.

There is a vacant building at Jabara Airport, the old "Admin Building," which was supposed to be demolished, however now there is a potential tenant interested in the building who has expressed interest in an arrangement for doing repairs at his expense in exchange for a cheaper rental price.

Also at Jabara, WSU is applying for a grant for the Center for Innovation for Biomaterial and Orthopedic Research (CIBOR). The idea is to tie it into the National Institute for Aviation Research at WSU for composites manufacturing and research. Chairman Fletcher stated WSU has recruited a leading professor in the field of composites to do his research in Wichita. Mr.

White said the way it is being proposed is that CIBOR would be on the existing leasehold that the County has leased for the National Center for Aviation Training. The lease states that the majority of the campus has to be for aviation education purposes, however this would only be a small portion of the campus.

TSA is getting ready to implement a pilot program which is a new way of doing passenger screening at the checkpoints. There are approximately 20 airports around the country that have started doing this, and the new lanes are called "black diamond" lanes. The idea is to speed up the flow of passengers going through the checkpoint so an expert traveler can go to the black diamond lane and be processed through quicker than a big family, or an inexperienced travel. This program normally requires three separate lines, however Mid-Continent only has room for two. This program would only be activated during peak travel times, such as early morning and will start in October. [After the meeting, TSA advised the program may start in early September.]

The FAA is in town performing the annual safety and certification inspection. The inspector arrived today and will be in town 2-3 days to complete the inspection process.

The City has been working on preparing its annual budget. It is now finished and has been officially unveiled. The airport's portion of the City budget remains status quos.

Learjet has announced sales increases and is considering expansion opportunities, possibly a large hangar on the southeast corner of their campus. Hawker Beechcraft is also considering expansion and is looking at options for more hangar space as well.

Mr. Gooch asked when Hawker sold to Signature, what buildings were given up. Mr. White said Signature is going to keep the majority of the space, however Hawker will retain the far South Hangar. The transaction has not yet been officially finalized, however it is getting close.

Air Midwest has officially shutdown as an airline and has verbally given their 60 day notice which would have them vacating the building at the end of August.

Mr. Greenlee asked about the new location for the US Customs facility. Mr. White said Customs is currently housed in the cargo building which will be torn down. A temporary location has been agreed upon, which is a space in Hangar 16 that Koch currently has for lease. The location is in the middle of two hangars and contains both office and shop space. Customs has come up with new, very specific guidelines that have to be met for their facilities.

#### Air Service Update

Valerie Wise presented to the Board a PowerPoint presentation providing information on the impact of fuel prices on the airlines and the status of air service activities at Mid-Continent Airport. There are reductions in capacity all across the United States and some smaller communities are losing their air service all together.

Chairman Fletcher asked if the load factors are still going up, even though Wichita is losing some flights. Mrs. Wise said that in June the load factors did increase. The average load factor

in June was 80% and it has been averaging about 70%. Overall, Mid-Continent may be losing some flights, but passengers are not being turned away. So far it looks like Wichita will at least be able to maintain the Air Service it currently has.

Mr. White said it is really not certain what will happen in the future because the airlines are changing their game plan everyday. Things that you would never expect to happen, are happening and are happening at all different sizes of airports. The airlines are currently doing whatever they can do to save money.

### **Terminal Area Redevelopment Program Update**

Mike Carter, DMJM Aviation, presented to the Board a PowerPoint presentation providing an update on the current schedule and upcoming meetings. Last month was the Parking Garage Design Scope & Schedule meeting with HNTB as well as an update on Design Development. The meetings in July are centered on review of the Design Development drawings in more detail with airport staff and code compliance representatives from the City. Mr. Carter also showed various slides describing the various packages and depicting design elements and configurations. There is also a column the budget including the program cost estimate and the construction costs individually and then a column for the portion of the budget that has been initiated to date, \$24.4 million is all that we have been authorized to spend so far.

Mr. Gooch asked about the amount of space available for concessions past security. Mr. Carter said there will be more space post-security than pre-security, but does not know the exact percentages. Mr. White said that for airports across the country the new way of thinking is to have the majority of the food, beverage and retail concessions available in the gate areas, past security which is just the opposite of the way it is today.

There was discussion about tenant and employee parking and where the various lots would be located.

### **Other Business**

Chairman Fletcher said the time was coming up for the election of officers of the Board. This cannot be done today due to lack of a quorum, however is something to think about for next month.

Chairman Fletcher asked if Cessna's project was coming along okay. Mr. White said the lease agreement is still being finalized, and in the meantime plans are moving forward.

Mr. Russell asked if there was contact with the manufacturers about jobs needing to be filled. Mr. White said all of the manufacturers are in full-time hiring mode, Learjet and Cessna in particular.

There was discussion about the airlines involvement in the new terminal building.

The next WAAB meeting will be Monday, August 4, 2008 at 2:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

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Kelly Fabrizius, Clerk