



Minutes Tempe Aviation Commission June 9, 2015

Minutes of the Tempe Aviation Commission meeting held on June 9, 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*
David Naugle
John Q. Nunes

(MEMBERS) Absent:

James Wennlund

Citizens Present:

Leslie NaKatsu

City Staff Present:

Christina Hoppes, Interim Environmental
Program Supervisor
Oddvar Tveit, Environmental Quality Specialist

Meeting convened at 6:35 p.m.

Shannon Dutton called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

Resident Leslie NaKatsu

Leslie Nakatsu, representing Warner Ranch Landing in south Tempe, was attending the meeting to get information to bring information back to her HOA about the commission and actions the HOA could take to address the aircraft noise problem in Tempe. The noise from airline flights has become more constant particularly in the evenings and late nights when planes come in from the west over south Tempe. Some smaller planes can also be loud. She encouraged the commission to look into what possibly could be implemented at PHX to prevent the noise problem from getting worse as the Valley grows.

Agenda Item 2 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes (May 12, 2015)

Shannon Dutton requested a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

Motion: Lane Carraway 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

Commission Rules, Open Meeting Law (OML):

Upon request from the chair staff reminded the members to avoid the following violations of the OML:

- Communicating in a quorum (5 members) outside a public meeting about commission business
- Circumventing the law by sending e-mails to other members about commission business (“splintering the quorum”).
- Discussing matters raised by a resident under “Public Appearances.” If the topic is not on the agenda it cannot be discussed. The proper procedure is to direct staff to study the topic and/or ask it be listed on the agenda for a future meeting.

The most recent revision of the Commission’s rules of procedure was included in the meeting handouts.

Noise Reporting

Reports are compiled on a monthly basis by the City of Tempe and also by the City of Phoenix. Staffing changes in Phoenix caused a temporary delay in reporting and notifications to airlines that do not comply with the noise mitigation flight procedure for departures to the east over Tempe but Phoenix reporting has resumed.

- Airline compliance rates with the 4-DME Standard Instrument Departure procedure:
Airline compliance has improved for both the PHX Gate and Tempe Corridor compliance measures, mainly due to improved performance from the busiest airlines at PHX, American Airlines/US Airways and Southwest Airlines.
- Departure Equalization:
The number of airline departures going east is usually higher during the colder months of the year. During warmer months, more departures shift to the west and arrivals from the east increase. Throughout the year the east side gets most of the jets that depart PHX during night time hours. The annualized total departure activity is close to equal on the east and west sides of the airport.
- Complaints:
Complaints are increasing in areas of south Tempe. In May 2015 ten of the eleven complaints received came from residents living inside zip code 85284 or south of Elliot Road. During the month of March 2015 a total of twenty two complaints were received. To date, March was the busiest airline traffic month for Tempe in 2015.

Agenda Item 4 – PHX Fixed Noise Monitoring Sites in Tempe

Based on the commission’s request, staff had prepared a draft letter asking the City of Phoenix Aviation Department to consider 2009 recommendations by Tempe’s consultant to relocate three of the eight monitors in Tempe to more meaningful locations for measuring aircraft noise exposure.

The members discussed the following:

- Whether or not the letter should be amended to include an alternative of placing additional new equipment at sites better positioned for monitoring aircraft noise in Tempe.
- The concern that data collected at the relocated sites would not be comparable to historic noise data collected at the original sites.
- The recommendation of anything different from what was included in the consultants’ report would not be advisable without the City seeking additional evaluations from noise monitoring experts.

Shannon Dutton recommended the members either send the letter as drafted or table it and recommend that the city hire a consultant to perform a new assessment of the sites in Tempe.

Motion: David Naugle motioned that the commission accept the letter as drafted. The motion was seconded by Gordon Gauss.

Action: The motion carried with six votes for the motion and one vote against.

Agenda Item 5 – The PHX Metroplex Environmental Assessment: hiring a consultant to assist the city

The members were updated on the legislative efforts to hold back FAA appropriations to ensure the agency does not proceed with the redesign of the regional airspace until the noise impacts from the September 2014 implemented area navigation (RNAV) routes are resolved. The City of Phoenix has filed a lawsuit over the FAA's September 2014 implementation of new flight paths. The commission discussed hiring a consultant to advise the City on the Metroplex Environmental Assessment. Members were reminded that such a recommendation should be discussed with a clear purpose and need in mind. Considering that nothing has been disclosed to the public about potential airspace actions the FAA will be evaluating, and that the City already has a lobbyist in Washington D.C. the role of a consultant was unclear at this time.

The members made the following points in considering a recommendation to the city to hire outside expertise:

- Protect Tempe's interests so the City of Phoenix law suit and future negotiations between the City of Phoenix and the FAA to resolve specific issues do not disadvantage residents in Tempe.
- Consider the option of joining with other communities to come up with alternatives that could provide improved noise protection within the PHX regional airspace before the FAA publishes a draft EA for the Phoenix Metroplex project.

Shannon Dutton asked members to investigate if anything has been done proactively by communities elsewhere where the FAA is or has been doing Metroplex projects, realizing that the airspace issues are unique for each project area. John Q. Nunes volunteered to research the topic. Shannon Dutton asked John Q. Nunes to provide any relevant information from his research to Tempe staff.

Motion: Shannon Dutton motioned to table the topic at this time, with the option of bringing the topic before the commission again at a later time. John Q. Nunes seconded the motion.

Action: The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

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

Motion: Shannon Dutton made a motion suggesting staff provide information about arrivals north of Curry and at McKellips roads and at Warner and Kyrene roads in Tempe. Lane Carraway seconded the motion.

Action: Motion approved by a unanimous vote.

Motion: Shannon Dutton also motioned that the commission investigate the feasibility of expanding the City's 311 phone app with an app that makes it possible to use a smart/iPhone to submit noise complaints with all relevant information included. Mark Garrigan seconded the motion.

Action: The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.

John Q. Nunes asked for a discussion of a joint community approach to the FAA's Metroplex and NextGen implementation, and the lack of public participation and opportunity to provide input to the Metroplex study teams.

Agenda Item 6 – Schedule next TAVCO meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for August 11, 2015.

Agenda Item 7 – Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17p.m.

Prepared by: Oddvar Tveit

Reviewed by: David McNeil

Authorized Signature
Environmental Services Manager