



**COLORADO SPRINGS
AIRPORT**

**MINUTES
Airport Advisory Commission
Wednesday, January 27, 2021
3:00PM – 5:00PM
(Via Teleconference)
Teams Meeting**

VOTING

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

John Maier –Chairman (via Teams)
Bill Nichols – Vice Chairman (via Teams)
Hal Ellis – Commissioner (via Teams)
Michelle Ruehl – Commissioner (via Teams)
Chic Myers – Commissioner (via Teams)
Aaron Wood – Commissioner (via Teams)

VOTING

COMMISSIONER ABSENT:

David L Couch – Commissioner

NON-VOTING

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mark Volcheff – Alternate Commissioner (via Teams)
Danny Mientka – Alternate Commissioner (via phone)
County Commissioner Stan VanderWerf – Liaison Commissioner
(via Teams)
County Commissioner Carrie Geitner – Liaison Commissioner
(via Teams)

NON-VOTING

MEMBERS ABSENT:

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

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

Greg Phillips – Director of Aviation (via Teams)
Michael Gendill – Legal Advisor (via Teams)
Tiffany Henry – Paralegal (via Teams)
Ivette Rentas – Customer Relations Coordinator (via Teams)
Troy Stover – Assistant Director of Aviation (via Teams)
Brett Miller – Assistant Director of Aviation (via Teams)
Kevin Keith – Aviation Planner (via Teams)
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)

GUESTS PRESENT:

Brian Potts – PPACG (JLUS) (via Teams)
Kelly Nelson – The Equity Group (via Teams)
Patsy Buchwald – Paradies (via phone)
Amy Kelley – US Air Force Academy (via Teams)
Allison Patak – US Air Force (via Teams)
Other attendees via phone were unknown

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 3:00PM JANUARY 27, 2021 by CHAIRMAN MAIER

Invocation for the passing of the past Chairman Col. Andi Biancur.

II. APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 16, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

Vice Chairman Nichols made a motion to approve the December 16, 2020 meeting minutes. Commissioner Ruehl seconded.

Discussion: None

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

APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 6, 2021 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Vice Chairman Nichols made a motion to approve the January 6, 2021 special meeting minutes. Commissioner Wood seconded.

Discussion: None

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

III. COMMUNICATIONS

- None

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Chairman Maier announced City Councilman Williams was appointed by City Council to replace Councilman Andy Pico and County Commissioner Geitner was appointed by the County to replace County Commissioner Mark Waller as Airport Advisory Liaisons on the Commission.
- County Commissioner Geitner expressed her appreciation for the introduction and is looking forward to working with the Commission.
- Brian Potts, PPACG expressed his condolences for the passing of Andi Biancur.
 - The next Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) meeting will be held on January 28 at 2:00PM.
 - Completion of the current Implementation Grant is scheduled to take place on March 31.
 - Brian Potts last day with Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG) will be on February 12, 2021. Ann Werner Senior Military Planner, PPACG is staying on as interim manager until a new replacement is hired.
- Patsy Buckwald, Paradies Shops, expressed her condolences for the loss of Andi Biancur. Patsy Buckwald also extended her gratitude to the badging office for their willingness, support, and guidance in preparing for the anticipated passenger and employee increase due to the commencement of Southwest passenger service at Colorado Spring Airport.

V. NEW BUSINESS AND REPORT ITEMS

A. Land Use Review – Kris Andrews

Kris Andrews presented fourteen (14) Land Use Items.

Vice Chairman Nichols made a motion to approve Land Use Items #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #13 and #14. Commissioner Ellis seconded.

Discussion: None

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

Land Use Item #12: Briefed

Kris Andrews gave a detailed briefing on Land Use Item #12, Request by Jackson Dearborn Partners and N.E.S. Inc., on behalf of Butler and Peetz LLC for approval of a site development plan for Lot 1 of the Solace of Colorado Springs for 234 units on 28.8 acres. The site is located northeast of Powers Boulevard and Galley Road. Kris Andrews also mentioned that Land Use Item #12 was previously reviewed in March 2020. Since then the developer has agreed to the use of noise mitigation construction materials, and to the thirty (30) dBA noise reduction.

Chairman Maier made a motion that the Airport Advisory Commission recommend to County Planning and County Board of Commissioners that Land Use Item #12 be disapproved due to its location within the 65 aircraft day-night levels (ADNL). Vice Chairman Nichols seconded.

Discussion:

Greg Phillips shared his concerns of having a residential development built so close to the end of the runway, but under the El Paso County zoning laws the developer is permitted to build in that area. Airport staff will recommend no objection since the proposed development appears to be consistent with the County's Land Use Code. Airport recommends the Developer include noise reduction building techniques.

County Commissioner Stan VanderWerf inquired, whether Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Grant Assurances could be affected by approval of this project within the 65dB ADNL.

Greg Phillips responded that future adoption of the proposed Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP), would update the Airport's noise contours.

Chairman Maier expressed his opinion of why the Commission should recommend disapproval of this multi-family residential development within the existing ADNL.

Commissioner Ellis expressed his support of the Chair's position recommending disapproval of Land Use Item #12.

Commissioner Volcheff echoed the Chair's comments and shared his concerns about the potential impact to the airport of construction of a multi-family development within the ADNL.

Commissioner Myers echoed Commissioner Volcheff's comments.

Since the proposed development is outside the City's jurisdiction, the Commission's Legal Advisor was unable to provide a definitive legal opinion on the proposed development.

County Commissioner VanderWerf and County Commissioner Geitner commented they would discuss the proposed development with Mr. Craig Dossey, El Paso County Executive Director of Planning and Community Development.

Chairman Maier made a motion to recommend disapproval of Land Use Item #12. Vice Chairman Nichols seconded.

VOTE: APPROVED motion to recommend Disapproval (Unanimous, Roll Call Passed 6 Yes)

B. Director's Airport Business Report

- Project Status Report – Steven Gaeta
 - The contractor is in the submittal/planning phase for the Rehabilitation Runway 17R/35L project. Full construction Notice to Proceed (NTP) is expected to be issued in May 2021.
 - Weather dependent, the Rehabilitation Runway 17R/35L project is expected to begin in early May 2021. Runway closure depends on the actual start date. Runway 17R/35L will be totally shut down for the first 90 days of the project. Following an asphalt-curing period, the runway will be closed at night only for the last 30 days, to allow for runway painting and grooving.
 - Brett Miller and Steven Gaeta are working on an outreach to all tenants and users that will be affected by the May 2021 runway rehabilitation project.
 - Brett Miller and Commissioner Wood will work together in setting up a meeting between the stakeholders and Air Traffic Control to discuss the Runway 17R/35L project.
 - Discussions of the 2021 Airport Master Plan have begun. Additional information will be forthcoming.
 - The airport has re-engaged the IT phone switch project and is reviewing timeframes for moving forward.
 - Commissioner Ellis stated that he was concerned about the economic impact of the runway closure to the GA businesses, such as the FBOs, the charter companies, the maintenance companies, the museum, and the flight schools that depend on efficient access and taxi routes to the available runways. He specifically asked the airport staff about communications, teamwork among the stakeholders, an assessment of the impact to the GA businesses, and a plan to mitigate any impact. The airport staff said they would provide a response.

- Traffic Trend Report – Joe Nevill
 - During the month of December, COS had 32,164 enplanements, down 55% year over year.
 - Seats were 51,384, down 39% year over year.
 - Load factor was 62.6%, down 23.4% year over year.
 - The airport had a total of 63,116 passengers for the month of December, down 56%.
 - In the month of December, COS averaged 20.5 departures per day, up slight from 19.7 in November.
 - Monthly operations for Air Carriers are down 30.4% from the previous year. Air Taxi/General Aviation are up 2.8%; and Military Aviation are down 55.6%. Total operations at the airport is down 14.7% from November 2020. Total Year-to-date operations at the airport are down 10.1%.
 - Southwest Airline service starts on March 11.
 - United Airlines has announced adding additional capacity flights starting February 11 and brought back Los Angeles flights starting February 12.
 - Aidan Ryan and Dana Schield are working with Dani Barger, Colorado Springs Chamber and Amy Long with Visit COS on marketing, branding, and advertising Southwest Airlines.
 - Information of the Southwest Airlines inaugural is forthcoming.

- COS Financial Report
 - No report pending year-end audit.

- Airport Business Development Report – Troy Stover
 - The 20,000 sq. ft. hangar for COS Owners is under a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy.
 - Sierra Nevada Corp. (SNC) has begun construction of their Lean-To project.
 - The 30,000 sq. ft. hangar for SNC has a Certificate of Occupancy.
 - Rodeo is moving forward and expected to be completed in May or June 2021.
 - Airport staff are working on access agreements to bring Fiber Optic into the new developments coming to Peak Innovation Park.
 - Project Jungle is completed and operating.
 - Developers are working on an extension to Integration Loop. The new road that will support a distribution facility for Amazon on Peak Innovation Parkway.
 - Construction of a new roundabout has begun on Integration Loop and Peak Innovation Parkway.
 - The 21-acre single story, multi-office park development for Flywheel East in Peak Innovation Park is moving forward.

- A 10-acre lease for a three (3) story, 127,000 sq. ft. development for Flywheel North in Peak Innovation Park has been signed.
- The airport has resumed discussions for the construction of two (2) hotels. The airport received an amended purchase and sale agreement for a 6-acre parcel. Construction is expected to begin in April 2022.
- Aerospace has signed an additional 16-acre ground lease amendment in Peak Innovation Park.
- The airport is in discussion and design of reconstructing the intersection of Peak Innovation Park and Powers Boulevard. Improvements are anticipated to begin in 2021.
- The US Forest Service project is moving forward and construction is scheduled to begin in March 2021.
- Construction of the roundabout on Peak Innovation Parkway is near completion.
- Installation of a signal light at the intersection of Milton E. Proby and Peak Innovation Park is near completion.
- The airport partnership with the Colorado Springs Utilities is going well. Approximately 3 miles of water line will be installed through airport property and out to the east side of the airport.
- City Council gave approval to purchase approximately 10-acre parcel of land from the School District No. 11 (D11). The airport will be moving into closing in February 2021.
- Greg Phillips acknowledged Dr. Michael Thomas, Superintendent of D11 and Shawn Gullixson, Board Chair for their support and assistance on the sale of the D-11 parcel.
- The development currently ongoing at the intersection of Grinnell Blvd. and Powers Blvd will encompass at-grade construction consistent with the 2045 master traffic plan requirement.
- County Commissioner Stan VanderWerf shared that he has been chosen as Chairman of the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments. Lisa Tormoen Hickey was appointed as Colorado Transportation Commissioner, Region 2, which includes El Paso County. Chairman/Commissioner VanderWerf announced he was successful in obtaining re-funding for the Powers and Research Innerchange. Construction is scheduled to begin the summer of 2021.

C. General Business/COVID 19 Update – Greg Phillips

- Greg Phillips voiced his appreciation of the airport staff for their assistance and commitment in cutting the airport budget back \$2.1M in order to achieve 2020 goals.
- Southwest service will begin in forty-two (42) days [March 11th] adding thirteen (13) flights to five (5) destinations.
- Beginning March 1 all concessions pre-security and on the concourse will be open and resume their pre-COVID daily schedule.
- After being reviewed by the Colorado Aeronautical Board, Review Committee, and the Colorado Transportation Commission the \$8M State Infrastructure Bank Loan request has been approved.
- Greg Phillips announced that Chandi Duran is the new Financial Analyst I and John Offutt has been promoted to Properties Specialist.
- Greg Phillips was pleased to announce that the Colorado Springs Airport has been chosen to receive a Teams Award in recognition of the airport's attendants and all their dedicated work in keeping the terminal clean and sanitized.
- Aecha Devereaux, Airport Attendant has been awarded the airport's 2020 employee of the year award.
- Greg Phillips expressed the honor of having been with the airport for four (4) years and his enthusiasm to see what 2021 will bring.
- With a COVID-19 test mandate for all international travelers in effect, COS air carriers will be responsible for ensuring all requirements to travel international are met.

D. Chairman's Report

- None

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

- Colorado Aeronautical Board Update – Commissioner Myers
 - Commissioner Myers announced that the Colorado Aeronautics Board (CAB) has appointed Kenny Maenpa as Chairman, Kent Holsinger as Vice Chairman, and Commissioner Myers as Secretary of the board.
 - Commissioner Myers extended his gratitude to the CAB for their assistance on reaching approval of the SIB.
 - Commissioner Myers suggested the airport nominate one (1) COS employee a year to the Airport Business Magazine for their “40 under 40” Aviation's Best and Brightest.
- Westside Operators Meeting Discussion – Commissioner Wood
 - West side general aviation stakeholders continue to show some concerns about the Runway17R/35L Rehabilitation project.
 - West side general aviation stakeholder meetings are scheduled for the 3rd Thursday of each month.
- Washington Update – Commissioner Ruehl
 - Commissioner Ruehl is currently working at the Department of Transportation, for new Secretary of Transportation Buttigieg.
 - Steve Dickson, Administrator at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) while awaiting direction from the new administration, is finalizing rule making and emphasizing safety/security.
 - On January 15, 2021, the FAA announced three (3) final rules, two (2) concerning unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). One (1) addresses operation of small [under 55 pounds] UAS over people, and the other a requirement for remote identification UAS. A UAS Committee has also been established. The FAA is also enthusiastic about the establishment of special flight authorizations for supersonic aircraft.
 - The FAA and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) established a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to work together to support commercial space activities.
 - FAA Administrator Steve Dickson flew on a Boeing 737 MAX test flight. Type specific training will be required of all pilots flying the 737 MAX training.

VII. COMMISSION MEMBERS' COMMENTS

- County Commissioner Geitner expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to serve as a County liaison member of the AAC.
- County Commissioner VanderWerf asked with the Stratton Exhibit reaching the end of its two (2) year contract with the airport, is it the airport's position not to extend the contract? At the moment, with Southwest coming to the airport and the exhibit taking a fair amount of space on the concourse, the airport chose not extend the contact. County Commissioner VanderWerf shared that The Hero's Legacy Committee expressed their gratitude to the airport for hosting the exhibit for the last two (2) years.
- Alternate Commissioner Mientka praised the airport staff for overcoming COVID and moving forward with Peak Innovation Park development.
- Alternate Commissioner Volcheff commended the airport staff on a job well done.
- Commissioner Myers congratulated airport staff on the “Colorado's small airport” branding that has been recognized nationally.
- Commissioner Ellis voiced his enthusiasm in meeting with staff to discuss the Rehabilitation Runway17R/35L project.

VIII. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

- Chairman Maier proposed that in honor of past AAC Chair Andi Biancur's significant contributions to aviation within the City, County, and the local community, consideration be given to naming one of the new streets or roads under construction within the business park in recognition of those contributions.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 PM.

The next meeting date is Wednesday, February 24, 2021