

Minutes Tempe Aviation Commission November 10, 2020

Minutes of the Tempe Aviation Commission virtual Microsoft Teams meeting with call in +1 (480) 498-8745 United States, Phoenix (Toll) Conference ID: 349 116 553# held on November 10, 2020, 6:30 p.m.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Lane Carraway (Chair)
W. David Doiron
Valeriy Khaldarov
John Lynch
Stuart Mitnik
Ellen Poole
Peter Schelstraete
Desiree Walker

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Trevor Pan

Guests Present:

Jordan Feld, *City of Phoenix Deputy Director
Environmental & Planning*
Braden Kay, *Sustainability Director*

Citizens Present:

Shannon Dutton

City Staff Present:

Oddvar Tveit, *Environmental Quality Specialist, City
of Tempe*

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Mr. Carraway called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

There were no requests to address the commission.

Agenda Item 3 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes (October 13, 2020)

Mr. Carraway asked if there were any requests for changes to the drafted and updated minutes e-mailed to the members before the meeting. Mr. Khaldarov inquired about why his discussion with the chair about why further investigations into noise complaints and flight paths would not be added as a topic for discussions was not reflected in the October meeting minutes. The discussion addressed a subject matter of a topic that was not listed for discussion on the October meeting agenda. Mr. Carraway asked for a motion to approve the October meeting minutes as drafted.

Motion: Mr. Mitnik moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Doiron.

Action: The motion to approve the drafted October 13, 2020 meeting minutes passed by seven votes. Ayes: Mr. Carraway, Mr. Doiron, Mr. Mitnik, Mr. Lynch, Ms. Poole, Mr. Schelstraete and Ms. Walker. Abstentions: None. Nays: Mr. Khaldarov. Absent: Mr. Pan.

Agenda Item 4 - Recommendation about Concerns about potential Impact of Elements in the PHX Comprehensive Asset Management Plan

Mr. Tveit introduced the topic for discussion was environmental aspect including emissions associated with projects in the PHX Comprehensive Asset Management Plan (PHX CAMP) and the possibility of coming up with bullet points with concerns the Commission would convey to the City Mayor and Council. Mr. Mitnik and Ms. Poole emphasized it is the potential of additional noise from cargo aircraft over Tempe from a proposed consolidated air cargo facility on the north side of the airport and the heat island effects of adding more concrete in many areas with the proposed new

terminals, aprons and taxiways, with the risk that Tempe will become more impacted by excessive heat in the future with the diurnal winds bringing accumulated heat to Tempe during the afternoon hours.

PHX CAMP & Heat Island Mitigation:

Ms. Poole informed the members about a presentation on the PHX CAMP where she posed a question about mitigation of the plan's heat island effects to Assistant Aviation Director and General Counsel Brad Holm. She was told about environmental aspects like LEED certified buildings, level 3 carbon accreditation¹, low water use construction techniques, but also about replacing vegetation and instead use xeriscaping which will add to the heat island effects. The airport is however looking at cool pavement which could help the heat island issue if implemented. The concern is that the heat island effects of the implementation of the plan appears not to be prioritized even if environmental considerations are.

Discussion:

1. PHX CAMP Heat Island Effects:

- The airport has yet to disclose what mitigations will be associated with the various projects included in the PHX CAMP.
- Currently various environmental impacts of the plan are evaluated, and a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) is expected to be ready in March or April 2021. The environmental consequences of PHX CAMP projects cover the first five to ten years of developments.
- The PHX CAMP recommends that future airport projects include sustainability elements.
- The EA will be addressing adherence to federal emission limits and the State Implementation Plans (SIPs) for various pollutants, but airport sustainability measures and heat mitigation and reductions in carbon footprint are incentive based and not required measures in airport master plans or EAs.
- The FAA's NEPA Order² requires analysis of noise and air quality and other impacts, and to the extent the plan changes land uses that can have an impact on conditions for generating additional emissions, it needs to be part of the EA. However, the mentioned planned cargo area with the Honeywell facility is industrial and have a lot of concrete pavement, so the proposed projects with the new pavement, might not be considered as a major change in conditions for emissions and urban heat.
- The region will be faced with challenges to reach future attainment with the 8-hour ground ozone standard. The standard was lowered from 0.075 to 0.070 ppm in 2015 and heat is the primary driver for this pollutant.
- The FAA is probably not aware of the exceptional conditions here with 50 days at or above 110 degrees this summer, and with cool pavement being looked at by airport planners, Tempe should support the initiative.
- Cool pavement and new technologies to mitigate future heat island effects of airport development is an area where both cities sustainability staff and the Tempe Sustainability Commission can work together.
- There are technical challenges as airports have to adhere to FAA approved pavements for various installations, and planting trees is not a shading option at airports.
- The commission does not currently have information about critical facts, total area of additional pavement the preferred full build of the PHX CAMP nor a formula to estimate the plan's urban heat island contributions.
- The commission is not equipped to do those estimates but can still convey its concerns about the potential urban heat island effects of the plan's development projects.

2. PHX CAMP & Air Cargo Operations

- With the planned consolidation north of the Union Pacific railroad, the proposed twenty positions for air cargo aircraft may cause a worry of additional air cargo flights during evening and night time hours.

¹ Airport Carbon Accreditation is a global carbon management program for airports that independently assesses and recognizes an airports' efforts to manage and reduce their CO₂ emissions.

² FAA Order 1050.1F – Policies and Procedures for Considering Environmental Impacts.

- The EA will include noise exposure contours. The PHX CAMP has pre-COVID growth forecasts for passenger and cargo carrier operations. The question of cargo area development impacting growth in operations and any resulting changes in average noise exposure will become clear when the draft EA is available.

Conclusion:

Because the number of days with excessive heat is a growing problem in the Phoenix metropolitan area, the Mayor and Council should be told about the PHX CAMP, the commission's intent to monitor the issue in view of the upcoming EA process and the future planning that may or may not include enough heat island mitigation to satisfy the Commission's concerns.

Follow-up:

- a. Staff was asked to prepare a memo from the Commission notifying the Mayor and Council about concerns related to the PHX CAMP and its potential urban the urban heat island effects. The memo should articulate the intent of the Commission to monitor the environmental assessment and the planning of the proposed projects included in the plan.
- b. The Sustainability Commission should be given the opportunity to sign on to the memo. The memo should also express the need for City staff continue a partnership with Phoenix sustainability staff and planning and environmental to find workable heat mitigations.

Agenda Item 5 – Commissioners' business

1. Discussion and possible action on a memo to Mayor and Council about the PHX CAMP and concerns about heat island effects.
2. Nominations for officer positions.

Agenda Item 7– Schedule next TAVCO meeting

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for December 8, 2020 6:30 through Microsoft Teams.

Agenda Item 8 – Adjournment

Motion: Mr. Lynch moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Doiron.

Action: The motion to adjourn the meeting minutes passed by a unanimous vote. Ayes: Mr. Carraway, Mr. Doiron, Mr. Khaldarov, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Mitnik, Ms. Poole, Mr. Schelstraete and Ms. Walker. Abstentions: None. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Pan.

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Prepared by: Oddvar Tveit

Reviewed by: Christina Hoppes