

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

TAVCO

December 12, 2023

Minutes of the Tempe Aviation Commission meeting – was held via virtual Microsoft Teams meeting with call in +1 (480) 498-8745 United States, Phoenix (Toll) Conference ID: 243 160 897# and at the Tempe Public Library, on December 12, 2023 6:30 p.m.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Karen Apple
W. David Doiron
John Lynch
Stuart Mitnik
Peter Schelstraete
Desiree Walker

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Ed Kucharski
Aaron McBride
Lane Waddell

Citizens Present:

None

City Staff Present:

Brianne Fisher, Sustainability and Resilience Supervisor,
Thomas Duensing, Chief Deputy City Manager,
Oddvar Tveit Temporary Aviation Coordinator

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

The chair, Mr. Doiron, calls the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

The chair asks if there are any individuals who are attending online to make a comment to the members. Ms. Fisher informs him that there are none.

Agenda Item 6 – TAVCO Chair and Vice Chair elections

The chair asks if there are any objections to address item 6 out of agenda order. Hearing none, he points to the list of officer nominations included in the meeting packet and asks if anybody on the list would like to volunteer for either chair or vice chair. Mr. Lynch volunteers for the chair position and proposes Ms. Walker as nominee for the vice chair position. The chair proposes Mr. Mitnik as the second vice chair nominee.

The chair asks for a vote on the vice chair position, starting with the first nominee. Ms. Apple, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Mitnik, Mr. Schelstraete and Ms. Walker votes yes on nominee Ms. Walker for the position of vice chair. Mr. Doiron abstains. The chair confirms the selection of Ms. Walker as the commission's new vice chair.

The chair asks for a vote on the chair position. Mr. Lynch gets a unanimous vote on the position as commission chair. Mr. Doiron asks Mr. Lynch to take over as meeting chair. Mr. Lynch thanks Mr. Doiron, Ms. Apple, and Mr. Kucharski for their service on the commission.

Agenda Item 3 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes for November 14, 2023

Mr. Lynch asks for comments on the drafted minutes for the November 14 meeting. Mr. Mitnik asks and receives confirmation about the members have yet to see and vote on approving October 10 meeting minutes. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Mr. Lynch asks for a vote on approving the draft November 14, 2023, meeting minutes. The minutes are approved by unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 4 – Aviation History Month event recap

Mr. Lynch asks Ms. Walker to address this item and chair the rest of the meeting.

Mr. Fisher states that the agenda item was requested by Mr. Mitnik for members to discuss the November 18, 2023, event. Mr. Doiron comments that the event was held at an unfortunate time of day, early Saturday morning. A time during the afternoon or evening would have resulted in improved attendance. Mr. Mitnik suggests more city outreach to improve public awareness about the event by including it to the city's weekly event email notice. This could also have helped with the attendance since the event was only mentioned in the water bill mailout. Mr. Doiron states that people paid attention to what was presented and asked good questions. Ms. Walker expresses support for having another event in 2024 and asked about media coverage. Mr. Fisher states that city can make a pitch to the media, but there is no guaranty that media would respond to it. Maybe if the event corresponds to an aviation incident or some aviation related newsworthy event the chances could improve, but it all depends on how much news media is focused on covering at the time of the event. She suggests another event be a discussion item on a future agenda.

Agenda Item 5 – Aviation Training and Sky Harbor Near Misses

Ms. Fisher mentions the meeting in September when the North Tempe Neighborhood Association expressed concerns about air misses that were reported in media in August. The association told the members that it planned to send letters to the city Mayor and Council, the Arizona delegation in Congress and the FAA about ATC staffing and training concerns. Mr. Mitnik had drafted a letter to Mayor and Council about these concerns which was approved at the commission's last meeting. In addition, staff was asked to reach out to the FAA about any information the agency could provide to the commission about ATC training and staffing.

Ms. Fisher updated the members reporting that the letter was e-mailed to the Mayor and Council with copies to Mr. Doiron and Mr. Lynch. The commission's letter had not yet resulted in a response. She had been successful in contacting an FAA official who gave her FAA contacts about who is dealing with PHX Tower tours and who can provide information or reports given to Congress about ATC staffing which could be made available to the commission.

Ms. Walker expresses her appreciation of the contacts and outreach made by Ms. Fisher. Ms. Fisher recommends following up with the FAA contacts and add a future agenda item as information was made available on the topic or invitation to FAA results in a presentation to the members at a future meeting. Ms. Walker asks if the update was shared with the neighborhood representatives who had brought up the issue with the commission. Ms. Fisher confirms that she had a call with Ms. Darlene Justus last week.

Agenda Item 8 – Commissioners' Business

Suggestions for future agenda items

Mr. Mitnik states that a discussion of another public meeting event next year was addressed under agenda item 4 and should be on the next meeting's agenda.

City of Tempe staffing update

Ms. Fisher announces that the City Manager has heard the requests from the commission and residents about the need for the city to have a dedicated staff person with technical expertise to address issues related to the 1994 IGA, information received from PHX and so that the

residents' aviation concerns can be addressed in a timely manner. Oddvar Tveit, who is retired from the city is back. Mr. Tveit states that he has agreed to help on a temporary basis, as a retiree from the city there are limitations as to how much time he can devote to working for Tempe. He conveys his esteem for the members who dedicate their time and effort in late meetings to discuss and give advice to the city. Mr. Duensing comments that Mr. Tveit will be working in the City Manager's office to support government relation functions and expresses that the city is fortunate to have him back with his great volume of knowledge.

Williams Aviation Consulting

Ms. Fisher informs about the city having a contract with Williams Aviation, to assist in connection with the litigation, but also to assist staff. PHX has changed the flight tracking software to a more modern system called Casper. The consultant has acquired a program called AEDT and with flight tracking it enables the city to get noise exposure contours developed in different ways. The consultant can in at a future meeting present what they have learned and address the capability of AEDT.

Mr. Mitnik inquires if he is right in assuming the commission would need to go through staff liaison if they needed information that only the consultant can provide. Ms. Fisher confirms his assumption as of present, but with Mr. Tveit on board she anticipates it would be more of a collaboration process between him and the consultant. The consultant's priority is to assist the City Attorney's Office. The consultant's AEDT gives the city access to data that can be used to help the commission and the accountability related to the procedures agreed upon in the IGA. Mr. Mitnik responds that the commission can only wait and see what information can be provided, particularly as it relates to arrival noise over north Tempe, which has been raised and discussed at previous meetings. Mr. Doiron comments that noise mitigation of arrival operations is not an IGA issue. Mr. Mitnik responds that the commission can under its charter address noise impacts from all types of aircraft operations. Mr. Tveit comments that it is years since he investigated the arrivals over north Tempe, but back then residents could occasionally experience, depending on the air traffic situation, that some airline approaches did result in so-called S-turns, a maneuver made to slow down or increase separation to aircraft ahead in the flow of approaches to the north runway, bringing the aircraft off the normal approach path. With access to more datasets, Ms. Fisher explained the city can better assist the commission with analyses of resident's concern over aircraft noise. Mr. Mitnik states data is important to determine if noise is an issue in areas from where a complaint originates. If it is, the commission needs to investigate if anything can be done.

Ms. Fisher concluded the update by suggesting having the consultant come and show what data and program capability the city has access through the PHX's Casper and the AEDT application at the next meeting.

Agenda Item 8 – Schedule Next TAVCO Meeting

The next TAVCO meeting was tentatively scheduled to Tuesday, January 9, 2024.

Agenda Item 9 – Adjournment.

Commissioner Doiron motions to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mitnik seconds. Unanimous approval.

The meeting is adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Prepared by: Brianne Fischer and Oddvar Tveit