



**COLORADO SPRINGS
AIRPORT**

**MINUTES
Airport Advisory Commission
Wednesday, February 24, 2021
3:00PM – 5:00PM
(Via Teleconference)
Teams Meeting**

VOTING

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

John Maier –Chairman (via Teams)
Bill Nichols – Vice Chairman (via Teams)
Hal Ellis – Commissioner (via Teams)
Michelle Ruehl – Commissioner (via Teams)
Chic Myers – Commissioner (via Teams)
Aaron Wood – Commissioner (via Teams)

VOTING

COMMISSIONER ABSENT:

David L Couch – Commissioner

NON-VOTING

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mark Volcheff – Alternate Commissioner (via Teams)
Danny Mientka – Alternate Commissioner (via phone)
Wayne Williams – City Council Representative (via Teams)

NON-VOTING

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bill Murray – City Council Representative
County Commissioner Stan VanderWerf – Liaison Commissioner
(via Teams)
County Commissioner Carrie Geitner – Liaison Commissioner
(via Teams)
Dave Elliott – Meadow Lake Airport Liaison

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

Greg Phillips – Director of Aviation (via Teams)
Michael Gendill – Legal Advisor (via Teams)
Ivette Rentas – Customer Relations Coordinator (via Teams)
Brett Miller – Assistant Director of Aviation (via Teams)
Kevin Keith – Aviation Planner (via Teams)
Kristine Andrews – Environmental Health & Safety Specialist
(via Teams)
Steven Gaeta – Design & Construction Manager (via Teams)
Dana Schield – Communications Specialist II (via Teams)
Chris Padilla – Senior Analyst (via Teams)

GUESTS PRESENT:

Amy Kelley – US Air Force Academy (via Teams)
Allison Patak – US Air Force (via Teams)
Jason Alwine – Matrix Design Group (via phone)
Other attendees via phone were unknown

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 3:01PM FEBRUARY 24, 2021 by CHAIRMAN MAIER

II. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 27, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Maier made a motion to approve the January 27, 2021 meeting minutes. Vice Chairman Nichols seconded.

Discussion: Commissioner Ellis made a motion to amend the January 27, 2021 AAC meeting minutes to accurately reflect his comments regarding the impact of the Runway 17R/35L Rehabilitation project on the West Side Business Park. Vice Chairman Nichols seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

The question was called to approve as amended by Commissioner Ellis motion.

Chairman Maier made a motion to amend the January 27, 2021 meeting minutes to include Commissioner Ellis statement. Vice Chairman Nichols seconded.

VOTE: APPROVED (Unanimous, Roll Call Passes 6 Yes).

III. COMMUNICATIONS

- None

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

V. NEW BUSINESS AND REPORT ITEMS

A. Land Use Review – Kevin Keith

Kevin Keith presented ten (10) Land Use Items.

Vice Chairman Nichols moved the AAC accept, without conditions, Land Use Items #1, #2, #3, #5, #6, #7, #9, and #10 as recommended by the airport staff. Commissioner Ruehl seconded.

Discussion: None

VOTE: APPROVED (Unanimous, Roll Call Passed 6 Yes)

Land Use Item #4: Briefed

Kevin Keith gave a detailed briefing on Land Use Item #4, Request by Colorado Springs Utilities with representation by Kimley-Horn for approval of the Advanced Technology Campus development plan. The plan includes the development of the Horizon Substation. This is a 160.05 acres site located on the southwest corner of Drennan Road and Foreign Trade Zone Blvd.

Discussion: Commissioner Ellis asked for clarification on the distance between the new development and runway on Land Use Item #4. Kevin Keith responded the airport measured 0.6 miles from the nearest runway threshold.

Chairman Maier made a motion that the Airport Advisory Commission accept, without conditions, Land Use Item #4 as recommend by airport staff. Commissioner Myers seconded.

VOTE: APPROVED (Unanimous, Roll Call Passed 6 Yes)

Land Use Item #8: Briefed

Due to a conflict of interest, Alternate Commissioner Mientka excused himself from the Land Use Item #8 discussion.

Kevin Keith gave a detailed briefing on Land Use Item #8, Request by Pikes Peak Investments, LLC, with representation by Matrix Design Group for approval of the High Plains at Reagan Ranch PUD development plan. The property is located on the southeast corner of Highway 94 and Marksheffel Road.

Discussion: Alternate Commissioner Volcheff shared his concerns of the Land Use Item #4 staff Recommendations /Conditions of Approval that were written by airport staff. Following an in-depth discussion ensuring restriction of residential construction within the 65 Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL) in the Accident Potential Zone 2 (APZ-2) and clarification, that the airport staff recommended the developer consider relocation of all Planned Unit Development (PUD) and residential development outside the proposed 65 Air Service Volume (ASV) DNL that was identified in the draft 2020 Airport Land Use Compatibility Study, Commissioner Volcheff withdrew his concern.

Vice Chairman Nichols made a motion that the Airport Advisory Commission recommends no objection of Land Use Item #8 as presented by airport staff. Chairman Maier seconded.

VOTE: APPROVED (Unanimous, Roll Call Passed 6 Yes)

B. Director's Airport Business Report

- Project Status Report – Steven Gaeta
 - The 20 year Airport Master Plan is in its scoping phase. Scope, fee, and timeframe TBD.
 - Preliminary design efforts have begun to match Taxiway A elevations to future Runway 17R/35L. Additional information forthcoming.
 - The airport is in the process of adding a Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system to the central power vault under the scope of the Rehabilitation Runway 17R/35L construction project.
 - The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has received the contract and the procurement is in the process to repair the connection to the RWY 35L ILS monitor system. The Category II operations (CAT II) approach for runway 35L is anticipated to be repaired and operating in mid-March 2021.
 - Discussions of the 2021 Airport Master Plan have commenced. Kevin Keith is meeting with the consultants to discuss the scope and assist with initiating the project.
- Traffic Trend Report – Greg Phillips
 - January 2021 numbers have dropped compared to November and December 2020.
 - Although January numbers are slightly lower, figures remain comparable to previous months.
 - February 2021 had the highest one-day number of passengers through the TSA Check Point since March 2020.
 - COS is looking forward to the launching of the Southwest Airlines service in March 2021.
 - Greg Phillips shared a brief presentation about the thirteen (13) daily Southwest Airlines flights from COS and the available coast to coast connections.
 - Michael Wright is the Southwest Airlines Station Manager at the Colorado Springs Airport.
 - Southwest employees are expected to begin preparations on March 1 for the March 11th launch of service.
 - Commissioner Wood is communicating and sharing Southwest Airlines information with local businesses throughout the community.

- The Colorado Springs Chambers, Visit COS, and Colorado Springs Airport are working together on executing a full marketing plan for the airport.
- Southwest Airlines baggage carts, tugs, deicing trucks, equipment, and additional supplies are arriving in preparation for the launch of service on March 11.
- On February 12, United Airlines returned the Los Angeles (LAX) flight to their schedule.
- COS Financial Report – Chris Padilla
 - December 2020 revenues were approximately \$1.1M and expenses ended near the previously forecasted \$2M.
 - December 2020 revenues came in \$722,000 below the previously forecasted amount, with 86% accruing from parking, airfield, and rental car revenue.
 - Cumulative Operating Expense within one percent of the revised estimate.
 - Employee salaries were above forecast by \$273,000.
 - Cumulative Operating Revenues for 2020 are at \$12.9M with a projected \$12.5M.
 - Cumulative Operating Expenses for 2020 were at \$15.4M with a projected \$15.5M post COVID.
 - January and February 2021 financial reports will be presented at the March 24, 2021 AAC meeting.
 - The airport collected approximately \$200,000 more Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) revenue and approximately \$200,000 more of the Customer Facility Charge (CFC) revenue than the projected COVID assumptions.
 - The airport has used \$10.2M of Cares Act Funding for 2020.
 - The airport ended the year with 500 days of cash reserve.
- Airport Business Development Report – Greg Phillips
 - The 20,000 sq. ft. hangar for COS Owners received a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy.
 - Sierra Nevada Corp. (SNC) Lean-to project is moving forward.
 - The 30,000 sq. ft. hangar for SNC has a Certificate of Occupancy.
 - Construction on project Rodeo (Amazon) is moving forward and anticipated to be completed and operational by June 2021.
 - As of mid-June 2021 Mountain Metropolitan Transit will provide service to the Amazon facilities in Peak Innovation Park.
 - The lease for project Congo (Amazon) has been signed by Mayor Suthers for a new 37-acre Amazon development in Peak Innovation Park.
 - Aerospace construction is moving forward and anticipating completion by the end of 2021.
 - Ground breaking ceremony for Flywheel East in Peak Innovation Park is scheduled for March 18.
 - Discussions for the construction of two (2) hotels is moving forward. Construction is anticipated to begin in the spring 2022.
 - US Forest Service development is moving forward. Construction is anticipated to begin in March, 2021.
 - The roundabout on Peak Innovation Loop and Innovation Parkway is complete and operable.
 - The new traffic signal light on the corner of Peak Innovation Parkway and Milton E. Proby is operational.
 - A “Welcome to Olympic City USA” sign will be placed on the west bound side of Milton E Proby.
 - Construction at the intersection of Grinnell Blvd. and Powers Blvd. is anticipated to be completed by April 2021.

C. General Business/COVID 19 Update – Greg Phillips

- Greg Phillips shared that the airport is working on having Operations Agents and key essential staff identified so they can receive early opportunities to receive the COVID vaccine.
- Greg Phillips will provide the Commission with an update on the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) meeting scheduled to be held in September 2021.

D. Chairman's Report

- During the January 27, 2021 AAC meeting, Chairman Maier proposed that in honor of past AAC Chair Andi Biancur's significant contributions in all areas of aviation within the Pikes Peak region, consideration be given to naming one of the new streets or roads under construction within the business park after past Chair Biancur.

Chairman Maier moved that the Airport Advisory Commission recommend to the Director of the Colorado Springs Airport that he favorably consider honoring past Chairman Andi Biancur for his long history of significant service and contribution to the City, the County, and particularly the Colorado Springs Airport by directing staff to take action necessary to dedicate a permanent Memoriam, chosen at the Directors discretion, within the Colorado Springs Airport or Colorado Springs Business Park in memory of Commissioner Biancur. Vice Chairman Nichols seconded.

VOTE: **APPROVED (Unanimous, Roll Call Passed 6 Yes)**

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

- Colorado Aeronautical Board Update – Commissioner Myers
 - Commissioner Myers shared an article from the Colorado Aeronautical Board regarding the Tuskegee Airmen Association in Denver. A grant for high school students as young as fourteen years of age, will receive financial assist with flight training school. The Tuskegee Airmen Association also support and sponsor visits to Metro State, Air Force Academy, Aerospace Businesses within the Denver Tech Center, Aeronautics Division, Air Traffic Control (ATC) Towers, and soon to include ATC sites within the Denver Center. Commissioner Myers and Commissioner Ellis will work together in recruiting willing sponsors to provide grants to young students with an interest in aviation. Commissioner Ellis has had an opportunity to speak with a few of the west side operators and has received positive feedback. Additional Information forthcoming. Commissioner Ellis will reach out to Ivette Rentas and request to be on the AAC agenda with updates.
- Westside Operators Meeting Discussion – Commissioner Wood
 - West side general aviation stakeholders met last week. There was a virtual Teams meeting invite for anyone that couldn't attend in-person. Air Traffic Control did attend the meeting.
 - Rehabilitate Runway 17R/35L project was the main point of discussion and a possible impact for the stakeholders.
 - The airport has created a link that will provide all necessary updates moving forward.
 - Commissioner Wood acknowledged Greg Phillips and airport staff for their support. Keeping the west side stakeholders and their tenants informed has shown to improve a level of confidence and transparency as we move forward on the construction project.
 - Greg Phillips asked that Brett Miller and Jeremy Owings become more involved with the west side stakeholder meetings, visiting tenants/flight schools, and project updates through Constant Contact.
 - Commissioner Ellis requested clarification of the procedure for updating and/or issuing a construction project overview to the west side tenants.
 - Airport staff is working on ensuring that any changes or projects taking place on the west side is shared with all tenants. The airport has offered to meet with the west side tenants to answer all questions and/or discuss any concerns regarding construction projects on the west side.
 - Chairman Maier received positive feedback regarding discussions held at the Peterson Air Force Base (PAFB) Aero Club meeting the week of February 15, 2021.
 - Amy Kelley, US Air Force Academy has been communicating with the Airport Communication Director. Several other US Air Force Academy colleagues have been added to the list and are receiving notices as well.
 - Commissioner Ellis shared his thoughts of the importance of a strong continued relationship between the Air Force Academy and Airport.

- Commissioner Wood mentioned that the west side stakeholders and tenants plan on alternate methods for airport training during Phase I of the Rehabilitation Runway 17R/35L construction project. The Commissioner also suggested all airports in the area should be notified of the possible impact to their airports during the runway closure.
- Brett Miller has put together a detailed schedule of the construction project and timeline. Notifications have been forwarded to all that may be impacted by the runway closure.
- Washington Update – Commissioner Ruehl
 - Commissioner Ruehl shared that throughout Washington there is a great deal of discussion regarding the safety of the Boeing 777 aircraft.
 - This year, the Women of Aviation Conference is a virtual meeting and will be held on March 11 and 12. Commissioner Ruehl has offered to speak in behalf of the Colorado Springs Airport.

VII. COMMISSION MEMBERS' COMMENTS

- Commissioner Ellis reiterated his concerns and the possible impact to the west side tenants caused by the runway 17R/35L construction project.
- Greg Phillips shared that in April 2020 the airport received \$24.3M funding from Congress. In addition, the airport will receive \$4.3M from the Coronavirus Response and Release Supplemental Appropriation Act (CRRSAA). The additional funding will be used to support airport tenants operations, and staff.

VIII. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

- None

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.

The next meeting date is Wednesday, April 28, 2021