



**COLORADO SPRINGS
AIRPORT**

Colorado's small airport

**MINUTES
Airport Advisory Commission
Wednesday, June 23, 2021
3:00PM – 5:00PM
Colorado Springs Airport Conference Room B
(Public Via Teleconference)
Teams Meeting**

VOTING

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Aaron Wood – Chairman
Bill Nichols – Vice Chairman
Hall Ellis – Commissioner
Michelle Ruehl – Commissioner (via phone)
Chic Myers – Commissioner
David L Couch – Commissioner (via phone)
Mark Volcheff – Commissioner

NON-VOTING

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Danny Mientka – Alternate Commissioner

NON-VOTING

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bill Murray – City Council Representative
Wayne Williams – City Council Representative
County Commissioner Stan VanderWerf – Liaison
Commissioner
County Commissioner Carrie Geitner – Liaison
Commissioner
Dave Elliott – Meadow Lake Airport Liaison

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

Michael Gendill – Senior Attorney
Brett Miller – Assistant Director of Aviation
Ivette Rentas – Customer Relations Coordinator
Kevin Keith – Aviation Planner (via Teams)
Steven Gaeta – Design & Construction Manager
(via Teams)

Dana Schield – Communications Specialist II
(via Teams)
Chris Padilla – Senior Analyst (via Teams)
Dana Jackson – Properties Manager (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 3:00PM June 23, 2021 by CHAIRMAN WOOD**

II. **APPROVAL OF THE MAY 26, 2021 MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Wood made a motion to approve the May 26, 2021 meeting minutes. Vice Chairman Nichols seconded.

Discussion: Chairman Wood made a motion to amend the May 26, 2021 meeting minutes by removing (item II) Commissioner Volcheff's comment regarding the mention of Commissioner Wood's election of interim chair in the April 28, 2021 meeting minutes.

Adding verbiage (item V, Land Use Item #5) Discussion, after proposal, to read, "that asks the Commission to recommend approval of variances to residential zone restrictions".

Correcting (item VI) Colorado Aeronautical Board Update, first bullet point to read, (Air France A-300). Vice Chairman Nichols seconded.

VOTE: **APPROVED (Unanimous, Roll Call Passes 7 Yes).**

Chairman Wood made a motion to amend the May 26, 2021 meeting minutes by adding (page 1), to read, Non-Voting Members Absent. Commissioner Ellis seconded.

VOTE: **APPROVED (Unanimous, Roll Call Passes 7 Yes).**

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 28, 2021 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Wood made a motion to amend the May 28, 2021 special meeting minutes by adding (item II) Executive Session, to read, Non-Voting Members Present. Vice Chairman Nichols seconded.

VOTE: **APPROVED (Roll Call Passes 5 Yes, 2 Abstained).**

III. **COMMUNICATIONS**

- None

IV. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- None

V. **NEW BUSINESS AND REPORT ITEMS**

A. **Land Use Review** – Kris Andrews

Kevin Keith presented sixteen (16) Land Use Items.

Discussion: Commissioner Volcheff asked if there was any residential construction within the Accident Potential Zone 2 (APZ-2) of the Land Use Item #16 parcel. Kevin Keith responded Land Use Item # 16 is outside APZ-1 and APZ-2.

Commissioner Volcheff made a motion to recommend approval of Land Use Items #1 – #16. Commissioner Myers seconded.

VOTE: **APPROVED (Unanimous, Roll Call Passed 7 Yes)**

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

- **Project Status Report** – Steven Gaeta
 - Construction of the Rehabilitation for Runway 17R/35L project is in phase 4. The project is moving forward, and the runway is anticipated to be opened on August 9, 2021.
 - Completion of the COS Airport IT Room Remodel and Server Environment Installation has been delayed due to equipment delivery delays and difficulty obtaining fire department acceptance. Completion is anticipated in July 2021.
 - The Airport Master Plan Notice to Proceed (NTP) has been granted. The completion schedule is forthcoming.

Commissioner Ellis shared his concerns of the financial effect the closure of Runway 17R/35L has on the west side tenants. Brett Miller will reach out to Dan Littleford, ATC, and suggest he participate in west side owners group meetings. Airport Operations Agents remain available and continue to engage with the west side owners' groups.

- **Traffic Trend Report** – Brett Miller
 - Last month we had 82,947 enplanements, up 13 percent versus May 2019.
 - We are currently running a 46 percent seat increase, compared to the same timeframe in 2019.
 - Load factors continue to rebound from the COVID pandemic at 67.3 percent, which is 20 percent down compared to the same timeframe in 2019.
 - Carrier load factors for May 2021: Delta 84 percent, American 79 percent, United 78 percent, Frontier 74 percent, and Southwest 55 percent.
 - Southwest Airlines' network planning has indicated strong passenger trends and pre-booking. Southwest Airline's load factors are expected to increase throughout the summer.
 - United Airlines has added a seventh daily Denver flight and a third daily Houston flight. American Airlines has added a seventh daily Dallas Fort Worth (DFW) flight. Delta Airlines has added a fourth daily Salt Lake City flight.
 - COS is currently running 40-weekday flights versus 34 in 2019.

- Total operations for April 2021 are up 23.3 percent versus 2019. Year-to-date (YTD) they're up 20 percent.
- Short-Term parking is monitored to ensure there is adequate parking space as airport travel continues to grow.
- **COS Financial Report – Chris Padilla**
 - May 2021 revenue was \$1.6 million versus forecasted \$1.4 million; May 2021 expenses were \$1.2 million versus forecasted \$1.7 million.
 - \$172,000 variance over forecasted revenue.
 - Operating Expenses were \$432,000 lower than forecasted, with the largest costs consisting of parking management, salaries, and benefits.
 - Cumulative revenue at \$6.5 million is tracking with forecast in upward trend.
 - Cumulative expenses were forecasted at \$7.2 million with the actual at \$7.0 million.
 - The airport has received approximately \$1 million of PFC revenue, versus \$3.1 million previously forecasted and \$361,000 of CFC revenue of the \$1.6 million previously forecasted.
 - CARES ACT balance is at \$11.3 million; Payroll is 73 percent of that while Operating Expenses are 27 percent.
 - 451 days cash on hand.
 - The airport is expected to receive approximately \$8.7 million in federal grants from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), \$700,000 for concession relief.
 - Monthly proceeds of the US Forest Service ramp have commenced.
- **Airport Business Development Report – Dana Jackson**
 - Project A is a lease negotiation for 19-acres on the north side of the airport.
 - Project B is in preliminary discussions of an approximately 22-acre site.
 - Project C discussions of approximately 10-acres consisting of multiple hangars.
 - Projects A, B, and C will be presented to the AAC for review once they've gone through the City Planning process.
 - Amazon is scheduled to receive its Temporary Certificate of Occupancy (TCO) on June 25.
 - An article in the Gazette announced an increase in hotel recovery in Colorado Springs.
 - Negotiations of a 7-acre parcel sale in Peak Innovation Park is moving forward.
 - Dana Jackson will take care of getting the Airport Advisory Commissioners a tour of the Amazon building.

C. General Business – Brett Miller

- The US Forest Service has set up a temporary base and is ready to respond to any fire within the region.
- Special Olympics Colorado Springs Plane Pull will be held on September 18, 2021, at the National Museum of WWII Aviation.
- Brett Miller is closely working with the cab companies and Uber/Lyft that serve our community for the purpose of finding a solution to the current ground transportation shortage at the airport.

D. Chairman's Report – Chairman Wood

- On Monday, June 21, Chairman Wood attended the City Council meeting to present the Airport Advisory Commission (AAC) letter of support for the Mustang parcel

development in Park Peak Innovation. City Council expressed their appreciation to the AAC for all their time and assistance on the board.

VI. **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Colorado Aeronautical Board Update – Commissioner Myers
 - The Lamar Municipal Airport has been renamed the Southeast Colorado Regional Airport.
 - The Grand Junction Regional Airport has been recognized as Airport of the Year by the Colorado Aeronautical Board (CAB) and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT).
 - Commissioner Myers shared the high demand for soybean oil, used as a feeder stock into sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), and the positive impact it will have on the community.
 - National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) study finds that SAF reduces contrails on high altitude jets.
 - Dave Ulane, Division of Aeronautics Director presented the family of Denny Strong, the youngest victim of the Boulder King Scoopers shooting with a commemorative airplane propeller at the June CAB meeting.
- Westside Operators Meeting Discussion – Chairman Wood
 - Chairman Wood stated he will continue to share discussions between the west side tenants and airport operations regarding Runway Projects.
- Washington Update – Commissioner Ruehl
 - Commissioner Ruehl is currently in Texas participating in the SpaceX launch discussions.
 - Airforce Sighting, Space Station, launch, re-entry, and reusable rockets are some of the discussions taking place in Washington.
 - Commissioner Ruehl will begin to work from the Vice President's office for the following eight weeks.

VII. **COMMISSION MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

- Application has been posted on the City Website to begin the process to fill the open Alternate Commissioner vacancy.

VIII. **CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

- Chairman Wood expressed his appreciation for all the continued support.

IX. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Wood adjourned the meeting at 4:05 PM.

The next meeting date is **Wednesday, July 28, 2021**