



Minutes Tempe Aviation Commission May 12, 2020

Minutes of the Tempe Aviation Commission virtual Microsoft Teams meeting with call in # +1 (480) 498-8745 United States, Phoenix (Toll) Conference ID: 817 390 45# held on May 12, 2020, 6:30 p.m.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Lane Carraway
W. David Doiron
Valeriy Khaldarov
John Lynch
Stuart Mitnik
Trevor Pan
Ellen Poole

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Peter Schelstraete (excused)

City Staff Present:

Oddvar Tveit, *Environmental Quality Specialist, City of Tempe*

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Mr. Lane Carraway called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

There were no public appearances.

Agenda Item 3 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes (February 11, 2020)

Mr. Carraway asked for any changes or modifications and a motion to approve the drafted February 12, 2020 meeting minutes.

Motion: Mr. Mitnik moved to approve the minutes as drafted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lynch.

Action: The motion to approve the drafted February 12, 2020 meeting minutes passed by a unanimous vote. Ayes: Mr. Carraway, Mr. Doiron, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Khaldarov, Mr. Mitnik, Mr. Pan, and Ms. Poole. Abstentions: None. Nays: None. Absent: Mr. Schelstraete.

Agenda Item 4 – Public Aviation Meeting/Workshop in Tempe

The city is currently conducting virtual meetings. When the city will resume a regular public meeting schedule is unknown. Air traffic volumes over the city has decreased significantly because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and residents have other concerns on their minds. Even though some airlines are starting to add flights as the economy starts opening up again, it will likely take months before public forums can be arranged in Tempe.

Follow-up: The topic is put on hold until staff can inform the commission about when the city plans to start holding meetings open to the public.

Agenda Item 5 – The Scottsdale Coalition for Airplane Noise Abatement

The Scottsdale Northeast Valley resident group was formed after the FAA expanded departure routes out of PHX from seven to nine which brought aircraft over new areas of Scottsdale. The City of Scottsdale responded to concerns from its residents and proposed an alternative routing concept for east flow departures going north, to the concept FAA introduced under Step Two of the agreement made with the petitioners in *City of Phoenix v. Huerta*. The City of Scottsdale's alternative would have diverted north and northeast bound departures farther east to avoid

having the added northbound departure paths go over eastern parts of Scottsdale. The FAA announced on January 10, 2020 it was closing Step Two of the agreement without taking any action beyond actions already implemented under Step One of the agreement. With the FAA deciding not engage further with the communities, the City of Scottsdale. decided in March 2020 to petition US Court of Appeals, Columbia Circuit, for review of the FAA's January 10, 2020 announcement.

Ms. Poole explained that the reason why she had asked to bring the Scottsdale Coalition to the members' attention was that Tempe residents that have experienced increased air traffic over their homes after the FAA implemented the NextGen re-routing of departures out of PHX, might ask the Commission and the City of Tempe to take similar action to get the FAA to continue its community involvement process for PHX. The topic was for the members' information and discussion only.

Discussion:

- Arrivals intruding on neighborhoods in North Tempe, north of Curry Road, is still occurring even with the lower than normal airline activity.
- Departure flows over the last four months have been over the Tempe Lakes area. Arrivals are at about 5,000 feet altitudes and are not as loud as the continuing flow of departing aircraft.
- East flow departure traffic turned south is a problem over Apache Blvd.
- The Commission has recommended that the City create a noise abatement office where a paid city official, in half of a full-time position, can engage with neighboring cities to establish communications about noise mitigation flight procedures with neighboring communities, the airport and the FAA before plans for airspace actions that impact aircraft operations over PHX communities are implemented. The Commission cannot interact with other neighboring cities as an intermediary with the goal of achieving improvements to existing flight procedures.

Agenda Item 5 – PHX Noise FAQ - What are controllable and non-controllable factors

Mr. Tveit explained about the collection of questions and answers which are posted on the commissions web site under [aviation noise surveys](#). The document was created and posted after the Commissions' public aviation meeting on June 19, 2019. It contains answers to questions from citizens responding to a questionnaire completed before the meeting and questions asked during the meeting. The list of questions and answers would need to be consolidated to a few main topics and restructured to become a FAQ page about what factors impact flights in and out of PHX. Mr. Lynch suggested posting an easy to understand FAQ introduction, which explains which factors are not controllable like weather, winds, temperatures, and those that are under control by pilots and air traffic controllers.

Discussion:

- The existing FAQ should be consolidated down to eight or ten topics.
- The web site should simplify to the public what determines where aircraft operate inside the airspace over Tempe.
- It is not generally known that neither the Tempe's intergovernmental agreement with Phoenix nor any federal regulations restrict where inbound aircraft need to fly when they are inside the airspace over Tempe.
- The compression issues causing arrivals to do occasional S-turns to reduce speed or distance to the aircraft ahead, is a controllable factor.

Follow-up: Mr. Lynch will review of the posted questions and answers and draft a proposal for a PHX air traffic FAQ that could be posted on a more prominent location of the Commission's City of Tempe web site.

Agenda Item 8– Commissioners' business

- PHX air traffic FAQ.
- How to get TAVCO's issues to the City Home page current topics.

Agenda Item 9– Schedule next TAVCO meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for June 9, 2020.

Agenda Item 10 – Adjournment

Motion: Mr. Lynch moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Poole seconded the motion.

Action: The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m. by a unanimous vote. Ayes: Mr. Carraway, Mr. Doiron, Mr. Khaldarov, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Mitnik, Mr. Pan, and Ms. Poole. Abstentions: None. Nays None. Absent: Mr. Schelstraete.

Prepared by: Oddvar Tveit

Reviewed by: Christina Hoppes