



MEETING MINUTES
Monday, September 12, 2022
3:00 PM

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Present in Person: Tim Bonnell, Jerome Cottner, Joseph Ellzey, John Hennessy, Jr., Randy Mullikin

Present Virtually: Marco Alcocer, Randy Frazer, Ron Ryan

STAFF PRESENT:

Present In Person: Jesse R. Romo, Brad Christopher, John Oswald, Valerie Wise, Jill Darge, Angelica Mounce, Jay Hinkel

ALSO PRESENT: Ian Martel, member of the public.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: Darge took roll call. Bonnell 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 August 1, 2022.

No public comments were received.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Romo reported that the Job Fair on August 30 was very successful will discuss the possibility of hosting another event at the next Tenant Luncheon on September 29.
- Stacey Wilbanks was introduced as our new Operations Manager.
- Romo reported that we have received a few WAAB members bio's and we are waiting on some from others but, we are working on formatting them, so they all have the same general information.
- Romo announced that we will be inviting the past board members to the next meeting to recognize them for their contributions to the WAAB board.

- Romo stated that McConnell Air Force Base is having an Air Show & Open House on Sept 24, & 25th.
- Romo said they are still working on relocating the WAAB members photos in the terminal.

STAFF REPORTS:

Oswald presented the following updates:

- Runway Rehabilitation project at Jabara's ended a few weeks ago. Snodgrass & Sons was the contactor. The project received funds from a grant from the Kansas Department of Transportation Division of Aviation grants program.
- The General Aviation Project using Pearson Construction is currently in phase 6 with an anticipated completion date of December 2023.
- The streets side project is also contracted with Pearson. That project is underway and it's about halfway complete. The contractor is moving over to Harry Street also called Learjet Way to do pavement patching and sealing. On the south side is centerline is Airport property the north side of centerline is Bombardier property. Bombardier will reimburse half of the cost.
- MCAS hangar is complete. It is the largest hangar on the airport property. With about 34,000. sq. ft which includes 2,000 sq. ft of office space on the mezzanine level.

Ryan asked what kind of door clearance it has. John replied that the typical size is 28ft.

Valerie gave a report on Air Service.

- July 2022 passenger activity performed at 90.5% of July 2019. For the year, passenger traffic is up 26%. Labor Day weekend was strong, with a 3% increase in passengers over 2019's Labor Day weekend. Load factors in the summer have been strong, reaching 90% in many cases. That is an indication of oversold flights and spilling passengers to other airports.
- The gap between capacity and passengers was narrow during the summer and appears to be widening during this time of year, which is normal. Compared to 2019, Q4 2022 seats will be down 1% while flights will be down 16%. This is due to a larger aircraft. Narrowbody aircraft make up 52% of our flights compared to 34% in Q4 2019. Large regional jets will be 17% compared to 12%, and small regional jets will be 31% compared to 54%.
- Looking ahead at Q1 2023, there will be 18% more seats and 21% more flights. Most of the increases are from our network carriers. American will add a 7th daily flight to DFW, United will add a 5th daily flight to Denver, a 4th daily flight to Houston, and a 4th daily flight to Chicago. Southwest has reduced its Phoenix and Las Vegas routes to weekend flying. Phoenix will be completely out of the schedule until early March and it will only be on weekends. Southwest has said that they are committed to restoring their network. For now, they fly westbound passengers through Denver and eastbound passengers through St. Louis.

Bonnell asked if Frontier is coming back? Wise responded that we never know what Frontier is going to do. They come and go out of markets quite frequently. Airlines are struggling with higher costs, wages and fuel, along with pilot shortages that are keeping them from expanding.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Romo reminded everyone about MCAS open house on Sept. 15, from 4:30 – 7:00 pm
- Romo stated the IFST brochures were available. If you would like, we can email you a copy. Rita Rodriguez, the Lead, will join us at our next meeting to answer any questions.
- Romo announced that the City has hired a new Assistant City Manager, Troy Anderson. He was most recently the Deputy Chief of Staff for the Mayor's Office in Omaha. His background is in economic development.

The next regular meeting will be held on October 3, 2022, at 3:00 pm in-person and with virtual participation.