



Minutes Tempe Aviation Commission May 12, 2015

Minutes of the Tempe Aviation Commission meeting held on May 12, 2015, 6:30 p.m., at the Public Works Conference Room, Garden Level, City Hall Complex, 31 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Lane Carraway
Shannon Dutton
Mark Garrigan
Gordon Gauss
Lance McIntosh*
John Q. Nunes
James Wennlund*

(MEMBERS) Absent:

David Naugle (Excused)

Citizens Present:

Mark Clouch
Laura Clouch

City Staff Present:

David McNeil, Environmental Services
Manager
Oddvar Tveit, Environmental Quality Specialist

Meeting convened at 6:44 p.m.

Shannon Dutton called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

Resident Mark Clouch

Mr. Clouch recently reallocated to a high-rise in Tempe close to ASU, and responded to the FAA's notice of intent to conduct a PHX Metroplex Environmental Assessment. Mr. Clouch would like to make sure Tempe is heard and not have the Phoenix side of the airport get all the attention with regard to noise caused by new flight procedures. He mentioned a noise mitigation flight procedure from his previous career as a pilot flying out of Austin, Texas. Similar to John Wayne Airport, planes are prevented from doing unrestricted departure climbs in Austin. Speed and power setting restrictions make planes level off and cruise over the noise sensitive areas of the city. Mr. Clouch suggested that similar procedures could be implemented at PHX, and that noise monitoring equipment could be used to enforce maximum noise levels in areas where climbs are restricted. Mr. Clouch also suggested runway headings at PHX could be adjusted to reduce departures over populated areas on the south side of the riverbed.

Agenda Item 2 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes (April 14, 2015)

Shannon Dutton requested a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

Motion: John Q. Nunes moved to approve the draft minutes. Gordon Gauss seconded the motion.

Action: The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

*Attending by telephone conference call.

Agenda Item 3 – Staff Update

PHX Metroplex EA Communication Plan:

- Staff is working with the City's Neighborhood Services and Community Relations workgroups to prepare a plan to ensure that citizens under the flight paths are informed about the project and are given opportunity to provide input going forward. An outline of the plan will be provided to the commission.
- Information about the extended deadline for comments on FAA's notice of an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the PHX Metroplex was included in a city press release and in information distributed to neighborhood groups.
- It will take many months before anything will be published about what the FAA will propose for the PHX Metroplex in the Environmental Assessment. The City will hold one or more public meetings closer to the time of the FAA's release of the draft Environmental Assessment to inform and educate Tempe citizens about NextGen at PHX and the upcoming EA process. TAVCO will be given the opportunity to engage and have a role at these meetings.
- Airport operators and communities have responded to the FAA's notice and asked for input in the scoping of the PHX Metroplex EA. This is typically not part of the public process of an EA. The decision to do an EA and not an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) means that the FAA does not expect that airspace actions evaluated during the PHX Metroplex EA will result in any significant environmental impacts.
- Tempe is evaluating the possibility of assigning additional staff to support the commission.
- Tempe's Washington DC lobbyist is able to support the City in interactions with the FAA and others on issues related to aircraft noise in Tempe.

Staff also informed the members of the new option provided to the public by the airport called "[Public View](#)" where residents can identify individual flights on a map, get flight information, and file complaints.

Data from the FAA Air Traffic Activity System indicates that operations on the five busiest days each month so far this year have improved, and are close to being back to levels reached in 2011. The shortening of the initial departure legs for area navigation (RNAV) procedures to the west and north, the addition of outgoing routes, and the effects of airlines using area navigation for both inbound and outbound flights, appear to have improved air traffic flows at PHX during busy hours of the day. Tempe has experienced an increase in complaints from residents in south Tempe about more continuous air traffic noise.

Agenda Item 4 – Commission Action Plan

Temporary and fixed noise monitoring under the PHX flight paths

Noise data from the airport fixed monitoring sites were compared to data collected by the Phoenix consultant Landrum & Brown (L&B) at the only chosen site in Tempe for short time monitoring, the Studio 710 Apartments Hardy Drive.

- The airport fixed noise monitoring at two sites close to 5th Street produced very few noise events attributed to overflights during the sampling period chosen by the Phoenix consultant Landrum & Brown (L&B). The location of sites relative to the runways makes it problematic for the system software to correlate event data to individual flight track data.
- The fixed site at Tempe Beach Park showed a comparable number of correlated events to flights as the L&B study within the sample period.
- As expected the single event (SEL) and peak (Lmax) levels were higher at the fixed sites than at the Hardy site chosen by L&B, which is located further south than flight paths in and along the riverbed.
- In a growing urban environment where several sources contribute to the ambient noise environment, the fixed sites' distances to other ambient noise sources can create source identification problems. The QED Team report from 2009 recommended reallocation of three sites in Tempe to align with the main flight paths due to high ambient noise levels from other sources at their current locations.

Motion #1: Shannon Dutton motioned that city staff develop a letter to the City of Phoenix recommending the relocation of three sites in Tempe identified in the QED Team Report to new locations identified in the report. John Q. Nunes seconded the motion. Lane Carraway asked motion be amended to recommend relocation or installation of new equipment as the airport might see as the better option.

Motion #2: Shannon Dutton suggested that city staff develop a letter to the City of Phoenix recommending that equipment be installed at three fixed monitoring sites in Tempe identified in the QED Team Report , either by moving existing equipment or installing new equipment, to improve monitoring coverage of noise from aircraft operations. Lane Carraway seconded the motion.

Action: Motion #2 carried by a unanimous vote.

Membership in the National Organization for a Sound-Controlled Environment N.O.I.S.E.

The members discussed the potential benefits, membership cost for the city, and issues with which the organization is engaged. N.O.I.S.E is an affiliate of the National League of Cities (NLC), of which Tempe is a member. Commissioners questioned whether N.O.I.S.E would provide added value to the City's aviation agenda.

Motion: Shannon Dutton moved with a second from John Q. Nunes to defer the issue to the October agenda in consideration of the timing of the city budget process.

Action: The members voted unanimously in in favor of the motion.

The PHX Metroplex EA Process; the hiring a consultant to assist the city

Motion: Shannon Dutton moved to delay discussions of the proposal from NTNA to the June meeting.

Action: The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 5 – Commissioners' Business (topics for future discussion)

A discussion of purpose, need and benefit of recommending the hiring a consultant to assist the city in dealing with the FAA's PHX Metroplex Environmental Assessment process.

Agenda Item 6 – Schedule next TAVCO meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for June 9, 2015.

Agenda Item 7 – Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37p.m.

Prepared by: Oddvar Tveit

Reviewed by: David McNeil

Authorized Signature
Environmental Services Manager