



## Minutes Tempe Aviation Commission January 14, 2014

Minutes of the Tempe Aviation Commission meeting held on January 14, 2014, 6:30 p.m., at the Public Works Conference Room, Garden Level, City Hall Complex, 31 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

**(MEMBERS) Present:**

Lane Carraway  
Shannon Dutton  
Mark Garrigan  
Gordon Gauss  
Karyn Gitlis  
Barbara Sherman  
James Wennlund

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

Sally Clements (Excused)

**City Staff Present:**

Oddvar Tveit, Environmental Quality Specialist

**Citizens Present:**

Donald Kehl

**Meeting convened at 6:34 p.m.**

Barbara called the meeting to order.

**Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances**

Donald Kehl talked about how he made sure his home close to Kyrene Road and US 60 was not located under the flight paths when he bought it seventeen years ago. Over the last couple of months the air traffic noise has been unbearable. His home has become subject to overflights by all sorts of aircraft day and night. He showed the members a small portion of all the pictures he had taken of aircraft flying over his home. From his home he is also disturbed by the airline arrival route down close to Elliot Road, and noise from the railroad.

**Agenda Item 2 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes (December 10, 2013)**

Karyn had submitted edits to the draft minutes. The edited minutes were unanimously approved.

**Agenda Item 3 – Election of Officers**

Barbara solicited nominations of candidates for the office of vice-chair in addition to Shannon who was nominated at the December 10, 2013 meeting. No other nominations were made, and Shannon was elected vice chair for 2014 by a unanimous vote. After handing over the election of chair to Shannon, Shannon asked for additional nominations for the office of chair of the aviation commission to Barbara who was nominated at the meeting in December as candidate to the office of commission chair for 2014. Other nominations were not made and Barbara was elected chair with acclamation.

#### **Agenda Item 4 – Updates from staff**

##### *IEEC 2012 implementation:*

Staff presented a recap of the points made by the members at the meeting in December when exterior sound proofing requirement for new constructions under the flight paths in Tempe was discussed as supplement to the city's interior sound transmission standards in the International Energy Efficiency Code (IEEC). The members saw the need to consider how the introduction of a larger, taller and denser building mass under the flight paths in Tempe could warrant acoustical review of exterior design and location of new large constructions to prevent sound energy bouncing between buildings and avoid amplification of sound from air traffic and other transportation sources. Use of materials to achieve low frequency noise abatement and minimum requirements for outdoor to indoor noise level reduction in new constructions should also be considered. Mark expressed concerns about the average building heights under the PHX approach paths in the future with the amount of growth in population density that the city has projected in areas along the Tempe Town Lake in the proposed General Plan for 2040. The argument made by the members to include exterior sound abatement requirements for new constructions under the flight paths that typically also are evaluated as potential hazardous aeronautical obstructions under CFR 14 Part 77, will be followed up by staff in the upcoming update to the IEEC 2012 edition.

##### *Survey Update:*

An overview of responses to noise perception surveys in Tempe initiated by the commission and performed in 1999, 2000, and 2012 were supplemented by answers received by year end of 2013 on the aircraft noise survey. The survey form is still accessible at <http://www.tempe.gov/aircraftnoisesurvey>. Even though the sample is quite small from the survey posted on the Tempe web site compared to the older interview surveys performed by ASU/Bruce Merrill, the perceptions among citizens in north Tempe is quite consistent after PHX operations shifted from two to three runways. The common perception is that the aircraft noise problem has not changed or has become worse rather than improved. In 1999 and 2000 departures were identified as the main cause the aircraft noise problem in northern parts of Tempe. Looking at survey responses from 2012 and 2013 a shift seems to have occurred with the majority of respondents in the same areas telling us that noise from PHX arrival operations is the biggest problem, and almost as many saying it is the noise from both departures and arrival operations.

#### **Agenda Item 5 – Review of Commission Initiatives**

Members reviewed a spreadsheet with commission initiatives and status of topics discussed by the commission over the past two years and remaining initiatives where actions have yet to be taken by the members. With regard to finding potential ways to provide citizens under the flight paths assistance to do their own home upgrades to deal with the noise exposure, Barbara mentioned the last Council Committee of the Whole meeting where information was given about a Tempe home improvement planning program that is in its initial phases. She would report back to the commission about the new program and how it fits in with discussions the members have had about potential incentives to upgrade homes for energy efficiency and sound proofing purposes.

#### **Agenda Item 5 – Commissioners' Business (topics for future discussion)**

Barbara encouraged members to read the noise compliance reports and material distributed by staff before a meeting and come up with new topics for future discussions, so they can be discussed and acted upon in a timely manner. Donald Kehl recommended that the commission

encourage the city to issue a questionnaire in the water bill about customers' views on aircraft noise with information about where to find information about aircraft noise in Tempe and the aviation commission. Not everyone is able to use internet or comfortable with answering questions over the internet. The commissioners should also work for a revision of the 65 DNL standard used to determine significant aircraft noise exposure.

Barbara encouraged all members to think about what they would like to accomplish as a member of the commission. She asked the commissioners to each propose up to three items at the next meeting that can be accomplished in a year.

**Agenda Item 7 – Schedule next TAVCO meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for February 11, 2014.

**Agenda Item 8 – Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Prepared by: Oddvar Tveit

Reviewed by: Jeffrey Kulaga

---

Authorized Signature  
Assistant City Manager