



Minutes Tempe Aviation Commission October 18, 2007

Minutes of the Tempe Aviation Commission meeting held on October 18, 2007, 6:30 p.m., at the Public Works Conference Room, Garden Level, City Hall Complex, 31 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Shannon S. Bradley
Bernard A. Eilers
William Justus
Troy McCraw
Ross Meyer
Richard Pagoria
Gloria Regensberg
Joseph Salvatore (Vice Chair)
David Swanson
Connie Thompson
Duane Washkowiak (Chair)
Edwin R. Wiggington

Sandeep Gopalan (Excused)

Guests Present:

Shana Ellis, Councilmember
George Sullivan, Aviation Consultant

Citizens Present:

Karyn Gitlis
Darlene Justus
Joanne Royal

City Staff Present:

Oddvar Tveit, Environmental Quality
Specialist, Water Utilities Department

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Meeting convened at 6:31 p.m.

Duane Washkowiak called the meeting to order, by asking for comments from the public.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

Joanne Royal, addressed the members about the difficulties she had finding information about sound assistance to abate the noise from aircraft. Darlene Justus talked about concerns among members of the North Tempe Neighborhood Association with regard to aircraft noise over north Tempe neighborhoods, and how it affects outdoor activities in Papago Park, the park at Curry Road and College Avenue, and the Desert Botanical Garden. The aircraft are fanning out, particularly arrival traffic, enlarging the area impacted by significant aircraft noise in north Tempe. She also addressed the need to designate areas eligible for noise abatement based on blocks of houses rather than drawing lines between neighbors in the same block, and update the airport's noise contours.

Duane and George explained about the use of noise contours and the recent presentation made to the Commission by the manager for the Community Noise Reduction Program on the status of the program and how the concerns raised by the Commission has been followed up

by the Phoenix Aviation Department preparing for a new noise compatibility study. Members suggested a phased sound assistance program where some sound assistance could start being offered outside the 65DNL. This would be instead of continuing a have-it-all or nothing program, realizing that anything offered outside the 65DNL would not be subject to federal funding.

Karyn Gitlis joined the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes (September 18, 2007)

Duane asked for comments to the minutes, and suggested they be kept to a shorter summary, capturing the issue that was discussed. Shannon pointed to a typographic error that needed to be corrected. By consensus the amended minutes were unanimously approved.

Agenda Item 3 – Updates From Staff

RFQ related to measuring aircraft noise and air quality.

Oddvar explained that the WUD Manager and the Acting City Manager had recommended in a status report to the Mayor and Council not to go forward to Council with a proposal received from Wyle Laboratories in cooperation with UC Davis at this time because of the considerable price tag. Staff had been asked to look into the potential of having a noise study done. He explained about what contributed to bringing the cost of the proposal to exceed \$360,000. Even though the air quality part was targeted to investigate air quality of a specific area west of Priest Road and Rio Salado Parkway, the use of high level expertise, advanced measuring equipment for sampling in the field is expensive. These elements were needed to produce reliable air quality data that would identify the different source contributions, including contributions from aircraft jet streams. This made the air quality part of the project proposal comprehensive and quite different from what the FAA did when they modeled future contributions to National Ambient Air Quality Standards, (limited to 7 air pollutants), for planned projects in the Sky Harbor EIS.

Commissioner Connie Thompson joined the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

TLC Training for New Members

Oddvar stated that he had been asked by the City of Tempe Learning Center to come up with potential days and afternoon hours when members could make it to a TLC new board and commissioner orientation class. Wednesdays after 3:00 p.m. was suggested.

Follow up:

Staff was requested to get back to the members with some alternative days for an afternoon TLC orientation class.

Agenda Item 4 – Update From the City of Phoenix Aviation Department

George stated that the Automated People Mover project included in the Sky Harbor EIS intends to move busses off the roads around the airport and reduce air pollution. Airports staff had been discussing a new Part 150 Noise Compatibility Study, and was still working on how to phase in all the projects included in the EIS. They also have to deal with proposed obstructions on a daily basis, high rises coming up on both sides of the airport. Within the next 4-5 months Phoenix is expected to be completely covered by new airport building height overlay zoning. These zoning amendments would to a very limited degree impact underlying zoning.

Agenda Item 5 – Attendance at Commission meetings

Oddvar stated that this topic was suggested for discussion, but due to input received by the City Attorney's Office the revised agenda included possible action for a rule change. According to the City code missing 3 consecutive meetings without being excused is considered to constitute automatic resignation, but amendments to the rules of procedure for the Commission made last year, made it necessary for the members of the Commission to post this as an action item on the agenda, and decide on a case by case basis if failed attendance should be considered as resignation. According to comments received by staff this could lead to unequal treatment of members' unexcused absence from Commission meetings. The members discussed the impacts of changing the rule back to the previous rule. Shannon moved to reinstate the previous rule, and Richard seconded the motion. Discussions pursued addressing the possibility of a more lenient rule, requiring a member to miss 6 of 12 meetings before automatic resignation takes effect. The reasons behind the existing rule was also discussed, vacancies on the Commission and situations where members are hospitalized and information to staff about the unexpected cause of a Commissioner's absence eventually gets to the Commission through a third person. The motion to reinstate the previous rule as stated in The Tempe City Code (T.C.C.) Sec. 2-220 (2) passed with one member voting against the motion.

Follow up: Staff was asked to communicate to Commissioners that miss 2 out of 3 consecutive meeting without being excused, about the consequences of not being excused for the upcoming meeting.

Agenda Item 7 – Commissioners' Business (topics for future discussion)

Duane brought up the letter of recommendation from the Commission of January 9, 2007, that included the 6 point recommendation from October 12, 2005, and stated the members needed help from Councilmember Ellis to move the recommendations forward. He asked for suggestions on discussing this further at the next meeting. Members stated that money was a Council issue, but a plan and budgets for what the City wants done appeared to be wanting.

Shana commented on how the Council Subcommittees address separate issues, and that aviation did not get assigned to a specific committee after the last committee reorganization when the Finance and Aviation Subcommittee was discontinued. She explained about the current committee reconstitution, the work plans being developed for the new Committee structure, including what used to be the Transportation and Affordable Housing Committee she has been heading. How to integrate environmental issues to the subcommittee structure is being worked on. Shana explained how aviation issues are addressed on the Council; that the Mayor oversees aviation, and she could serve as a liaison to get attention to the Commission's issues on the Council. She emphasized that to get recommendations acted on, the members needed to get through to the other members of the Council as well.

Connie suggested that the members at the next meeting discuss the possibility of having the Chair make a presentation of the 6 point recommendation to Council, if necessary through a new letter from the members asking for access to the Council to get a response on recommendations made, and have aviation issues be assigned to Council Sub-Committee with a budget earmarked for aviation issues. Darlene suggested that the members discuss focusing in on one point in the recommendation, to get the City to generate its own noise data, rather than asking for a response from Council on the whole list.

Joe suggested a discussion of a recommendation to the Mayors of Tempe and Phoenix to address noise mitigation funding, and explore ways to keep unused funds accessible to

residents inside the area for 65DNL contour line, taking into account that mitigation also gets paid for locally by contributions from the Phoenix budget.

Follow up: Staff was asked to get information about TAVCO in the water bill newsletter, and e-mail web link information about the Commission and the last noise report to Joanne Royal.

Agenda Item 8 – Schedule Next TAVCO Meeting

Next meeting was scheduled to November 13th, 2007 provided the Vice Chair could make it.

Agenda Item 9 – Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Prepared by: Oddvar Tveit

Reviewed by: Don Hawkes

Authorized Signature
Water Utilities Department Manager