



## Minutes Tempe Aviation Commission April 14, 2015

Minutes of the Tempe Aviation Commission meeting held on April 14, 2015, 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  
Lance McIntosh\*  
David Naugle  
John Q. Nunes

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

James Wennlund

**Citizens Present:**

Claire Paulus  
Barbara Sherman  
Liza Zyriek

**City Staff Present:**

Marilyn DeRosa, Deputy Public Works  
Director, Water Utilities  
Oddvar Tveit, Environmental Quality Specialist

**Meeting convened at 6:31 p.m.**

Shannon Dutton called the meeting to order.

**Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances**

**Barbara Sherman, North Tempe Neighborhood Association**

Barbara presented a written statement recommending the City of Tempe hire a consultant to interact with the PHX airport and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) with regard to the flight paths that will be subject to the announced Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Phoenix Metroplex Project. A consultant could open up the lines of communication with both the airport and the FAA about the EA process and create an environment of cooperation to solve problems related to the operation of the airport for Tempe residents.

**Resident Lisa Zyriek**

The area of Elliot Road and McClintock Drive in south Tempe has experienced a huge increase in aircraft noise after September 18, 2014 when the Area Navigation (RNAV) procedures for PHX were implemented. Lisa made a statement that the commission should support and the city should assist in temporary noise monitoring in south Tempe. If there are routes planes are to follow, there should be penalties for planes that take short cuts over residential areas. The commission and the city need to support NTNA in arranging public meetings about the flight path changes as have been conducted in the City of Phoenix. The commission should inform US Representative Sinema who signed on the Phoenix letter to the FAA about the impact of the new procedures in the City of Tempe.

\*Attending by telephone conference call.

Resident Claire Paulus

Claire lives in The Oasis subdivision at Elliot Road and McClintock Drive. She asked the commission to support the suggestion from Barbara Sherman to hire a consultant or a law firm, that functions as a consultant, as Phoenix did to guide city in doing the necessary studies to gather and disseminate information needed to effectively communicate with residents and deal with the FAA. Barbara could be a liaison on the city's consultant team. Planes use to be over Warner Road and Ray Road before turning north over SR101. Now both departures and arrivals are over Elliot Road and Guadalupe Road and more planes are taking short-cuts over Tempe neighborhoods on the west side of SR101.

Agenda Item 2 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes (March 12, 2015)

Shannon Dutton requested a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

**Motion:** Lane Carraway moved to approve the draft minutes. John Q. Nunes seconded the motion.

**Action:** The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 3 – Drones

Staff evaluation of the posting notices about private drone use in city parks:

- Signage in city parks currently informs users about unlawful dangerous acts, but does not specifically address the use of unmanned aircraft. Information about unlawful activities in city parks deal with acts the city can enforce to keep parks safe and free public nuisance.
- There are concerns about posting contact information that does not direct to the city's administration. The information can easily get outdated, and the information does not regulate unlawful acts that are enforced by the city. Federal guidance that restricts the flying of a model aircraft or a private drone above 400 feet or closer to an airport than five miles without first notifying the PHX Tower would not involve local law enforcement unless assistance is requested and if the FAA at the PHX Tower have received a report or complaint about drone use in or in close proximity to controlled airspace.

The members asked about signage in Rio Salado Park and Tempe Beach Park that in detail described unlawful acts, but with no mention of existing prohibition against the operation of a remote controlled plane or similar aerial device.

**Motion:** John Q. Nunes moved to table the topic and focus on priority issues. Lane Carraway seconded the motion.

**Action:** The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 4 – Update from Staff

Runway use during winter months

Tempe received noise complaints about relentless flow of departures in January, February and March 2015. Some of the complaining residents asked if directing departures towards the east over Tempe was intended to please people living under the controversial departure paths on the west side of the airport.

- Airport weather data show that cold winds from the east and northeast were persistent during January and also during the following two months. Planes are directed to fly against the prevailing wind.
- Daily weather data corresponds to the dominant flow of air traffic going east from the PHX runways during the first three months of 2015.
- In the area of Guadalupe and McClintock roads and along the Highline Canal, aircraft noise during these months was compounded by an area navigation departure procedure (IZZZO) implemented on September 18, 2014 that brings the planes on a more confined path when they climb to higher altitudes west and northwest towards destination airports in California.
- The XLIX Super Bowl contributed to the air traffic volume throughout Tempe airspace in January 2015.

Agenda Item 5 – PHX Metroplex EA Project

The Tempe Mayor received a notification from the FAA about its intent to do an Environmental Assessment (EA) for planned airspace actions at and around several airports in the region (PHX Metroplex). A notice about planning an EA and not an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) indicates that the FAA does not anticipate finding any

significant environmental impacts from actions that will be proposed as a result of the PHX Metroplex project. When the EA process is launched, the FAA will be interested in information about the environmental issues they need to look at under the National Environmental Policy Act, like noise exposure at different altitudes, historic- or archeological sites etc. The air traffic actions that the FAA is planning to include in the PHX Metroplex EA are unknown at this time. The PHX Metroplex will include proposals for more efficient pathways in the air inside the targeted area for the Metroplex, which is an area where several airports are located. The members were informed about the City's plans to respond to the FAA's notice and to develop a plan to communicate with neighborhoods and the community at large about the PHX Metroplex EA.

Chair Shannon Dutton asked the members to recommend that a letter be sent from the Mayor that is supported by the City Council about city participation in a public process to get information about the PHX Metroplex EA to the public, and give the public the opportunity to provide their comments to the FAA in an inclusive and transparent process.

**Motion:** Lane moved to accept the recommendation from the chair. The motion was seconded by John Q. Nunes.

**Action:** The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

#### **Agenda Item 6 – Prioritized Issues & Agenda Item 7– Regional Aviation System Planning**

The members discussed deferring the agenda items to the next meeting and include them under discussion of an action plan.

**Motion #1:** David made the motion to move the discussion of agenda item 7 to a future meeting.

**Motion #2:** David also moved to include discussion item 6 under a discussion of an action plan for the commission at the next meeting.

Lance Carraway seconded both motions.

**Action:** The members voted unanimously in favor of the motions.

#### **Agenda Item 8 – Commissioners' Business (topics for future discussion)**

- Discussion of proposal from NTNA to consider hiring a consultant to assist the city in the PHX Metroplex EA process.
- TAVCO's role in the public communication process about the PHX Metroplex EA

#### **Agenda Item 9 – Schedule next TAVCO meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for May 12, 2015.

#### **Agenda Item 10 – Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Prepared by: Oddvar Tveit

Reviewed by: David McNeil

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Authorized Signature  
Environmental Services Manager