

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF WICHITA
WICHITA AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, April 2, 2018

Present: Robert Benton, Paul Davis, Joey Ellzey, David Eslinger, Charles Fletcher, John Hennessy, Jr., Karyn Page, Dr. Thom Rosenberg, Brent Wooten

Airport Staff: Victor White, Director; John Oswald, Engineering and Planning Manager; Jordan Leonard, Clerk

City Staff: Jay Hinkel, Deputy City Attorney

Guests: Andrew Crane – Guiding Paws for the Blind
Deborah Crane

Chairman Rosenberg called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. and asked if anyone was present to speak on the public agenda. No one came forward to speak.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Fletcher and second by Mr. Wooten to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2018 Wichita Airport Advisory Board meeting (WAAB). Motion carried unanimously.

Presentation by Guiding Paws for the Blind

Andrew Crane, who is legally blind, presented a PowerPoint Presentation on new technology from the company Aira that helps others who are blind or visually impaired. Aira provides video-equipped smart glasses to help assist blind customers. This company also provides a smartphone app and a one-click button to a network of trained professional agents. The professionally trained agents help customers engage, explore, and experience the world in a different and beneficial way. Customers can get help visually, without needing a sighted person nearby.

Michael Hingson, who is also legally blind and is the Director of Strategic Sales for Aira, spoke about the technology over the phone from his office in San Diego. Mr. Crane and Mr. Hingson presented how Aira's technology and assistance is a great resource to provide throughout the Airport. Having the software available inside the terminal would help anyone who is legally blind find their way through the Airport without needing any wheelchair or disability assistance. The agent would be able to communicate exactly where they are and the steps to help them move through the Airport efficiently. The Agent can also let the customers know exactly what is available to eat and buy within the Airport. A short video showed how Aira helped a customer make his way through the Chicago O'Hare Airport with a very short layover time frame. The Aira Agent was able to lead the customer through the Airport quickly and was able to make his connecting flight right on time. Mr. Hingson explained that having the Airport provide Aira access for Aira customers would be beneficial. The Airport would cover the cost of the minutes that

customers would use when using Aira in the Airport. A brick of minutes would be purchased by the Airport, which would cover 2,500 minutes for \$5,000. The minutes won't expire and no additional fees would be required until the minutes were used up completely. There isn't any equipment that is necessary, since the Aira access is provided through Wi-Fi. Purchasing these minutes would help make the Airport more accessible to persons who are blind. Some Airports that have bought minutes for Aira access include: Memphis, Minneapolis, Houston, Seattle, and many more. Approximately there are two million people in the United States who are considered legally blind. Mr. Crane demonstrated the Aira app and used one of their trained agents. The agent talked to Mr. Crane about everything around him and led him around the room with very specific and detailed information to explain his surroundings. Monthly reports are available to show minute usage and how many minutes are remaining. Aira is a unique service in the market place with it being the only service that provides visual interpretation that Aira does without any additional equipment or beacons.

Mr. Crane reminded the Board that there is a Federal Regulation with the US DOT and the FAA that indicates that all Airports are required to have an indoor service animal relief area (SARA) in the gate areas on the secure side. When the terminal was built, this regulation was not in effect, and thus the new terminal didn't include an indoor relief area. The airport does have an outdoor SARA just outside the baggage claim area. There are exemptions with the regulations that the Airport wouldn't have to have an indoor facility if a local Service Animal Training Organizations, the Airport, and the Airlines agreed that the Airport doesn't need a SARA indoors, then it wouldn't need to be created. However, upon discussing this potential exemption with a number of other airports, Mr. White reported that getting that agreement has been difficult. Thus, the staff plans on finding a way to install an indoor SARA, probably by converting an existing family restroom that is near Gate 1.

Director's Report – Victor White

The President signed a temporary continuing resolution budget to last until the end of the Federal fiscal year, which indicates there will be Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) funding during that time. Congress is still debating a long term reauthorization of the FAA.

The Taxiway H-2 Development project was approved by the City Council on March 20th. The project will accommodate general aviation hangar development on vacant land to the north of the intersection of Harry Street and Airport Road. The engineering firm (Garver) has been hired to start the design and engineering work. Work should begin Mid-May using an FAA 90% grant.

Discussion of Airport Programs

The City of Wichita is going through its annual budget process. The City Manager asked each department to look over everything service they use or provide. Victor White provided a spreadsheet of all the Airport's high-level basic services. The spreadsheet shows 17 services which are prioritized by most important. Each program and activity qualifies as either "core" or "support". Core represents a service that is required for the Airport by law, regulation, contract, or City Council direction, and support would be a service that isn't required for the Airport under the core definition. Each program is either "touchable" or "untouchable". The City Manager is using

a Zero Based Budgeting program to help bring to attention what programs or activities that might not be needed. Each department will present its list to the City Council in a budget retreat later this month.

Other Business.

The next WAAB meeting will be Monday, May 7, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn at 4:39 p.m.by Mr. Hennessy, 2nd by Mr. Davis.

Jordan Leonard, Clerk