

VERO BEACH AIRPORT COMMISSION MINUTES

Friday, July 10, 2020 – 9:30 a.m.

City Hall, Council Chambers, Vero Beach, Florida

PRESENT: Vice Chairman,, Louis Vocelle (via telephone); Members: Arthur Hodge, Melvin Wood, Carole Jean Jordan, John Calcagno and Alternate Member #1, Mary Wood **Also Present:** Interim Airport Director, Todd Scherr; City Attorney, John Turner and Deputy City Clerk, Sherri Philo

Unexcused Absence: Carlos Halcomb

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Vice Chairman called today's meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) January 9, 2020 – Regular Meeting Minutes

Mr. Hodge made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2020 regular Airport Commission meeting. Mr. Wood seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

B) April 30, 2020 – Special Call Meeting Minutes

Mr. Hodge made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 30, 2020 Special Call Airport Commission meeting. Mr. Wood seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

A) Future Concepts for Aviation Boulevard – Commissioner Tim Zorc

Mr. Tim Zorc, Indian River County Commissioner, gave a Power Point presentation on the 43rd Avenue Project Update (attached to the original minutes). He referred to the handout on the US1 / Aviation Boulevard Intersection that he previously provided to the Commission members (attached to the original minutes).

Mr. Wood asked what is stopping them from going over the canal that is coming off of Indian River Boulevard all the way to U.S.1. He asked why couldn't they have an overhead there.

Mr. Zorc said that he has not heard that suggestion come up before. He would suggest that if the Commission members has some particular path they would like, the Commission could write a letter to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and have it brought up and addressed there. That way the MPO can tell the consultant to add this to their work matrix.

Mr. Wood asked if they have thought of having a tunnel, rather than a flyover.

Mr. Zorc said a tunnel aspect has not been thought of. He thought the Airport in Ft. Lauderdale has both. He said they would put everything out there and explore all options so the plan goes forward.

Mr. Zorc said the main reason he brought this before the Commission is if there are other options they would like the FDOT consultant to look at, that they could write a letter to the MPO asking that they have the consultant explore whatever ideas they have since they are in the active funding cycle and this is the best time to get their questions answered.

Mrs. Wood asked when is the next MPO meeting.

Mr. Zorc thought it was sometime in August, however sometimes their summer meetings are cancelled. He said that he would check the schedule and get that information to the Commission members.

Mr. John Turner, City Attorney, explained that the letter should go through the City Council. He said the Commission can make a recommendation to the City Council.

Mr. Vocelle felt that a motion should be made as to what needs to be included in the letter so that it reflects the voice of the Commission.

Mr. Turner recommended that the Commission makes their feelings known to the City Council and let the City Council present the ideas to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the MPO.

Mr. Hodge said his understanding is that this has to be passed through the City Council before the next MPO meeting, whenever that is.

Mr. Zorc said because of the abbreviated summer meetings, if it happens to go to the next MPO meeting, he is sure the MPO will accept it and look at it.

Mr. Vocelle asked how often does the MPO meet.

Mr. Zorc said normally they meet once a month with the exception of during the summer, which the meetings could be every other month.

Mr. Vocelle said that he would like to hear comments from the Interim Airport Director as to if there are any proposed paths and what his recommendations to the Commission might be.

Mr. Todd Scher, Interim Airport Director, said this is new to Airport staff just as it is to everyone else. He does not know that he has an opinion one way or the other. He said that he looks at a lot of positives for potentially benefiting the Airport and the community. However, along with all the positives there are hurdles to overcome. He said there are a lot of things that need to be looked at before a decision is made. He said staff will actively look into the concept and at the pros and cons.

Mr. Vocelle felt if they were going to write a letter to the MPO or make a recommendation to the City Council that everyone needed to be on the same page. He didn't think this was to be a rush in judgement. He felt this needed to be a comprehensive well thought out cohesive effort.

Mrs. Wood asked Mr. Vocelle if he recommends having a workshop meeting.

Mr. Vocelle said that he would recommend having a workshop meeting after Airport staff has had an opportunity to digest all of this.

Mr. Scher said staff will check with the FAA to see what restrictions are needed to develop the property. He knows there are some conservation and some habitat conditions there that would have to be addressed. He said staff would do some homework on this to see what constraints there might be in moving forward.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A) Introduction of Interim Airport Director – Mr. Todd Scher

Mr. Todd Scher, Interim Airport Director, introduced himself to the Commission members and gave a brief background on his experience.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A) Airport Commission Meetings

Mr. Wood said currently they meet quarterly and he would suggest that they meet every two (2) months instead of every three (3) months.

After discussion, the Commission members agreed that they would have their workshop meeting and discuss their meeting schedule at their next regular meeting.

Mr. Vocelle suggested that Airport staff put on their workshop agenda, any upcoming items the Commission members need to be aware of. This will give them the opportunity to look at if they need to hold more frequent meetings or if they need to have additional workshop meetings.

Mrs. Wood noted that they are coming up on the Airport Master Plan so there will be a lot of work that will be necessary this coming year so she does somewhat agree with Mr. Wood.

6. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

Mr. Vocelle reported that his personal preference is not attend meetings in person while this Covid is occurring and appreciates being allowed to attend electronically. He wished the City had a zoom setup so they wouldn't have a delay (referring to a delay online).

7. INTERIM AIRPORT DIRECTOR'S MATTERS

A) Discussion on Passenger Facility Charge (PFC)

Mr. Scherr reported that this FDOT funding was going to go from 80/20 to 50/50 and the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) was discussed as a possible way to make up for some of the potential loss of revenue. In the interim they have been given a three (3) year reprieve and during this time they are working on trying to change the Statute to take the 50/50 funding away permanently.

Mr. Vocelle asked what is happening with the Legislation. He asked do they have the full support of State Representative Grall and Senator Mayfield.

Mr. Scher said staff spoke with Representative Grall's Legislative aide and he was cautious about the chances of this being done Legislatively on the Airport's behalf. He said the Florida Airport Council has agreed that this Legislation needs to be changed and they have a lot of political contacts and they have lobbyists in Tallahassee. He said this is the best way for this to move forward.

Mr. Wood asked if he is correct that they are not enforcing a PFC on Elite Airways.

Mr. Scher said that is correct.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

A) October 2, 2020

Mr. Vocelle reported that their next regular meeting will be held on October 2, 2020 and hopefully they will have a workshop in the meantime.

Mr. Hodge made a motion that they invite a member of the County Commission and a member of the MPO ...

Mr. Wood suggested that they invite Mr. Phil Madsen of the MPO to their workshop meeting.

Mr. Hodge continued with the motion adding that they invite Mr. Phil Madsen and a member of the City Council to their workshop meeting. Mr. Wood seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Today's meeting adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

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