



MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, July 11, 2022  
3:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Wichita Airport Advisory Board (WAAB) was held at 3:00 p.m. in the Administration Building Board Room, 2173 Air Cargo Road and via a virtual format.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Present in Person: Charles Fletcher, Tim Bonnell, John Hennessy, Jr., Ron Ryan, Sierra Scott.  
Present Virtually: Randy Frazer, Joseph Ellzey, Marco Alcocer Jonathan McRoy, Randy Mullikin

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Present In Person: Jesse R. Romo, Director of Airports; John Oswald, Engineering and Planning; Jill Darge, Admin. Aide II; Jason Harper, Admin Aide II

Present Virtually: Brad Christopher, Asst. Director of Airports; Valerie Wise, Marketing & Air Service Manager; Kevin Reiser, Airport IT Manager; Traci Nichols, Properties Manager; Jay Hinkel, Deputy City Attorney; Roger Xanders, Airport Police & Fire Chief; Jason Jones, Airport Police & Fire Deputy Chief; Jean Zoglman, CFO.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Ian Martel, member of the public.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:** Darge took roll call. Fletcher called the meeting to order once a quorum was established.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The Board approved the Minutes of the Advisory Board meeting held on June 6, 2022.

No public comments were received.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

- FAA annual Part 139 inspection took place in June over a two-day period and was routine.
- The Airport department is experiencing staffing challenges at all levels. It is important to get Equipment Operator positions filled so that employees can be trained before winter weather. Christopher is leading an effort to create incentive programs for trainings and certifications. At the suggestion of McRoy, Human Resources (HR) will be contacted regarding their familiarity with the Military Skillbridge Program. City HR does bring some advantages to the hiring process.

- Wichita Airport Authority items that are on the City Council meeting agenda are distributed to the WAAB via email on the Friday prior to the meeting date. If there are questions regarding any items, please contact Airport staff. The agenda for July 12<sup>th</sup> includes an item for renovation of the U.S. Customs and Board Patrol facility to bring it up to current standards. The project was a re-bid that resulted in a similar outcome. An \$800,000 KDOT grant is funding a portion of the renovation.
- Please advise if there are specific communications preferences
- Start time of the meeting was discussed and confirmed to remain at 3:00 p.m. Jabara Airport could be the location of a future meeting.
- Alcocer expressed interest in WAAB members receiving tours of the airports.
- The agenda format has been changed to group staff reports.

### **STAFF REPORTS:**

Oswald presented the following project updates:

- General Aviation Apron pavement is being replaced to accommodate heavier aircraft and provide more aircraft parking. The construction duration is 550 calendar days; started May 31<sup>st</sup>; weather permitting, completion in December 2023. The projected budget is \$23,708,400. This is our largest airfield paving project ever. The project plans that Garver produced have 17 phases.
- Ron Ryan asked to what is going on at the Bevan office. Oswald responded that it is an upgrade of the HVAC unit.
- Ron Ryan asked if the Top Golf facility is going to conflict with airspace at Jabara. Oswald responded that the FAA said that it will not.

Wise gave an update on Air Service.

- May enplanements were up 22% over 2021 and seats increased 17%. The average load factor was 90%. For the year, enplanements are up 40%. May is at 81% of May 2019. Based on TSA throughput, June enplanements are estimated to be up 13% over June 2021, while scheduled seats increased 12%. June's enplanements are 85% of June 2019. The average load factor for the June is estimated at 86%. A new post-pandemic high was reached on June 29, with 3,174 enplanements. This number is comparable to a busy day in 2019.
- Looking ahead, Q3 2022 capacity will increase over Q2 2022 with 6% more flights and 11% more seats. However, compared to Q3 2019, scheduled capacity shows 12% fewer flights and 4% fewer seats. October 2019 average 34 weekly flights; this October will average 30 flights a week.
- The airlines are up gauging aircraft to larger RJs and narrowbodies. In October, 51% of the flights are on narrowbodies, 25% on small RJs, and 24% on large RJs. United will be replacing a 50-seat RJ with a 126-seat Airbus 319 on one of the three Chicago flights beginning in September. American will add a 3rd daily flight to Chicago in September and a 7th flight to DFW on 4 days of the week.

- The airlines are aggressively hiring pilots, offering sign-on bonuses, and increasing salaries to attract pilots. This means fewer pilots to operate the regional carriers. Currently about half of ICT flights are operated by regionals. At the recent Jumpstart conference, the airlines estimated it could take two years to get fully staffed. Modifications to the mandatory retirement age for pilots has been proposed.

Chief Xanders and Deputy Chief Jones discussed the Aircraft Fire and Rescue duties at ICT.

- FAA Part 139 Inspection was performed in June, ICT did not have any discrepancies.
- Airport P&F staff have required training on 12 different topics. Every month staff is given three or four topics to build on.
- Live fire training for certification is at McConnell Air Force Base using propane gas.
- Live fire training at ICT uses diesel and jet fuel and a mixture of both.
- EMT training requires 14 hours every two years.
- Medical calls are up 72% from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarters of last year.
- Aircraft emergencies have increased 54% from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarters of last year.
- Chief Xanders has a Twitter account (Chief Roger Xanders @ictpolicefire) to give updates during live fire training and aircraft alerts.
- Deputy Chief Jones presented a video showing Boeing E6 alert II response.
- It was acknowledged that the use of PFAS firefighting foam is federally required although the FAA continues to explore an environmentally friendly replacement. Chief Xanders confirmed that PFAS was not discharged during the live training exercises, nor was it used to extinguish the E6 fire.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Motion by Hennessey to nominate Bonnell as WAAB Chairman. Ryan seconded the Motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- Motion by Hennessey to nominate Ryan as WAAB Vice-Chairman. Bonnell seconded the Motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- Alcocer stated that additional nominations may result if there was more information provided about the background, experience and reason for volunteering for all WAAB members.
- Chairman Fletcher suggested that airport tours for WAAB members be put on the agenda when the weather is cooler.
- Chairman Fletcher was thanked for his service as Chairman.

The next regular meeting will be held on August 1, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. in-person and with virtual participation.