

Minutes

Tempe Aviation Commission

February 8, 2022

Minutes of the Tempe Aviation Commission meeting - virtual Microsoft Teams meeting with call in +1 (480) 498-8745 United States, Phoenix (Toll) Conference ID: 243 160 897# held on February 8, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

(MEMBERS) Present:

W. David Doiron
Stuart Mitnik
Ellen Poole
Peter Schelstraete
Karen J. Apple
Ed Kucharski
Desiree Walker
John Lynch
Aaron McBride

(MEMBERS) Absent:

None

Citizens Present:

None

City Staff Present:

Braden Kay, Sustainability Office, City of Tempe
Brienne Fisher, Sustainability Office, City of Tempe

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Mr. Doiron called the meeting to order at 6:30p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

Mr. Doiron asks if there are any members in the audience that has been able to make Microsoft Teams work. Ms. Fisher confirms no members of the public in attendance.

Agenda Item 3 – Consideration of Meeting Minutes (February 8, 2022)

Mr. Doiron asked if anyone had considerations of minutes such as discrepancies or corrections. Desiree Walker comments that she was impressed by the detail of the minutes.

Motion: Mr. Mitnik moved to approve minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Walker.

Action: The motion to approve was passed by a unanimous vote. Ayes: Doiron, Mitnik, Poole, Schelstraete, Apple, Kucharski, Walker, Lynch, McBride. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

Absent: None.

Agenda Item 4 – Website and Information Page:

Chair Doiron comments that he remembers that Dr. Lynch has the latest revision of the draft submission for Tempe Today. Dr. Lynch confirms that he provided the draft back to Chair Doiron. Chair Doiron says he must have the draft on a different computer that he will work to receive.

Chair Doiron asks if there is any additional comments on this item?

Ms. Walker asks if the majority of the presentation will be next month. Mr. Mitnik makes the comment that everything on the memo looks like a “pull” meaning someone would have to pull it. He makes the suggestion to push to residents so they don’t have to search and find out about TAVCO but to put information in front of them about it.

Fisher provides some background on the memo:

- Went back to look at suggestions from October 2021 meeting minutes
- Ideas from the minutes centered around updates to the website and proactive communication to residents
- Fisher had meetings with communications and website staff and laid out a plan
- Fisher showed a change to the website that was already made based off their suggestions
- Fisher continues to continue to make improvements to TAVCO website
- Media plan was discussed on how TAVCO can use communication strategies the City of Tempe has including:
 - Tempe Today
 - Social media
 - Aviation History Month in November
 - Opportunities for public input
- Developing a more thorough yearly plan and improvements on the website

Mr. Mitnik shares that he shared a piece with the editor of the Tempe/Awatkee AZ Republic insert if interested in article on TAVCO and heard nothing back. Chair says that is not surprising usually the media has to come up with the idea on what to report on.

Chair mentions he thinks the changes made to the website look great so far and asks if anyone has anything else to comment on.

Agenda Item 5 – Rio Salado Upcoming Development presentation

Mr. Doiron asked the commissioners if they had any questions about the agenda item. Mr. Mitnik states that he feels there is some indication that the Council is not going to move forward with the project. Mr. Doiron comments that it is all speculation. Ms. Walker says this item has been upcoming for a while, asks if there is any more information on a concrete date.

Mr. Doiron states that its in the lap of the City and if they make a vote on it there will be more discussion on it. Dr. Lynch says the best to my knowledge there is a vote on Thursday or may defer until new Councilmembers are elected.

Chair Doiron asks when the election is. Ms. Walker answers the 8th of March.

Chair Doiron concludes the agenda item.

Agenda Item 6 – Commissioners' Business

Mr. Doiron asked the commission to suggest agenda items to future meetings. Ms. Karen Apple asks for a presentation on Tempe's Planning division about any new development along the banks of the lake. She continues to say she would be interested in this since that is the corridor for fly in and departure and have to fly the 4DME. Chair Doiron says he does not remember having one recently.

Fisher says there is a recent development called Pier 202 on the Southeast side of the lake, believe its going to be before Council on Thursday. Fisher says she can ask staff from planning to present on the development. Ms. Walker says there was a great article about the development, there is some information out there. She agrees it would be good to hear from the planning department. Ms. Walker continues by saying the reality is people will move in there knowing perfectly well that there are flight paths over them, they will begin to complain. Dr. Lynch says that if you do a quick google search for Pier 202 one of the first links is a presentation about the development.

Mr. Mitnik says about 6 months ago the commission says can we deal with inbound noise over Tempe. He reminds Chair Doiron that he was going to make a presentation about how that process works. Chair says he is still intending to do that but the presentation is more complicated then this format is able to handle, would like to do it in person. Mr. Mitnik asks those members who are north Tempe residents if this is still a problem? Chair confirms it is. Ms. Walker states she does live in north Tempe and it seems like less of a problem but that it is subjective. Chair says it might seem like less of a problem because traffic density has dropped off in the last week or so.

Chair asks if anyone has anything else.

Ms. Apple says she saw an article in the paper that Sky Harbor was getting their Condor service to Germany back. Not sure if it is a noise concern but just an FYI. Chair confirms that this service has come and gone again and again, he states that these planes are newer and it's the older planes that cause a lot of the noise.

Ms. Walker states another topic that has been talked about in this Commission is moving the Air Guard Base. She states that she can always tell which planes those are! She asks if there is any development on that. She states nothing has probably happened with that with the pandemic but would like some way to get regular updates on some of these things that the

commission talks about. She says it would be great to get more information but that each of these items might not be worthy of its own presentation. Chair Doiron says that he went to a Tempe Chamber of Commerce meeting where an Airguard was present and mentioned a couple of things that have evolved that most people do not know about. He continues by saying the federal government helps support the Guard Base and that money goes to Sky Harbor. This financial assistance is a very important ingredient to Sky Harbor's well-being. There is discussion about moving it do what use to be Williams Air Force base, which certainly has enough ramp space but none of the other facilities and equipment. He states that he cannot see that happening anytime soon.

Chair Doiron closes this agenda item.

Agenda Item 7 – Schedule Next TAVCO Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for March 8, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. Chair asks if there is any confirmation about in person meetings. Fisher responds by stating she has not heard any confirmation on allowing for in person, but will ask the Clerk's office.

Ms. Walker makes a comment and says she appreciated the email reminder prior to the meeting from staff with all the meeting materials. Fisher said she is happy to continue to do that.

Fisher points to the Rio Salado Request for Proposal (RFP) webpage that provides the most publicly available information on this item.

Agenda Item 8 – Adjournment

Motion: Mr. McBride moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Lynch.

Action: The motion to adjourn the meeting passed by a unanimous vote. Ayes: Doiron, Mitnik, Poole, Schelstraete, Apple, Kucharski, Walker, Lynch, McBride. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: None.

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Prepared by: Brianne Fisher