

**VERO BEACH AIRPORT COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**Friday, October 13, 2017 – 9:30 a.m.**  
**City Hall, Council Chambers, Vero Beach, Florida**

**PRESENT:** Chairman, Barbara Drndak; Member: Louis Vocelle, Jr., Alternate Member #1, Mary Wood and Alternate Member #2, John Calcagno (arrived at 9:45 a.m.) **Also Present:** Eric Menger, Airport Director; Assistant City Attorney, Kira Honse and Deputy City Clerk, Sherri Philo

**Excused Absences:** Arthur Hodge, Carol Jean Jordan, and Melvin Wood

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Today's meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. and the Deputy City Clerk performed the roll call.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A) August 31, 2017**

**Mr. Vocelle made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 31, 2017 Airport Commission meeting. Mrs. Wood seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**A) Aviation Boulevard - Update**

Mr. Eric Menger, Airport Director, gave a brief background on the Airport Master Plan and Aviation Boulevard. He reported that recently the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) approved in its Priority Projects request to FDOT, a Planning, Development, and Engineering Study for the intersection of U.S.1 and Aviation Boulevard. He felt the goal for the Airport Commission would be to decide whether they want to move forward with the complete streets idea or go with fully widening of Aviation Boulevard. He said that he is leaning toward the complete streets approach because it would have minimal impact on residential neighborhoods west of the Airport and would get something done sooner.

Mr. Tim Zorc, Indian River County Commissioner, said a lot of things have changed since the original design. He said the traffic counts are much higher even with the decline of the Mall because of the restaurants that are going in the area. He said that he didn't know what the cost savings would be if they take the original plan and shrink it down to go with the complete streets concept. He felt that the original plan has a lot of the complete streets features when they look at pedestrian access, bicycle access, etc.

Mr. Phil Matson, Director of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), said that he has been doing this type of work for over 30 years and what is fascinating is that they have changed from a rubric of vehicle to capacity ratios in speed and flow on roadways to a measure called *delay*. He said almost all jurisdictions are using *delay* as their measure of whether or not the transportation system is working. He then showed on the screen aerials of projects along Airport Drive and Aviation Boulevard (attached to the original minutes). He briefly went over the projects with the Commission members.

Mr. Monte Falls, Director of Public Works, reported that he and Mr. Matson have been working on this since 2003/2004. He said in 2004 the economy was roaring faster than it is now. Homes were being built as fast as they could be built and they perceived the need for an east/west corridor that would transfer some traffic off of State Road 60. So they sat down with the traffic planners and they felt that a four (4) lane section was needed from 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue to U.S.1. He said a lot of the pedestrian improvements were located along the canal right-of-way. He felt that it was almost a blessing that they didn't build the Aviation Boulevard project because now the complete streets type of design has come into play, which really wasn't around when they originally conceived the project.

Mrs. Drndak said that 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue is backed up between lights when Piper lets out.

Mr. Calcagno said it is a problem during shift changes and at lunch time at Piper and Piper is growing.

Mrs. Drndak said as part of the Airport Master Plan they did a Business Land Use Plan so they have the Airport Commercial Village that was designed. She felt that one (1) of the big drivers would be if the Heritage Reserve property gets built.

Mr. Falls noted that for at least 10 years staff has looked at a possible extension of the roadway east of U.S.1 and they came up with a couple of corridors, but what they haven't come up with was the funding.

Mr. Vocelle asked given the traffic pattern from Piper that everyone knows exists, has any consideration been given to roundabouts as opposed to a series of traffic lights. He said that he just spent one (1) week in Ireland and roundabouts seemed to work well there.

Mr. Matson said the MPO board just voted to put a roundabout at 66<sup>th</sup> Avenue and State Road 510. He reported that anytime the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) does a project they have in their design manual a tier 1, 2 and 3 roundabout evaluation. He did not think they considered roundabouts in the original design because they were not thinking in that term. He said it could be looked at.

Mrs. Drndak felt they should try to get some financial information between the Boulevard verses complete streets.

Mr. Vocelle questioned if they could do that without spending funds.

Mr. Zorc felt that Mr. Falls and Mr. Matson could get the Airport Commission something preliminary based on current projects, which would be a guide.

Mrs. Drndak felt the relationship of a boulevard verses complete streets would be the important thing that would help the Commission to make decisions.

Mrs. Wood added how each would affect the Airport Village concept.

Mr. Menger felt that not only does the Commission need to continue having meetings and have staff doing studies, but they need to move this higher on the priority list for next round of review by the MPO. He reported that currently it is on the MPO list for the year 2026 to start.

Mr. Matson said they need to be careful what they ask for. He explained that typically an MPO priority off of the State network requires Federal funding. He said prioritization might not be the right word, but getting MPO assistance is definitely the right wording.

Mr. Matson said that he has two (2) takeaways from today's meeting. One (1) is the crossing of a four (4) lane versus a complete street both in costs in terms of the design and the ultimate construction costs and the second is a matrix of the tradeoffs between the two (2) approaches.

Mrs. Drndak thanked everyone noting that the Commission looks forward to receiving more information on the cost difference and the matrix layout. She said they do need to have something ready to go so when funding becomes available they could get started on this.

## **5. OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **6. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS**

Mrs. Drndak congratulated the United States Navy on their 242<sup>nd</sup> Birthday today.

## **7. AIRPORT DIRECTOR'S MATTERS**

Mr. Menger reported that on October 19, 2017 at 1:30 p.m., the Planning and Zoning Board will be holding a public hearing on the Star Suites proposal of a 60 room hotel to be located on private property south of Aviation Boulevard. He then gave a brief update on the Sun Aviation lease, Paris Air lease, C.J. Cannon's revised lease, the minimum standards, Hurricane Irma damage, the Airport Drive project, Taxiway C, Taxiway E, State and Federal initiatives, and Elite Airways (attached to the original minutes).

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

Today's meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

/sp