



## **Minutes Tempe Aviation Commission March 10, 2009**

**Minutes of the Tempe Aviation Commission meeting held on March 10, 2009, 6:30 p.m., at the Public Works Conference Room, Garden Level, City Hall Complex, 31 E. Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona.**

**(MEMBERS) Present:**

Dick Collins  
Tara Ellman  
Karyn Gitlis  
Gary Goren  
William Justus  
Gloria Regensberg (Chair)  
Curtis Ritland  
Barbara Sherman  
Alyson Star  
David Swanson (Vice Chair)  
Connie Thompson  
Duane Washkowiak (On Phone)

**Citizens Present:**

Darlene Justus

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

Sally Clements (Excused)

**Guests Present:**

Ronald Price, Principal QED Airport  
and Aviation  
Consultants  
Henry Young, President of Young  
Environmental  
Sciences  
Bob Whitworth, Air Traffic Manager,  
PHX ATCT

**City Staff Present:**

Oddvar Tveit, Environmental Quality  
Specialist

**Meeting convened at 6:33 p.m.**

Gloria called the meeting to order.

**Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances**

Darlene expressed concerns over the frequency of flights and the noise sharing occurring because of planes fanning out over north Tempe. She suggested that both the Commission and the Council should consider a 4<sup>th</sup> runway as a real possibility, and that all support possible should be given to the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport to develop into an economic engine for the east valley and become the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> runway for Sky Harbor. Bob stated that stimulus money would be on its way to Sky Harbor, and mentioned the need for adding a cut-over taxiway (H5). The taxiway would help get landing aircraft off the south runway faster and avoid some of the go-around maneuvers that bring planes over Tempe.

### **Agenda Item 2 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes (February 10, 2009)**

With suggestions for edits from one of the members, the Commission unanimously approved the amended February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009 meeting minutes.

### **Agenda Item 3 – Updates From Staff**

#### *Noise & Air Quality Seminar:*

A summary of some topics from the Palm Springs seminar on environmental sustainability within the areas of air quality and noise in aviation was given by staff.

#### *PAUWG:*

At the February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting attendants were told that the FAA's processing of 7 new RNAV SID procedures for PHX had been put on hold because of concerns over Sky Harbor efficiency. Bob explained how swiftly aircraft could be cleared for take off under unique good weather conditions at Sky Harbor about 300 days a year using visual separation to keep aircraft apart over Tempe. With the drafted procedures sponsored by the two lead airlines, the ATCT would have had to increase the timing between each aircraft cleared for departure, which would have increased backup during morning rush hours.

### **Agenda Item 5 – Presentation of Noise Study Report**

Ron explained the task given to QED by Tempe to examine the airport noise monitoring system deployed on the Tempe side of the airport, and determine if the system was appropriately located and effectively serving its intended purpose considering changes that have occurred after the system was installed at the airport with regard to runways, airline fleets and flight paths. The airport is in a process of upgrading the system on both sides of the airport and this study comes at a time when Tempe could use the study recommendations to get into a dialogue with Phoenix over the best use of the money spent on upgrading the part of the system that was located in Tempe.

Henry went through the main findings in the study:

1. Using the Area Equivalent Method to create a base for comparison between 1999 and 2007, the total square miles covered by noise exposure contours had been significantly reduced. The 65 DNL has been reduced to about 1/3 of the total area projected in the 1999 65 DNL included in the Sky Harbor Part 150 NCP study.
2. Noise monitoring data included in the report confirmed a downward trend in noise levels and air traffic operations that took hold at the end of 2007 with the economic downturn.
3. Several monitoring sites in Tempe are too far out to record any significant volume of aircraft noise; some monitors need to be redeployed to neighborhoods closer in to the airport.
4. The threshold set for detection of aircraft sound at the monitors should be examined. It is not unlikely that some sound events were not, but should be associated with aircraft operations. Some of the sites should be examined in greater detail, and with additional readings collected at the sites if necessary to better understand the local noise picture.
5. The arguments for and against moving to a standard below 65DNL was discussed in the report.

A motion to schedule a separate subcommittee meeting of interested members, which task would be to propose changes to wordings that could make the Tempe history in the introduction of the QED report more accurate, passed by a unanimous vote.

**Agenda Item 4 – Letter on Stimulus Money**

By unanimous vote a motion passed to leave it up to the Chair to work with staff to get a letter out that would include proposed deletion of a sentence in the draft included in the meeting handouts.

**Agenda Item 6 – Luke AFB Lawsuit**

The members agreed to table the item to the next regular meeting.

**Agenda Item 7 – Council Committees of Interest**

The members agreed to table the item to the next regular meeting.

**Agenda Item 8 – Commissioners' Business (topics for future discussion)**

The following item were suggested for the April meeting:

- Investigate the possibility of the Commission convening in executive session after or prior to a regular meeting to discuss strategy.

The members agreed that the members at some future point in time needed to discuss a recommendation to broaden the scope and role of the Commission.

**Agenda Item 9 – Schedule Next TAVCO Meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled to April 14, 2009.

**Agenda Item 10 – Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Prepared by: Oddvar Tveit

Reviewed by: Don Hawkes

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Authorized Signature  
Water Utilities Department Manager