

# MEETING MINUTES

## TAVCO

### September 19, 2023

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 June 13, 2023 6:30 p.m.

#### **(MEMBERS) Present:**

W. David Doiron  
Stuart Mitnik  
Ed Kucharski  
Lane Waddell  
Peter Schelstraete  
Karen Apple

#### **(MEMBERS) Absent:**

Desiree Walker  
Aaron McBride  
John Lynch

#### **Citizens Present:**

Darlene Justice  
Shannon (Last Name)

#### **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 6:30 p.m.

#### **Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances**

The chair recognizes Darlene Justice for her public comment.

Darlene Justice, President of the North Tempe Neighborhood Association, and resident since 1965 states that she is very aware of noise issues and TAVCO related issues. She is here tonight because she wants a record of her neighborhoods safety concerns as it relates to the September “near misses.” On September 5th the AZ Republic reported on two near misses outlining under staffing of air traffic controllers, over worked controllers and large number of planes coming in and out on tight schedules as the main causes for the near misses. Disturbing details is outlined in AZ Republic article. North Tempe Neighborhood Association will be sending letter outlining concerns to FAA, Sky Harbor, City of Tempe, Senator Sinema and Kelly and Representative Stanton. Phoenix Sky Harbor is owned solely by Phoenix and therefore not a true regional airport. Tempe has not had seat at table, however the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) that exists to keep eastern departures over the river bottom is good but unfortunately there is no agreement regarding approaches. Here tonight asking for your support. We are sending out our letter and we are asking TAVCO to review issue and formally send an

accompanying letter. TAVCO's role is to relay any safety issues to Council and their job is to listen and react. Thank you for your time.

Chair mentions that TAVCO will have this on the agenda for next month meeting to be able to discuss in further detail.

Fisher states that Commissioner's can ask clarifying questions but cannot discuss the item since it is not agenzized.

Member Kucharski asks D. Justice what her ideal outcome is?

D. Justice responds that the FAA has mentioned that they are trying to get more air traffic controllers hired and trained. There are so many in training but 1400 are about to retire. We cannot have controllers working overtime. D. Justice provides the article and states its shocking. This is not the only close calls they are having. If Phoenix wants to bring all these planes in, and don't have traffic controllers who are trained and ready, we are destined to have a problem. The federal government needs to hear from all of us. They fly over our neighborhoods, so it is our problem. We have correspondence with FAA in the past. We need to do it again; we need to put pressure on them.

Shannon (Last Name) provides her public comment: I have lived in Tempe my whole life, and past TAVCO Chairperson. Would like to see City of Tempe be supportive of the concern to reduce the training of commercial pilots to using simulators versus real life situational training. If there are more near misses, similar to what Darlene Justice's concern is, we need pilots to have adequate training. If trainees are only going to learn these skills through a simulator than they will not be prepared for emergency situations. This issue couples the near miss issues and we are asking TAVCO to look into it and write to City Council expressing their concern so that City Council can advocate to Phoenix Sky Harbor and FAA. The FAA is getting ready to make that decision on training right now.

Fisher asks what their timeframe is on sending a letter to Mayor and Council. D. Justice responds that she would like to get the letter out by the end of next week.

Chair asks that D. Justice send her letter to Fisher so that TAVCO members can review the copy.

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

Mr. Doiron asks if there are any objections/corrections to the minutes of the September Meeting? Member Waddell motioned to approve the meeting minutes, Mitnik seconded. Unanimous approval.

### **Agenda Item 4 – Aviation History Month Event, Saturday November 18**

Mr. Doiron shares that he is collecting photos for the event. They will have discussion to go with it. Chair Doiron asks Mitnik if he has any updates. Mitnik states that he sent the Chair and Fisher PowerPoint slides and that formatting will be taken care of. He stated that Chair responded to the email that it looked good. Mitnik states that these would turn into posters and will be available for any questions of the information presented.

Fisher explains the photos in the package were provided by the Museum and will be on display for the event as well. Fisher asks that TAVCO members bring all the material they have for that event to the October meeting to get reviewed and finalized by all members.

Mitnik asks about a run through and roles for members. Chair responds and says we will need TAVCO members to be there early to welcome and be able to ask questions.

Lastly, Fisher states that she is working with Public Information Office about advertising for the event and making sure there is public advertising about it.

#### **Agenda Item 5 – Tempe City Council Correspondence**

Chair states that Member McBride was asked to draft a letter and asks if anyone has seen the letter.

Fisher states that she has not, however in looking back in the minutes and there might need to be clarification or more direction. Fisher states that the letter idea came out of a discussion TAVCO had in regard to the proposed stadium and the vote going out to residents. It was discussed that if voters approved, TAVCO was to draft a letter outlining their concerns and recommendations on moving forward. However, since the vote did not go forward, is there a need for the letter?

Chair states that the letter to Council should include, what they think TAVCO's job is, and what we think our job is.

Fisher states she is still working to get Mayor or Councilmember at next meeting.

#### **Agenda Item 6 – Commissioners' Business**

Chair states to keep several of these things on the agenda and include the topics from our public comments. Chair also states that he wants to put on notice the members of TAVCO that there will need to be a nomination for the next Chair of TAVCO because he is termed off.

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

The next TAVCO meeting will be on Tuesday, October 10.

#### **Agenda Item 10 – Adjournment.**

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

The meeting is adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Prepared by: Brianne Fisher