



**COLORADO SPRINGS
AIRPORT**

Colorado's small airport

**MINUTES
Airport Advisory Commission
Wednesday, May 26, 2021
3:00PM – 5:00PM
Colorado Springs Airport Conference Room B
(Public Via Teleconference)
Teams Meeting**

VOTING

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Aaron Wood – Chairman
Hall Ellis – Commissioner (arrived later)
Michelle Ruehl – Commissioner (via phone)
Chic Myers – Commissioner (via Teams)
David L Couch – Commissioner (via phone)
Mark Volcheff – Commissioner

VOTING

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Bill Nichols – Vice Chairman

NON-VOTING

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Randy Helms – City Council Representative
County Commissioner Carrie Geitner – Liaison
Commissioner (arrived later)
County Commissioner Stan VanderWerf – Liaison
Commissioner (arrived later)

NON-VOTING

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bill Murray – City Council Representative
Wayne Williams – City Council Representative
Dave Elliott – Meadow Lake Airport Liaison

CITY STAFF PRESENTS:

Greg Phillips – Director of Aviation
Michael Gendill – Senior Attorney
Brett Miller – Assistant Director of Aviation
(via Teams)
Ivette Rentas – Customer Relations Coordinator

Kristine Andrews – Environmental Health & Safety Specialist (via Teams)
Steven Gaeta – Design & Construction Manager (via Teams)
Joe Nevill – Air Service Development Manager (via Teams)
Dana Schield – Communications Specialist II (via Teams)
Chris Padilla – Senior Analyst (via Teams)

GUESTS PRESENT:

Amy Kelley – US Air Force Academy (via Teams)
Wayne Heilman – Media, The Gazette (via Teams)
Other attendees via phone were unknown

I. **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 3:01PM MAY 26, 2021 by CHAIRMAN WOOD**

II. **APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 28, 2021 MEETING MINUTES**

Commissioner Volcheff made a motion to approve the April 28, 2021 meeting minutes. Commissioner Ellis seconded.

Discussion: None

VOTE: **APPROVED (Unanimous, Roll Call Passes 6 Yes).**

III. **COMMUNICATIONS**

- None

IV. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- None

V. **NEW BUSINESS AND REPORT ITEMS**

A. **Land Use Review** – Kris Andrews

Kris Andrews presented ten (16) Land Use Items.

Chairman Wood moved that the Airport Advisory Commission recommend no objection in concurrence with the airport's recommendations on Land Use Items #1 – #4 and #6 - #16. Commissioner Ellis seconded.

Discussion: Commissioner Volcheff congratulated Commissioner Randy Helms on his election to City Council. Commissioner Volcheff noted a concern regarding the Airport Advisory Commission's approval of land-use items, noting that some items contain verbiage that the Airport Advisory Commission have no control over. Commissioner Volcheff voiced concern that when the Airport Advisory Commission or Airport approve land-use items, that they are in fact possibly showing approval of outside factors like rezoning or variances. Commissioner Volcheff recommendation the following verbiage to use on approvals: *The Commission has no objection to the proposal which appears to have no impact to airport operations.*

City Councilmember Randy Helms commented that the City Planning Commission reviews proposals prior to Airport Advisory Commission and is responsible for matters like rezoning.

Commissioner Volcheff and City Councilmember Randy Helms agreed a change in

verbiage would be beneficial.

Michael Gendill noted the Airport Advisory Commission's responsibility per the charter speaks specifically to Airport operations and land-use compatibility issues. The City Planning Commission and administration process will work through zoning issues. Michael Gendill agreed to an adjust of language on the matter but asserted that there is nothing specific that must be included.

Commissioner Hal Ellis expressed concern that the Airport Advisory Commission agrees or disagrees with the Airport's recommendation, with the decision ultimately made by the Airport.

Commissioner Volcheff posed that the Airport's recommendation verbiage be adjusted as well, as he felt it was not clear enough.

Director Greg Phillips noted that all aspects of Airport operations are reviewed prior to the Airport's recommendations, which can include conditions. The proposal is then brought to the Airport Advisory Commission. Director Greg Phillips noted conversations with the City Planning Commission to ensure the Airport Advisory Commission's language is clearly relayed.

County Commissioner Stan VanderWerf, Commissioner Hal Ellis, and Commissioner Volcheff concurred on a language adjustment. (*The Commission has no objection to the proposal which appears to have no impact to airport operations.*)

Chairman Wood recommendation amending the motion to "*The Commission has no objection to the proposal which appears to have no impact to airport operations.*" Commissioner Hal Ellis seconded.

Chairman Wood suggested a meeting with Commissioner Volcheff and Alternate Commissioner Danny Mientka and Airport staff to discuss amended language.

VOTE: APPROVED (Unanimous, Roll Call Passed 6 Yes)

Land Use Item #5:

Discussion: Commissioner Volcheff inquired why the Airport Advisory Commission needed to review this type of proposal, that ask the Commission to recommend approval of variances to residential zone restrictions.

Environmental Health & Safety Specialist, Kristine Andrews noted anything proposal under the Airport overlay needs to be reviewed.

Commissioner Volcheff moved no objection to land use item 5. Commissioner Myers seconded.

VOTE: APPROVED (Unanimous, Roll Call Passed 6 Yes)

B. Director's Airport Business Report

- **Project Status Report – Steven Gaeta**
 - Rehabilitation for Runway 17R/35L began on May 11 and is on schedule. The project is slated to conclude on August 9.
 - Commissioner Volcheff asked if the cost for the COS Master Plan had changed; Airport still in negotiating with Aviation.

- **Traffic Trend Report – Joe Nevill**
 - Due to a large variance from 2020 traffic numbers, Airport will be comparing traffic trends to 2019.
 - April 2021 enplanements were 667,727 which are up 15% from 2019 with a 68% increase in seats.
 - April 2021 load factor was 59%, down 27 points from 2019 which is directly affected by the increase in seats in 2021.
 - Carriers load factor for April 2021: American Airlines 81%, Delta Air Lines 62%; Frontier Airlines 77% and United Airlines 65%. Southwest had a 45% their first full month with 1,800 seats in the market.
 - Airport is working closely with Southwest Network Planning and COS is in line with their expectations.
 - TSA volumes were up 20% from 2019 and are increasing week over week.
 - May and June seats are up 43% versus 2019.
 - Significant increase in capacity for most carriers: United Airlines added seventh daily Denver flight and third daily Houston flight, putting United at 13 daily flights; American Airlines added a seventh daily Dallas flight; Delta Air Lines added a fourth daily Salt Lake City flight.
 - 40 weekday flights starting in June.
 - Greg Phillips and Joe Nevill will attend Routes Americas conference in June to interface with airlines and establish connections.
 - Commissioner Myers complimented the “small airport” branding and the June parking promotion.

- **COS Financial Report – Chris Padilla**
 - April 2021 revenue was \$1.6 million versus forecasted \$1.4 million; April 2021 expenses were \$1.9 million versus forecasted \$1.6 million.
 - \$131,000 over forecasted revenue
 - Operating Expenses were at \$263,000 higher than forecasted, with a large line item being insurance.
 - Cumulative revenue at \$4.9 million tracking with forecast in upward trend.
 - Cumulative expenses were forecasted at \$5.8 million with the \$5.6 million.
 - PFC revenue was at \$3.1 million and CFC revenue was at \$1.6 million.
 - CARES ACT balance is at \$11 million; Payroll is 72% of that while Operating Expenses are 28%.
 - 397 days cash on hand.

- **Airport Business Development Report – Greg Phillips**
 - Director Greg Phillips noted Airport met with Project Rodeo developer and the

project is approaching close out. Temporary certificate of occupancy slated for the first week of June.

- Bus service is scheduled to begin June 13 at the Airport terminal and through the business park.
- Flywheel east (21 acres) currently has ongoing construction.
- Aerospace Corporation is on schedule.
- Forest Service ongoing on permanent tanker base.
- Purchase and sale agreement for the hotels were signed by the Mayor and possible that construction could start before the end of 2021.
- Project Congo is on schedule.
- Roadways and infrastructure continue.
- Amazon will announce their employment requirements soon and is working with the Pikes Peak Workforce.

C. General Business – Greg Phillips

- Director Phillips recommended the Airport Advisory Commission meet for a special meeting and executive session this week after a discussion with Chairman Wood.
- The special meeting was set for Wednesday, May 28 from 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- The City of Colorado Springs staff (along with Airport) has returned to work.
- CDC guidelines do not require masks; however, Director Phillips noted the federal mask mandate still in place (until Sept. 13).
- There is still a shortage of rental car and Uber/Lyft availability.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

- Colorado Aeronautical Board Update – Commissioner Myers
 - Commissioner Myers noted aviation sustainable fuel (ASF) was used on a long-haul flight (Airbus 300). The use of ASF for this flight resulted in 20 times less emissions.
 - The French Legislature has decreed that by 2022 that 1% of all aviation jet fuel in France will be ASF and 2% in 2025.
 - Commissioner Myers asked Director Phillips if any of the parking lot shuttles had wraps. Director Phillips noted he would bring it back to the marketing team
- Westside Operators Meeting Discussion – Chairman Wood
 - Chairman Wood noted that all west side tenants are doing well with the Runway 17R/35L project and that the communication from the Airport has been effective.
 - Commissioner Ellis noted that the in-person meetings with Airport Operations with the west side tenants were well received.
 - Commissioner Ellis suggested that Airport staff call all of the west side tenants to continue the collaboration. Chairman Wood added that Airport staff has made visits.

- Washington Update – Commissioner Ruehl
 - Commissioner Ruehl noted her team has met with each airline to go over their plans for how they will be carbon neutral by 2050.
 - Chairman Wood inquired if the airlines have been proactive in their planning.
 - Commissioner Ruehl announced a grants program for environmental improvement and funding. Applications for the program are due July 9th.

VII. **COMMISSION MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

- City Councilmember Randy Helms expressed gratitude for being elected.

VIII. **CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

- Chairman Wood noted he had made an opportunity to connect with each of the Commission once he was appointed as interim chair.
- Chairman Wood noted how thankful he was for everyone's time to achieve a common goal.

IX. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Wood adjourned the meeting at 5:00 PM.

The next meeting date is **Wednesday, June 23, 2021**