

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF WICHITA
WICHITA AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, June 1, 2020

Present: Charlie Fletcher (Vice Chairman), Tim Bonnell, Paul Davis, Dwight Greenlee, Karyn Page, Dr. Thom Rosenberg, Rob Benton

Airport Staff: Victor White, Director; Brad Christopher, Assistant Director; Valerie Wise, Air Service and Marketing Manager; Jean Zoglman, Finance Manager; John Oswald, Engineering and Planning Manager; Kriscia Palacios, Clerk.

City Staff: Jay Hinkel, Deputy City Attorney

Guests: Doug Jacobs, Grant Schumaker, Greg Zuercher

Vice Chairman Fletcher called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. No call for public agenda due to the meeting being conducted virtually using Microsoft teams.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Dr. Rosenburg and second by Ms. Page to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2020 Wichita Airport Advisory Board meeting (WAAB). Motion carried unanimously.

Director's Report – Victor White

The Director listed items to be addressed by the Airport Authority at the City Council tomorrow. First being the approval of the selection criteria for the construction manager at risk for the Aviation Fuel Farm project. Second is the approval of the lease agreement with Mid Continent Aviation Services.

Discussion of COVID-19 impacts on Airport

Victor gave a presentation regarding the operational and high level financial impacts of COVID-19. The presentation discussed such things as the traffic counts for passengers and parking revenues, the relief measures offered to Airport tenants, as well as budget cutting efforts already done to protect the WAA.

Jean Zoglman gave a presentation regarding the impact of the Airport's financial status by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Air Service Marketing Update

Valerie Wise gave a very detailed presentation on air passenger traffic impact due to COVID-19.

Brad Christopher discussed how the Airport has notified the public about the new procedures in place and different precautions the Airport is taking related to COVID-19.

Lt. Erwin Bleckley Memorial Proposal

Greg Zuercher, founding board member of the Bleckley Memorial, along with Doug Jacobs and Grant Schumaker spoke about Erwin Bleckley and honoring him. They proposed to display the 1918 DH4 aircraft here at the airport, which would include a bronze statue, the DH4 airplane and Bleckley's Medal of Honor. Director White provided numerous comments regarding the difficulties of displaying the plane inside the terminal, especially considering its large size. There is no floor space large enough to place the plane, and hanging a plane from the ceiling was never contemplated during the design or construction of the terminal from a structural capability standpoint. It would require a feasibility study to determine if that would be technically feasible. If it were possible, there is only one space in the building that might work without competing visually with the public art, advertising, or wayfinding signage. The plane and other materials cannot interfere with existing or future operational functions of the terminal. The far end of bag claim might be the only place it could work. Considerations need to be given to the look and appearance of the plane with respect to fitting in with the architecture and design on the terminal, and making sure that the aesthetics of the building aren't affected. The original terminal design team (HNTB architects and Dudley Williams's structural engineers) must do the study of feasibility, and the terminal construction contractor should do the installation if this is approved. But, the Airport doesn't have the funds to pay for any of the design or construction. So, the Bleckley committee must be responsible for all costs of the project. Mr. Zuercher said that a public fundraising effort would be started to come up with the money.

Motion by Ms. Page and second by Dr. Rosenberg to nonfinancially support the DH4 airplane memorial display at the Wichita Dwight D. Eisenhower Airport, not agreeing to a specific location at this point in time, and only if plane will fit and the engineering indicates it will work. Motion passed unanimously.

Project Updates

No project updates at this time.

Other Business

Karen Page and Dr. Rosenburg complimented the Airport's staff.

The next WAAB meeting will be Monday, July 6, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned by Vice Chairman Fletcher at 5:04 p.m.

Elizabeth Anderson, Clerk