



**COLORADO SPRINGS  
AIRPORT**

Colorado's small airport

**MINUTES  
Airport Advisory Commission  
Wednesday, August 23, 2023  
3:00PM – 5:00PM  
Colorado Springs Airport Conference Room B  
(Public Via Teleconference)  
Teams Meeting**

**VOTING**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Bill Nichols – Interim Chairman  
Michelle Ruehl – Commissioner  
John Buckley – Commissioner  
Danny Mientka – Commissioner (via TEAMS)  
Mark Volcheff – Commissioner (via TEAMS, late)

**VOTING**

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** David L. Couch – Commissioner  
Al Peterson – Commissioner

**NON-VOTING**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** George Mentz – Alternate Commissioner  
Dave Elliot – Meadow Lake Airport Liaison  
Brian Risley – City Council Representative (via TEAMS, late)  
County Commissioner Longinos Gonzalez, Jr. – Liaison  
Commissioner (via TEAMS)

**NON-VOTING**

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Randy Helms – City Council Representative  
County Commissioner Stan VanderWerf – Liaison  
Commissioner

**CITY STAFF PRESENT:**

Greg Phillips – Director of Aviation  
Michael Gendill – Senior Attorney  
Jennifer Cook – Executive Assistant  
Joe Nevill – Air Service Development Manager  
Dana Jackson – Properties Manager (via TEAMS)  
Deanna Stoddard – Design and Construction Manager  
Chris Padilla – Senior Airport Planner  
Aidan Ryan – Marketing & Communications Manager (via TEAMS)  
Ivette Rentas – Airport Customer Relations Coordinator  
Josh MacCammon – Air Service Development Analyst II (via TEAMS)

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Bob Sedlacek, Hudson  
Amy Kelley, USAFA  
Trent Bower, 306/USAFA  
Jeff Bohn, US Space Force  
Ashley Trujillo, NUNN Construction  
Other attendees via phone were unknown

I. **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 3:00PM AUGUST 23, 2023, by INTERIM CHAIRMAN NICHOLS**

II. **APPROVAL OF THE JULY 26, 2023 MEETING MINUTES**

Commissioner Buckley made a motion to approve the July 26, 2023 meeting minutes. Commissioner Ruehl seconded.

Discussion: None

VOTE: **APPROVED (Unanimous, Roll Call Passes 4 Yes)**

III. **COMMUNICATIONS**

- Election of interim officers for September and October 2023.

IV. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- None

V. **NEW BUSINESS AND REPORT ITEMS**

A. **Land Use Review – Chris Padilla**

Chris Padilla presented seven (7) Land Use Items.

Commissioner Buckley made a motion to recommend approval of Land Use Items #1 through #7 as presented by airport staff. Commissioner Ruehl seconded.

Discussion: None

VOTE: **APPROVED (Unanimous, Roll Call Passes 4 Yes)**

B. **Director’s Airport Business Report**

- **Project Status Report**
  - Airport/Airfield construction report presented by Deanna Stoddard.
  - Concourse Modernization – Permit set for first construction package submitted to PPRBD. NTP for Package A issued. Future packages and permit sets being carved and compiled.
  - Inline Baggage System Preliminary Design – Kickoff meeting held; additional stakeholder input scheduled with TSA and Airline partners.

- Taxiway Bravo Rehabilitation Schedule II - Work continues on pond improvements; milling and paving; and related electrical work for signs and lighting
  - TSA Queuing Area Remodel – Work has shifted into TSA Queuing Area. Carpet and Panic Buttons to be installed soon. Overhead door installation nearly complete.
  - Oversize Baggage Handling System – Demolition of existing concrete on east side complete; framing and pouring for new footers complete. Ongoing coordination regarding system controls.
  - RAC Rehab and Fiber Install Construction – Construction has started. Ongoing coordination with RAC partners for operations.
  - Concourse Modernization (construction) – Concourse Package A GMP received \$13M; FAA Grant for \$6M received and executed; NTP issued. Scheduling, procurement, and coordination ongoing. September 10, 2023 start of construction.
- **Traffic Trend Report**
    - The airline data analysis was presented by Joe Nevill.
    - Colorado Springs Airport (COS) reported elevated traffic numbers for the month of July, making this the second consecutive month for increased traffic. A total of 230,084 passengers traveled through the airport, with 115,045 enplaning at COS. These figures represent a 13.4 and 13.1 percent increase respectively.
    - June and July, COS welcomed new carriers and routes for travelers. The new nonstop service includes Atlanta (ATL) (Delta), Los Angeles/Hollywood-Burbank (BUR) (Avelo), Minneapolis-St. Paul (MSP) (Delta and Sun Country), with new service to Long Beach (LGB) (Southwest) having launched in July.
    - Southwest Airlines will begin seasonal service to Houston (HOU), San Antonio (SAT), and San Diego (SAN) for select November, December, and January dates. Service to Houston (HOU) will continue with weekend service effective January.
  - **COS Financial Report**
    - COS financial report presented by Greg Phillips.
  - **Airport Business Development Report**
    - Airport business development report presented by Dana Jackson.

**C. General Business – Director Greg Phillips**

- Director Phillips spoke to the TSA aviation worker screening, unfunded mandate, that is not favored by many airports.
- FAA reauthorizations are completed every five years, the last was implemented in 2018. FAA reauthorization is critical to ensuring that the FAA has the authority and funding that it needs to carry out its oversight, certification, strategic planning, and air traffic activities. Director Phillips will be facilitating a session on FAA reauthorization at the National Airports Conference next month in Spokane.

- COS has had some catalytic converter thefts in the parking lots of late. We are working closely with REEF Parking and CSPD.
- The City Council has received numerous applications for the commission and are working on interviewing candidates.

**D. Chairman's Report – Interim Chairman Nichols**

- None

**VI. OTHER BUSINESS**

- **AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMISSION ELECTIONS: Interim Chairman/Vice Chairman**

Election of interim officers for September and October 2023

- Paper ballots were distributed to the commissioners.
- John Buckley was voted Interim Chairman of the AAC for a term of 2 months by a majority of those present and eligible to vote for Chairman.
- Michelle Ruehl was voted Interim Vice Chairman of the AAC for a term of 2 months by a majority of those present and eligible to vote for Vice Chairman.

\*Note: By the Rules and Procedures of the AAC, a nomination is not required to be placed in consideration for election to the position of Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Commission.

**VII. COMMISSION MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

- Dave Elliot, Meadow Lake Airport Liaison, updated the Commission on the various projects and activities at Meadow Lake Airport (FLY).
- Director Phillips shared appreciation and gratitude to Vice-Chairman Nichols and Commissioner Couch as they depart the commission, having each served six years.

**VIII. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

- Interim Chairman Nichols shared his thanks and appreciation to all as he departs the commission.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

- Interim Chairman Nichols adjourned the meeting at 4:17 PM.

**The next meeting date is Wednesday, September 27, 2023**