

Airport Advisory Board Meeting Minutes – March 31, 2009

Members in Attendance:

Mayor Ralph “Buddy” Fletcher, Chairman
John Burton, Vice Chairman
Robert Knight
Skip Larson, Jr.
Jeff Kincart – arrived at 3:58PM

Members Absent:

Joel Adams
Ken Willaford

Also in Attendance:

Tony Delgado, Deputy City Manager
John DuBose, Airport Director
Nan Walsh, Assistant Director
Samantha Blaschke, Airport Admin Assistant
Tom Dunn, Columbia Air Services
Peter Eichleay, Columbia Air Services

Introduction:

At 3:35 PM, Mayor Buddy Fletcher (Chairman), noting a quorum was present, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes:

The Mayor then asked if everyone had received and read the minutes from the last meeting. John Burton made a motion to approve the minutes, Bob Knight seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Old Business:

Airport Staff:

John DuBose explained that two items from the previous meeting were being carried over to this meeting: Fuel charges and Updated Rates and Charges Handbook. The Rates and Charges Handbook change is: adjustments that need to be made to the rates and charges can be made at the Airport level and only if needed would they go to the Commission. Robert Knight asked if the Board could have more time to review the document and asked if a reminder could be sent out before the next meeting. It was agreed that the Board would bring their comments to the May 26th meeting so that a recommendation from staff and a vote from the Board could be brought to the August Airport Advisory Board Meeting.

John DuBose introduced Tom Dunn and Peter Eichleay from Columbia Air to the Board and explained that they were there to discuss fuel prices. Tom Dunn explained that to continue operating with good people and good equipment it does cost money. They are required by the lease to stay within certain pricing limits. Peter Eichleay explained most of the complaints that came through were within 36 hours of the merger. They corrected problems as quickly as possible. They do give Lakeland based guests \$0.20 off the retail price. Tom Dunn said he would meet with anyone who feels they were overcharged within that 36 hour time frame to review

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their invoices with them and make adjustments as needed. Tony Delgado explained there needs to be good communication with the tenants. Some suggestions were made to do a newsletter or an open house with Columbia. This will allow the tenants to become familiar with the people at Columbia.

Board Members:
None.

New Business:

Airport Staff:

John DuBose explained about 20 percent of the tenants have requested that the City consider postponing their scheduled rate increase for one year due to bad economic times. This postponement would cause the City to lose approximately \$15,000 of additional income. Winter Haven is currently considering this same idea. John Burton suggested that the City push the schedule back 6 months instead of 12.

John Burton made a motion that the City delays the rate increase for 6 months. Skip Larson seconded the motion and was unanimously approved. The recommendation will be forwarded to the City Managers Office for approval.

Board Members:

Nan Walsh discussed the decision regarding the Airport's position on parties at the T-hangers during Sun 'n Fun, restating that tenants need to stay within their own leasehold. She will send out another letter before Sun 'n Fun reminding the tenants of their responsibilities as tenants and for the safety of the Airfield during the event. The Board members agreed with staff's decision.

Bob Knight discussed the problems with the dumpsters for the T-hangers. He asked if they could be moved inside the fence. Nan Walsh reminded all of the efforts to eliminate dumpsters inside the fence and of problems with dump trucks leaving broken glass. Nan suggested removing the dumpsters.

Sun 'n Fun Event:

John Burton reported they are ahead of schedule. They have seen some indicators that attendance will be up and some indicators that attendance will be down. Early registration is down; people are waiting longer to make a financial commitment. Fuel prices will play a big part in attendance. They will not have a jet team this year but will have the Golden Knights and a reunion of pilots that should produce national media attention. Nan Walsh suggested Steve Leidigh, General Manager for Columbia, attend next years Sun-n-Fun volunteer meetings.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

Garbage problem will be discussed at the next meeting.

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Time and Place for Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on May 26, 2009 at 3:30 PM in the Airport Conference Room.

Audience:

None

Other:

None

Adjournment:

There being no further comments and/or items for discussion, it was motioned and seconded for adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:58 PM.

Respectively Submitted,
Samantha Blaschke
Airport Administrative Assistant