
Minutes

Tempe Aviation Commission

June 13, 2023

Minutes of the Tempe Aviation Commission meeting – was held via virtual Microsoft Teams meeting with call in +1 (480) 498-8745 United States, Phoenix (Toll) Conference ID: 243 160 897# and at the Tempe Public Library, on June 13, 2023 6:30 p.m.

(MEMBERS) Present:

W. David Doiron
Karen Apple
Stuart Mitnik
Aaron McBride
John Lynch
Peter Schelstraete
Ed Kucharski
Lane Waddell
Desiree Walker

(MEMBERS) Absent:

None

Citizens Present:

None

City Staff Present:

Brianne Fisher, Sustainability and Resilience Office, City of Tempe

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

The chair, Mr. Doiron, calls the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

The chair asks if there are any individuals online who are there to make a comment. Ms. Fisher informs him that there are none.

Agenda Item 3 – Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Doiron asks if there are any objections/corrections to the minutes of the meeting on April 11. Commissioner Waddell makes a correction to the list of members present.

Commissioner Mitnik motions to approve the meeting minutes and Commissioner Kucharski seconds.

Unanimous approval.

Agenda Item 4 – Rio Salado Development

Brianne Fisher, TAVCO Liaison, shares that the commission decided to skip the scheduled May meeting so that the results of the Rio Salado Development vote would be known. Mr. Doiron shares that all commissioners have received a copy of TAVCO's previously sent letter to mayor and council for review. Mr. Doiron also notifies the group that The Rio Salado Development will not be moving forward, so there is no need to draft a new letter detailing TAVCO's concerns about the development.

Agenda Item 5 – Aviation History Month Event, Saturday November 18

Mr. Doiron shares that he and other commissioners met with museum staff and discussed the plans for this event. He informs the commission that a future meeting with museum staff will be taking place as well.

Agenda Item 6 – FAA Public Comments on Future Noise Policies, Metrics, and Thresholds

Mr. Doiron confirms that everyone is aware of the document detailing the FAA public comments. Commissioner Mitnik shares concerns that the publication of this document will bring aircraft noise to the front of peoples' minds and that TAVCO will have to bear the brunt of those complaints. Mr. Doiron responds that there is no way to know for certain. Commissioner Lynch shares his opinion that there are too many assumptions being made about the general public's knowledge of noise thresholds and that, as in the past, it will likely be a vocal few submitting complaints. Mr. Doiron reads out loud page 4 of the document and highlights that it is mainly engine noise being focused on. Mr. Doiron also shares concerns over the validity of annoyance with surveys, which is detailed in page 5 of the document. Commissioner Kucharski shares information about how much the volume of air traffic has changed since 1960. Commissioner Mitnik speculates over why the Tucson airport was chosen as the surveyed area.

Agenda Item 7 – Noise Flight Data Tracking

Commissioner Mitnik shares that he believes he found the program previously used to do the tracking, saying that he applied to subscribe to the program. Brianne Fisher informs the commission that the City of Phoenix's lawsuit over the retrieval of data that was not available via public view access still stands, but that Tempe's attorney office is interested in having third party DNL contour lines, which a consultant is currently doing. She says that the consultant is checking the data sources compared to Phoenix Sky Harbor's quarterly reports. Discrepancies have been discovered in the raw data and reported data. Commissioner Apple confirms that the commission has a higher level of access to Sky Harbor's flight data than the general public. Brianne Fisher shares that Airport Noise and Operations Monitoring Systems (ANOMs) is what Sky Harbor uses to track this data, which Commissioner Apple again confirms. Commissioner Mitnik shares his interest in having access to viewing inbound flights that fly over North Tempe, which Mr. Doiron states is not possible. He also states that the main challenge with noise data is contributing a spike in noise to a specific flight. Commissioner Lynch clarifies that flight data is freely available on several websites and reaffirms Mr. Doiron's point about the challenge of noise data. Mr. Doiron shares that the lawsuit could become active again if housing goes inside the 65 line. Brianne Fisher shares that as soon as she is able to bring the consultants into a commission meeting, she will do so. Mr. Doiron asks Brianne Fisher to make inquiries after a TAVCO visit to the Phoenix Tower, which was set to happen in 2020 but got postponed due to COVID.

Agenda Item 8 – Commissioners' Business

Commissioner Kucharski shares that he would like to start looking into the chemicals emitted when aircrafts take off; he states that he will conduct research and share his findings with TAVCO.

Commissioner Waddell asks if there are still doubts among the other commissioners over the purpose of TAVCO's existence. Mr. Doiron responds that the issue is still unresolved.

Commissioner Waddell inquires after the status of any city council members visiting a TAVCO meeting to share their thoughts on the commission's purpose. Brianne Fisher shares that she will invite Mayor and Council to attend a meeting. She also shares that the council meeting on June 22nd will include a conversation surrounding the overall status of Tempe's boards and commissions. The conclusion is reached that TAVCO will decide during July's meeting, after this upcoming council meeting has occurred, whether to invite Mayor and Council to one of their meetings. Commissioner McBride asks if it is possible to draft a letter to Mayor and Council regarding TAVCO's concerns if they do not feel spoken for in June 22nd's council meeting. Mr. Doiron shares that it is possible and assigns that task to Commissioner McBride.

Mr. Doiron asks if any of the commissioners have a problem with July 11th as the date of the next TAVCO meeting. Brianne Fisher shares that she is out of town that day, but that a staff member could attend the meeting in her stead. Commissioner Schelstraete suggests forgoing the July 11th meeting. 6 commissioners vote yes to skipping July meeting and one votes no (Commissioner Walker). The meeting will be skipped.

Agenda Item 9 – Schedule Next TAVCO Meeting

The next TAVCO meeting will be on Tuesday, August 8th.

Agenda Item 10 – Adjournment.

Commissioner Waddell motions to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Walker seconds. Unanimous approval.

The meeting is adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Prepared by: Shalae Clemens