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# Minutes Tempe Aviation Commission April 11 2023

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**Minutes of the Tempe Aviation Commission meeting – was held via virtual Microsoft Teams meeting with call in +1 (480) 498-8745 United States, Phoenix (Toll) Conference ID: 243 160 897# and at the Tempe Public Library, on April 11, 2023 6:30 p.m.**

**(MEMBERS) Present:**

W. David Doiron  
Karen Apple  
Stuart Mitnik  
Aaron McBride  
John Lynch  
Peter Schelstraete  
Ed Kucharski  
Lane Waddell

**(MEMBERS) Absent:**

Desiree Walker

**Citizens Present:**

None

**City Staff Present:**

Brianne Fisher, Sustainability and Resilience Office, City of Tempe

**Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order**

The chair, Mr. Doiron, calls the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

**Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances**

The chair asks if there are any individuals online who are there to make a comment. Ms. Fisher informs him that there are none.

**Agenda Item 3 – Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Doiron asks if there are any objections/corrections to the minutes of the meeting on March 14. A commissioner makes a correction to the list of members absent.

Commissioner Schelstraete motions to approve the meeting minutes and Commissioner Mitnik seconds.

Unanimous approval.

**Agenda Item 4 – Aircraft Noise Mitigation Reports**

Brianne Fisher, TAVCO Liaison shares that there is a meeting scheduled with consultants and the attorney’s office for early May to discuss the possibility of a lawsuit from the City of Phoenix over the retrieval of data that was not available via public view access. A scope of work will be developed.

Chair asks if any commissioners would like to provide their input and no one volunteers.

**Agenda Item 5 – Rio Salado Development**

Chair explains that this item is something that has been discussed during previous meetings. A commissioner inquires after the reason Rio Salado decided not to meet with TAVCO. The chair details the history of their relationship, sharing that a letter was sent to City Council four years ago that had to be heavily altered by the legal department. The commission members at that time decided not to move forward with pursuing the south runway extension. The same commissioner adds that the current commission sent a second letter to the city council at the beginning of this year, but that there has been no reply. Brianne Fisher shares that mayor and council have not requested TAVCO’s input on this issue; she then details the different steps that TAVCO can take in order to provide their input, including working with City Staff and inviting council members to their meeting. The chair proposes working on drafting another letter to send to the mayor and council during the summer that details a possible negotiation with the City of Phoenix.

The chair asks the commissioners who are joining the meeting virtually if they would like to provide any comments. There are no replies.

**Agenda Item 6 – Tempe Aviation Commission**

Chair introduces a discussion surrounding the purpose of the Tempe Aviation Commission. Commissioner Mitnik shares that he spoke with the mayor at a recent event and that during this conversation, he shared his frustrations over TAVCO’s lack of work with the mayor. Commissioner Mitnik expresses that he feels TAVCO has no real impact on city operations. Commissioner Kucharski inquires after the nature of the mayor’s comment recommending a reassessment of TAVCO. Commissioner Mitnik explains that the mayor was recommending an effort to make TAVCO be in more alignment with the goals and objectives of the commissioners. Mitnik also shares that he’d be curious as to what the city would define TAVCO’s goals as. Commissioner Lynch points out that TAVCO does have defined duties outside of the conversations going on with the City of Phoenix and the Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport. Commissioner Apple adds that the commission also serves to be a sounding board for noise complaints from Tempe residents. She also shares her belief that there should be more space within city operations for TAVCO’s input. Commissioner McBride adds his opinion that it is also TAVCO’s responsibility to be proactive and put together recommendations; the failure to build a solid relationship between TAVCO and the mayor and council does not only fall on the mayor

and council. Commissioner Kucharski expresses his wish for the community's knowledge of TAVCO's existence.

The chair establishes that an item on the next meeting's agenda will involve discussing a flyer publicizing TAVCO and its status in the editing process.

The chair shares that he believes two purposes TAVCO still fulfills are educating the public and preventing the establishment of very strict noise restrictions on sky harbor. Brianne Fisher also adds that the work being done with Williams Aviation Consultancy will provide an opportunity for TAVCO to serve as advisors. Commissioner Mitnik asks Brianne Fisher speaking to mayor and council about TAVCO's purpose is a feasible option. Ms. Fisher replies that there other boards and commissions who feel similarly to TAVCO about lacking a purpose. She also shares that it would be possible to have the mayor and council attend TAVCO's next meeting. It is concluded by multiple commissioners that nothing productive would come of that meeting, as some of the questions that TAVCO would like to be asked would not be well received. The written purpose of the commission is then reviewed again. Commissioner Mitnik reads of the listed responsibilities of TAVCO.

#### **Agenda Item 7 – Commissioners' Business**

Commissioner Mitnik expresses a desire to wait until after the vote over the building of a hockey stadium in Tempe to hold TAVCO's next meeting.

This would mean skipping May's meeting. The chair asks the online commissioners if they have any opinions on this matter. Commissioner Apple agrees, as there is no new business to discuss.

#### **Agenda Item 8 – Schedule Next TAVCO Meeting**

The commissioners all agree that there should be no TAVCO meeting in the month of May.

Commissioner Kucharski motions to skip May's meeting. Commissioner McBride seconds.

Unanimous approval. The next TAVCO meeting will be held on June 13th.

Commissioner Mitnik inquires after the necessary number of meetings a year for boards and commissions. Brianne Fisher informs him that it is four.

#### **Agenda Item 9 - Adjournment**

Commissioner Schelstraete motions to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Kucharski seconds. Unanimous approval.

The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Prepared by: Shalae Clemens