



**SIERRA VISTA AIRPORT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 9, 2008, 6:00 PM
SVMA TERMINAL**

CALL TO ORDER:

Dick McColley called the meeting of the Airport Commission to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Terminal Building of the Sierra Vista Municipal Airport, 2100 Airport Avenue.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Chris Ireland, Amy Metz, Joe Gill, Dick McColley, Bob Hazlett, and Jon Nelson.
Absent: Larry Portouw (non-voting member).

ATTENDEES:

City Councilman: Craig Johnson
Public Works: Mike Hemesath and Janet Laduke
Tenants, EAA, SVAA, etc: Leo Scherping, Cliff Van Vleet, Harry and Suzanne Bladow, Kyle Koski, Angelo Petropolis, George Pohman, Ron Kline, Darrell McCoy, Susan Tegmeyer, Steve Gerretse, and John Falzone.

INTRODUCTIONS: Everyone introduced themselves.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:

Motion made by Bob Hazlett to accept the agenda as written. Chris Ireland seconded the motion. Vote – unanimous. The motion carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF NOVEMBER 14TH MEETING MINUTES

Motion made by Bob Hazlett to accept the minutes as written. Chris Ireland seconded the motion. Vote – unanimous. The motion carried.

REPORTS:

Airport Operations Reports: Airport Manager, Mike Hemesath

Mike advised that hangar rent went up for 2008, but that electricity went down. Anyone interested in paying their hangar lease payment for the entire year (to get 1 month free) should contact Angie Loucks in Finance.
Projects – Mike advised that the airport master plan will be updated through a grant from the FAA, and also the first phase of the airport layout plan will be completed through another grant from the FAA.

Mike also advised that the minimum standards and airport rules and regulations would be updated through an ADOT Aeronautics 90%-10% grant, starting in mid-February. The consultant selected is the Aviation Management Consulting Group. A review committee made up of about 10 members will be formed to review the new standards and rules and regulations. (Mike invited the APC to email its recommendations for Committee members, in the next week or two to him.)

Mike advised that ADOT is a little hesitant in awarding grants due to the state budget being overspent. The aviation trust fund may be reduced by \$10 million dollars next year to help cover the budget over expenditures.

An FAA grant in the amount of \$350,000 was awarded for a couple of airport improvements. The distance remaining signs should start being replaced sometime after March. A third wind indicator and an update to AWOS will take place sometime in the fall.

The hold short line painting will begin when the weather warms up.

Mike recommended the APC discuss their budget and forward any recommendations to Councilman Johnson.

Fort Huachuca: Airfield Manager, Jim Rose (via telephone call to Dick McColley)

Jim advised that it was business as usual on the Fort side of the airport. He advised that he is working on budget projections through 2015.

Chairman's report: Dick McColley

Airport Terminal Signage: Chairman McColley requested an update on the signage requested by the APC. Mike Hemesath advised that the City Manager, Chuck Potucek, authorized a \$2,380.00 expenditure out of the Airport Commission budget for the airport signage. See attached memo.

City Report: Councilman Craig Johnson

Councilman Johnson expanded a little further on the State budget. He advised that the Governor will make a 10% budget reduction as requested by the State Legislature. The shortfall in the budget is approximately \$1.2 billion.

Councilman Johnson was asked about the RFQ's for the Airport Manager and FBO. Mike Hemesath advised that he is working with Mike Clawson, Purchasing Manager for the City, on the specs and that one or both should be completed by the February APC meeting.

Councilman Johnson will place the Airport Task Force's Purpose Statement on the City Council agenda. He will also mail the Task Force Report to the APC members.

Councilman Johnson distributed a Budget Activity Plan that was requested by the APC. See attachment.

The City Council will be meeting with a consultant at the February meeting to begin strategic planning.

Jon Nelson asked when the airport debt service would be paid off. Mike Hemesath advised that was in 2012 and that he would get a payment schedule from David Felix, Finance Manager.

Turner Aviation Assoc. (TAA): Bill Turner not present.

TAA made a business decision to move to the airport in Whetstone. They will be licensed to perform off-site flight instruction.

The commission asked if TAA is allowed to perform maintenance on leased aircraft in their hangar at SVMA. Mike Hemesath advised that TAA could only perform maintenance on aircraft they own.

Southwest Aero Tech LLC: – David Isaak/Alvin Brown not present.

Sierra Vista Aero Association (SVAA) Ron Kline, President, advised that the SVAA is in the process of planning their annual dinner in March. He advised that they are trying to increase their membership. Anyone interested in joining may get the application off of their website: www.svaero.org and that the membership fee is \$10. He hopes that they can increase their membership to 40+ members.

EAA Chap. 776: President. Leo Scherping: President Scherping advised that they will be flying kids in Douglas in March. Angelo Petropolis asked if the EAA is having insurance concerns. Cliff Van Vleet, EAA member, advised that the fly-ins will be separated from the EAA, and that insurance will be separated from the EAA organization. Local fly-ins will not be affected by this change.

President Scherping advised that the next chapter meeting would be on Tuesday the 15th at the Winterhaven Rec Center #2. It will be a potluck. The status of the Bisbee Airport will be reviewed at the meeting. The newsletter will be out Friday or Saturday.

OLD BUSINESS:

There is one 2-year term position open on the Airport Commission vacated by George Pohlman, whose final term expired.

Two applicants were present: Darrell McCoy and John Falzone.

Interviews of the applicants:

Darrell McCoy advised that he is a Human Intelligence teacher at the Fort. He was in the Army 8 years and the Marine Corps for 9 years. He advised that he wants to get involved with the Sierra Vista community.

John Falzone advised that he has been in Sierra Vista since 1994 and is a business owner. He is a member of the legislative sub-committee for the Chamber of Commerce and told the Commission that the Chamber asked him to apply for the open APC position. He advised that he is a former pilot and would like to help the airport move forward. The Chamber feels the SVMA has tremendous potential to diversify. Jon Nelson asked Mr. Falzone if he felt there was a possible conflict of interest because he is a member of the Chamber. Mr. Falzone advised that he is also a board member of the Sierra Vista Aero Association and that he did not feel there would be a conflict.

Jon Nelson made a motion to select Mr. Falzone as the new APC member because of his background. He advised that Mr. McCoy did not specifically apply for the Airport Commission, but that he wanted to be on any City Commission. Joe Gill seconded the motion to select Mr. Falzone. He advised that the APC needed more business people – others who are not pilots or tenants at SVMA.

No further discussion.

Vote – unanimous. The motion carried. John Falzone recommended for appointment to the APC.

Councilman Johnson will put the recommendation on the agenda for the January 24, 2008 Council meeting.

Joe Gill thanked Mr. McCoy for his interest in the APC and advised him to keep trying to get on a City commission. In follow-up discussion, Mr. McCoy said he would be willing to serve the Commission on any ad-hoc assignments.

NEW BUSINESS:

Harry Bladow said recently an aircraft ran into a light and left debris on the taxiway. He advised that Jim Hanke's aircraft was damaged. Harry advised that there is no one on the Fort to check the runways on the weekends. Joe Gill advised that the Fire Department is on duty 24/7 and that they should clear the runways as needed. Dick McColey advised that he would speak to Jim Rose about the issue.

Jon Nelson advised that Andrew Simms from Tucson has purchased Southwestern Aviation at the Benson Airport. Simms purchased the entire operation. Jon mentioned that John Martin noted it will be business as usual at Benson Airport, only the faces will change. The sale should be finalized in 30 to 60 days, according to Mr. Martin.

CALL TO PUBLIC: Harry Bladow asked if there was any way for a tenant to terminate a lease agreement if they could not pass their medical. Mike Hemesath advised that issue would be addressed in the Rules and Regulations update.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/DISCUSSIONS: Dr. Petropolis advised that one of the windsocks was down. Mike advised that Doug was in the process of fixing the mast and would replace the windsock as soon as possible.

George Pohlman said he requested a copy of the City's financial records for the APC, but has never received them. Councilman Johnson advised that he would request them.

Leo Scherping wanted to give kudos to the City for the improvements made to the Terminal Building. He asked if wifi would remain active. He also asked about a p/c for the pilot's lounge. Mike Hemesath advised the wifi would still be active and that the p/c was cut out of the FY08 budget. Mike advised that he would check with the City's IT Department to see if they had an extra computer that could be placed in the lounge until a new one was approved in the budget.

Cliff Van Vleet asked if there was going to be a policy for the use of the new rooms at the airport. He suggested that leasing out the rooms for meetings, etc might generate revenue. The APC will discuss a fee schedule.

Jon Nelson asked if Cochise College would be using one of the new classrooms. Mike advised that they are. Jon asked if there were any potential users of the 2nd classroom. Mike did not know of anyone interested.

ACTION ITEMS/ASSIGNMENT LOG:

- Councilman Johnson will request Council action to amend Article II, Section 1, of the Airport Commission By-Laws, revised 1/22/96, to reflect the APC's new Purpose Statement. (8/15/07)
- Councilman Johnson will request an accounting report on Airport spending and income (1/0/08).

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman McColley adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Next meeting scheduled for February 13, 2008 at 6:00 PM at the Airport Terminal Building.