

Minutes

Tempe Aviation Commission

December 14, 2021

Minutes of the Tempe Aviation Commission meeting - virtual Microsoft Teams meeting with call in +1 (480) 498-8745 United States, Phoenix (Toll) Conference ID: 377 665 087 held on December 14, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Karen J. Apple
Ellen Poole
Desiree Walker
Stuart Mitnik
Peter Schelstraete
Ed Kucharski
John Lynch
Lane Carraway
W. David Doiron

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Citizens Present:

Jasdeep Mandia
Richard Wayne, FAA
Faviola Garcia, FAA

City Staff Present:

Braden Kay, Sustainability Office, City of Tempe
Andy Escobar, Sustainability Office, City of Tempe

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Mr. Doiron called the meeting to order at 6:30p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

Jasdeep Mandia did not present himself.

Agenda Item 3 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes (November 9, 2021)

Mr. Doiron asked if anyone had considerations of minutes such as discrepancies or corrections. Mr. Kucharski requested that the word west be changed to east regarding City of Phoenix Aviation Planning Update discussion, Agenda Item 4. Motion: Mr. Carraway moved to approve minutes with recommended changes. The motion was seconded by Dr. Lynch. Action: The motion to approve was passed by a unanimous vote. Ayes: Ms. Apple, Mr. Carraway, Mr.

Kucharski, Dr. Lynch, Mr. Mitnik, Ms. Poole, Mr. Schelstraete, Mr. Doiron and Ms. Walker Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: None.

Agenda Item 4 – FAA Helicopter Operations presentation

Ms. Garcia briefed the commission on helicopter noise complaints. Ms. Garcia explained the purpose of the presentation was to provide the resources available for the public to report noise complaints and safety concerns.

Ms. Garcia explained that helicopter noise complaints have remained consistently low. Ms. Garcia listed the types of helicopter operations. Mr. Wayne further explained that many helicopters are law enforcement or medical ambulances and some local news helicopters.

Ms. Garcia explained that when there is a low flying safety complaint that needs to be investigated, that falls under the jurisdiction of the Office of Flight Standards. The Flight Standards organization is not structured to do public briefings, which falls under community outreach under the National Regional Administration.

Ms. Garcia shared the contacts and links to the commission to report safety concerns and noise complaints. Ms. Garcia explained that the Scottsdale Flight Standards Office addresses safety concerns, and the FAA addresses noise complaints. Ms. Garcia shared the federal regulation that pertains to helicopter operations for the commission.

Ms. Garcia opened the floor to questions and comments.

- Mr. Mitnik explained the reason for the FAA Helicopter Operations presentation. Mr. Mitnik asked about helicopters operating below the controlled airspace, helicopters flying over the freeways, and noise concerns people have expressed.
 - Mr. Wayne explained that there are no specific routes on how helicopters are transitioned. Helicopters are maneuvered based on both the request of the pilots and the flow of airport traffic.
- Ms. Poole asked Mr. Wayne to clarify that helicopters are still under the control of the air traffic control tower at Sky Harbor.
 - Mr. Wayne stated Ms. Poole is correct. Helicopters are still under control to mitigate airport traffic.
- Ms. Poole asked if the FAA only gets involved when there is potential conflict between a helicopter and Sky Harbor operations. Ms. Poole hypothetically stated that she could fly her helicopter, she would not need authority to do so.
 - Mr. Wayne stated that as long as Ms. Poole remained outside of the Phoenix Class Bravo Air Space and followed the rules she could fly her aircraft.
- Ms. Poole stated for the commissions' perspective, the area to avoid the airport's air space would be southern Tempe.

- Mr. Wayne explained the area of the airport's air space extends 30 degrees north and south of the runways that extends out to 5 miles and extends from the surface up to 4,000 ft in elevation.
- Mr. Mitnik asked for clarification on if there is a different area of control for Sky Harbor Airport and TRACON for approaches and departures.
 - Mr. Wayne explained that the primary airport within the approach control airspace is Sky Harbor and is controlled by class b airspace. The Phoenix Sky Harbor tower airspace is a designated area that spans 6-8 miles. TRACON airspace delegation spans 40-60 miles.
- Mr. Mitnik asked Mr. Wayne to clarify if TRACON only controls the airspace down to 4,000 ft.
 - Mr. Wayne explained that it depends on the area.

Agenda Item 5 – Rio Salado Upcoming Development discussion

Mr. Doiron asked the commissioners to speak up on the agenda item. Mr. Doiron referenced the Coyotes presentation, how there is trash that goes 65 feet deep, and how the organization admitted there is a lot of trash that needs to be disposed of. Mr. Doiron explained that one of the side effects is the proximity to the watercourse and the possibility of hitting groundwater at a certain depth. Dr. Kay stated that he continues to ask the City to create a presentation and is aware the commission continues to list the agenda item every month. Dr. Kay will continue to keep the commission informed.

Mr. Mitnik referenced Ms. Poole's pitch she shared with the commission. Mr. Mitnik noted that someone was doing their homework regarding FAA interfacing noise. Mr. Mitnik pointed out an aviation consultant was listed as a participant. Mr. Mitnik stated that it looked like they are considering everything the commission deems relevant that they need to deal with. Mr. Doiron stated they brought up all the points they could be positive about but have not mentioned anything about the lighting.

Mr. Mitnik agreed with Mr. Doiron.

Mr. Mitnik spoke about the other point the FAA brought up in the last meeting concerning the signal bounce and is unsure of how that gets resolved. Mr. Doiron stated that the commission will have to wait for more information.

Agenda Item 6 – Acknowledge Outgoing Commissioners

The commission and Dr. Kay acknowledged and thanked Mr. Carraway for his service.

Agenda Item 7 – Commissioners' Business

Mr. Doiron asked the commission to suggest agenda items to future meetings. Mr. Doiron informed the commission that the PowerPoint presentation on air traffic control in the valley will be delayed.

Agenda Item 8 – Schedule Next TAVCO Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for January 11, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. as a hybrid option.

Agenda Item 9 – Adjournment

Motion: Mr. Schelstraete moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carraway. Action: The motion to adjourn the meeting passed by a unanimous vote. Ayes: Ms. Apple, Mr. Carraway, Mr. Doiron, Mr. Kucharski, Dr. Lynch, Mr. Mitnik, Ms. Poole, Mr. Schelstraete and Ms. Walker. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: None.

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Prepared by: Andy Escobar

Reviewed by: