



Minutes Tempe Aviation Commission November 13, 2007

Minutes of the Tempe Aviation Commission meeting held on November 13, 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
Sandeep Gopalan (on conference call)
Gloria Regensberg
David Swanson
Connie Thompson

City Staff Present:

Oddvar Tveit, Environmental Quality
Specialist, Water Utilities Department

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Ross Meyer
Richard Pagoria (Excused)
Joseph Salvatore (Vice Chair)
(Excused)
Duane Washkowiak (Chair) (Excused)
Edwin R. Wiggington (Excused)

Guests Present:

George Sullivan, Aviation Consultant

Citizens Present:

Darlene Justus
Barbara Sherman
Alyson Star

Meeting convened at 6:33 p.m.

In Duane Washkowiak's absence Bernard Eilers called the meeting to order by asking for comments from the public.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

Barbara Sherman presented newspaper articles about a planned high rise in Tempe written by Michael Monti and article about the City Scape project in Phoenix and questions being asked by Phoenix about the FAA's determination that the project is presumed to be a threat to flight safety. She emphasized that this has been questioned for high rise projects in Tempe as well. As a contrast she pointed to the top flight safety issues on the National Transportation Safety Board most wanted list that was subject to a hearing by the House Transportation Committee. She stated that the FAA has been criticized for being slow to act on many of the NTSB's recommendations.

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

Bernie asked for comments to the minutes. Troy moved to approve the minutes. Shannon seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Connie joined the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Agenda Item 3 – Updates From Staff

RFQ related to measuring aircraft noise and air quality

Oddvar had nothing new to report on getting a consultant onboard to do a noise study after staff decided not to go forward at this time with a combined noise and air quality study. The question procurement staff has to determine is whether or not the City needs to do another RFQ, and therefore too early to say what tasks the City wants a study to include.

TLC Training for New Members

Oddvar stated that a couple of the members had participated in the City of Tempe Learning Center training class and that members that still were interested could sign up for the upcoming class on November 28, 2007. William asked to be signed up.

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

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

George talked about his position as a consultant for the airport coming to an end, and why the airport decided to update the airport height overlay zoning over the Phoenix downtown area. The study encompasses a larger 360° area around the airport, but only affects zoning subject to City of Phoenix jurisdiction. Currently hearings are taking place in city villages affected by the second phase of the building height zoning project. Almost all of the existing height zoning remains unaffected by the maximum heights proposed in the airport overlay zoning update. He also explained about the terminology used by the FAA for the City Scape project; the determination of a “presumed hazard”. He stated that these types of preliminary determinations by the FAA will continue to occur for future high rise projects in Phoenix even after the City passes the second phase of the airport height zoning in an ordinance update. The airport is confident that more in-depth studies will result in no-hazard determinations by the FAA for high rise projects inside downtown areas of Phoenix that comply with the updated height zoning. The FAA normally opens up a 60 day public hearing period if a project is presumed to be a hazard.

Agenda Item 5 – The American Lung Association

Corey Woods, Government Relations Director for the American Lung Association of Arizona did a presentation to the members and explained that the association is non-partisan, lobbying to encourage decision makers to enact policy changes that improve air quality. He mentioned efforts made to get the SB1552 passed by the legislature this spring.

He focused his presentation on the Association’s State of the Air 2007 report, which includes a grading system for counties with monitors, and is based on 2003 - 2005 air quality data. Maricopa County has the worst air quality in the state of Arizona, (grade F), and most vulnerable to bad air are children and older citizens that have not developed or compromised their immune systems. He mentioned the air quality index colors for grading health conditions in the state, showed colored maps for the Tucson and Phoenix metropolitan areas, and explained about the pollutants O₃, VOC and PM their sources and health effects. With regard to impacts from aircraft and jet fuel, he mentioned that to his knowledge the studies of impacts by the ADEQ are old and have not been updated in recent years.

He ended his presentation by emphasizing that air quality affects everybody and that the controversies are in the area of enforcement of air quality measures; violations of county rules. The association focuses on what individuals and industries can do to reduce the problem, rather than focusing on who to blame. He encouraged any efforts by Tempe citizens to lobby for studies of aircraft emissions in Tempe. On a question about monitors in proximity of Sky Harbor, Oddvar showed graphs of annual and 24 hour peak PM10 and PM2.5 concentrations in 2005, registered by monitors downstream the airport in west Phoenix, and how these concentrations compared with EPA standards for attainment, standards inside the EU, and health standards for PM10 and PM2.5 recommended by WHO.

Agenda Item 6 – Follow Up Actions on Recommendations made

- a) Oddvar explained that the members could ask the chair about making a public appearance at a regular Council meeting and have him contact the City Clerk's office to schedule such an appearance. Since the purpose only is to remind the Council members of previously made recommendations from the Commission, there should be no need for specific actions from staff to make this happen. The members agreed to discuss this item further at a future meeting with possible prioritization of what is most important to get action on among the 6 items the Commission had recommended.
- b) With regard to aviation being part of the work plan for a Council Committee Oddvar stated that the members could make a recommendation after reviewing the committee's revised work plans. The consensus among the members was to postpone further discussion of recommending aviation being assigned to a committee with a budget to a future meeting when the Chair could inform the members of conversations he might have had with Councilmember Shana Ellis on this issue.
- c) Oddvar explained about Joe's proposal and how the City of Phoenix Residential Sound Reduction Program has been implemented. It is essentially project based and dependent on a certain level of participation by residents inside eligible neighborhoods to make it viable from a technical and economic perspective. The FAA does not reimburse or release grants unless the project meets certain criteria, so the funding mechanism does not leave the airport with much access funding. It covers up to 80% of the airports sound attenuation costs. George confirmed that there is not a pot of money available. The airports need to have residents participate in the approved program to access federal grants, and cannot decide to include multi-family without first asking for approval of changes to the program. The airport administration has been discussing TAVCO's suggestion and the inclusion of multi-family housing next time they go to the FAA to get new approvals. The airport is also looking at upgrading the noise monitoring system. The members asked staff to reword the discussion item to include all types of funding that could be made available for home improvements and not limit potential funding sources to conditioned grants administered by the FAA.

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

Continue the discussion on the 3 items recommended for follow-up action and reword the item recommending the Mayors to address noise mitigation funding to include funding from all available sources, not only grants made accessible to the airport by the FAA.

Follow-up: Staff was asked to add to the next agenda any new item that Chair be aware of based on feedback he might have received from Councilmember Ellis, and have City code enforcement make a presentation of what permits a home owner needs to do home insulation upgrades.

Agenda Item 8 – Schedule Next TAVCO Meeting

Next meeting was scheduled to December 11th, 2007.

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