

AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
City of Las Cruces, New Mexico
January 21, 2016

Members Present: Robert Wood, Chairman; Joe Dearing; Tom Laney; Gay Lenzo and Doug Newton.

Members Absent: Jerry Leyendecker; Dennis Zaklan and City Council Liaison Ceil Levatino.

Others Present: Lisa Murphy, Airport Manager; David Maestas, Transportation Director; Lori Romero, Airport Administrative Assistant; Marty Ditmore, EAA/hangar tenant; Michael Edwards, airport tenant; Nathan Wilcox, Lynco Flight Services and Dan Privette, guest.

CALL TO ORDER:

Airport Board Chairman, Robert Wood, called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. in the conference room located at 8960 Zia Blvd; and a quorum was noted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. **October 15, 2015:** Chairman Wood stated that first they have the approval of the minutes, that they had a few meetings where they did not have a quorum, so they were not able to go over the meeting minutes and approve them. He asked if everyone had a chance to review the minutes and if so, if there was a motion to approve the minutes. Board Member Dearing motioned to approve the minutes; seconded by Board Member Lenzo. Motion passed, minutes accepted.
- b. **December 17, 2015:** Chairman Wood asked if each board member had an opportunity to review the minutes from the meeting on December 17, 2015, so they could approve. Board Member Lenzo motioned to approve the minutes; seconded by Board Member Newton. Motion passed, minutes accepted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Airport Manager's Report:

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Mrs. Murphy read the following report:

Airport Manager's Report
January 21, 2016

PAPI Installation: The pre-construction meeting will be held during the first week of February. Work is expected to take approximately 30 days.

Navy Training Detachment: I have confirmed that the Navy has gone to Laughlin, Nevada for their winter training detachment. This is very disappointing.

Hoverboard: ARCA Space made international news with the "ArcaBoard" hovering platform that they have developed. It really hovers above the ground. We are fortunate to have ARCA here as a tenant!

Good Samaritan Field Trip: Several residents of the Good Samaritan home came to LRU to have a bus tour of the airport. Many of them have backgrounds in aviation, so we had a nice discussion during the tour.

Airport Plan Update: Delta will not be here for today's meeting, so I will present the Action Plan progress report. However, Rusty Chapman and Brian Elliott will be in attendance at the Board's February 18th meeting to give a more in-depth report.

Boring but Important: Airport staff are working on some compliance matters, including the update of our Storm Water Pollution Plan, our Ground Water Discharge permit reporting, our Fuel Farm Operation and Management Plan, and closing out the final discrepancy noted at our last FAA inspection.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a. Status of Airport Master Plan:

Chairman Wood stated that they had received a copy of an update to the Airport Master Plan made by Delta regarding what the status is, where they are in different phases of the development of the Airport Master Plan. So it is a list of airport boundary survey, wildlife hazard management plan, obstruction analysis, ecological survey, business plan and minimum standards and rules and regulations. As of January, this is about where they are in the process. Chairman Wood stated that he would like to open this up to the Board for any discussion they would like to have on this.

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Board Member Dearing asked if this business plan was just received. Ms. Murphy replied, no, that what they have are two chapters from the business plan which is a component of the Action Plan which she received yesterday and has handed out copies to everybody. Chairman Wood asked if she had forwarded copies to the other Board members who were not in attendance. Ms. Murphy replied, yes. Chairman Wood had a question on the vision plan, they have a 15 month contract which was entered into on November 2014; that means it expires this month. Is there something going on to renew this contract, extend the contract, what is the City's stand on this, at this point. Mr. Maestas replied, what they will have to do is sit down, take a look at the number of days where we have asked them to hold off because we were trying to figure out what we wanted to get from them and what we wanted the approach to be and then with that we will extend the time on the contract; he has recently begun looking through that. Chairman Wood asked Mr. Maestas if he could keep them abreast of the on goings of that, so that they have an idea of the timeframe, once again, that they are working with them. Mr. Maestas replied, yes sir. Ms. Murphy stated to the Board that Delta really, really wants feedback on these chapter, draft airport vision and airport mission statements and strategic goals; they really want comments on those items before the next Board meeting. Chairman Wood stated that what Lisa needs is feedback from the Board in regards to what is in this. He asked that if everyone could just send him theirs, like they did before, just send it to him and he will forward it on to Lisa and David; so let us get this done posthaste. He will forward this on to the Board members that were not here today, that they need to review this and get their feedback. Discussion was held.

Board Member Dearing stated that he had some comments on the projections on the plans. He said that he went through and looked at the working paper and tried to put it with the comments they had made on the previous documents that they had. He thinks he made more or less seven comments, some of the changes were made and some were not. Some of the maps and figures were moved from the first part of the paper to the back. He asked if they had consulted them on any of this. Ms. Murphy replied, she knew they had looked at the comments that everyone sent and came up with a revised version. Board Member Dearing said on the projections which he thinks is the basis of this, he really does not have any knowledge of the aircraft enplanements and all that. He read the based aircraft comments on page 165, it is a different page now. He stated that the point he is making is that he had asked them whether or not they should discuss this. If they are trying to get new hangar locations and new infrastructure to serve those, the projections for based aircraft should maybe go up, at least three per year, like they have been going for the last 14 years; this is his thinking and he brought this up in his comments and they did not say anything. He does not know if anyone looked at this or not. If we are trying to get grants for infrastructure development and if we have a plan that says we are not going to have any more airplanes, they are going to say, why that is in there; that is what he is driving at and asked if he was making a point to anyone here. Ms. Murphy replied,

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yes. Chairman Wood replied, yes, you are making a valid point. Board Member Newton replied, very valid.

Board Member Newton stated that he thinks they are down on airplanes on the airport. He has seen a lot leave and he has seen very few come in. He thinks they ought to do a very good assessment to see what they have. He knows they have vacant hangars right now that need to be used. There are several airplanes that are for sale right now. Board Member Dearing stated that maybe his comment is not a valid comment. Mr. Maestas replied, he has taken down his comment and he will get it to Cheryl so that when Rusty is here next month, they can actually address it as part of their update of the plan and let them know why they used the methodology that they did in their projections and that way they can have an open discussion.

Chairman Wood stated that part of what they have been looking at is general aviation and it is not going to be increasing no matter what happens here. They are trying to make the airport attractive for other types of avenues. They do need to increase infrastructure so it is available, so they do need to have real numbers. He asked if the City has hired a new Economic Development Coordinator. Mr. Maestas replied, yes sir, Ms. Mayra De La Canal and she started either this Tuesday or last week. Chairman Wood asked that Mr. Maestas extend an invitation to her. Mr. Maestas replied, that once she gets settled in, he will reach out, make contact and provide her an invitation to this meeting.

Mr. Dan Privette stated that he is a friend of the airport and he was involved with a FBO here on the field. He thinks that the airport itself needs its own promoter. When he was involved with this FBO, it was to his benefit to bring aircraft into the field and sell more fuel; people like to be sold, just like when he dealt with the Navy. We are situated right in the middle of a tremendous east – west victory airway; a large amount of aircraft going east to west are flying right over us. I-10 is right out here; truck traffic, everything going east to west is going in front of us. We need this improvement to bring in more aircraft. There are a lot of aircraft that will stop for a pit stop because fuel may be cheaper here. His point is, as a private person, he was definitely involved in making more aircraft come to this field and that benefits all of us. He truly believes that the airport itself needs its own promoter. Lisa is overwhelmed with regulations and grants and all of that, but we need somebody that is very specifically oriented on promoting the airport and seeking out individual businesses that want to come to the airport or seeking out the Navy. The Navy wants to be sold, they want people calling them up and saying, hey, we really like having you here, that kind of thing. Chairman Wood replied, he thinks it is a very valid point. Lisa is overwhelmed and the City is not a business, so they do not understand, he does not think, the principles of marketing. Mr. Davin Lopez from MVEDA spoke at the last meeting about how we market this. He is out there marketing the whole City but he is also talking about the airport. Board Member Newton said there is a big opportunity with the Spaceport, if they had good transportation up there. He still thinks getting an

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airway through White Sands would be a benefit. We need to capitalize on the location of the airport; the City needs to bring attention to the airport.

Board Member Dearing stated that at the last meeting Mr. Davin Lopez said that the Acting Economic Development person with the City was working on a promotional brochure for the airport; he was wondering if anything had come of that. Ms. Murphy replied, the Acting Economic Development Coordinator set up a meeting to discuss the nice marketing materials they were putting together and he canceled the meeting and she has not heard back from him. Board Member Dearing stated that he thinks that is something that would be really good, that they would have, the businesses would have and the City would have. Another thing on promotions, when the Chamber has a new Director, it would be good to invite that person to the Board meetings so they can have information on the airport and the brochure would really be handy for that.

Mr. Maestas asked if he could offer his suggestions. He stated that the marketing is great comment and that is the reason why they have this piece of paper from Delta, the action plan, the vision and mission statement. They asked for comments back from the Board and anybody else that wants to provide them. Also on the strategic goals, if they take a look at page three of ten, the first one they have, secure high quality aviation services, the first line of that is, expand the customer base through targeted marketing. So obviously Delta agrees based on their recommendation and he agrees and he thinks the group here agrees. So as they are going through here, make sure to look for those key words because once we get it in the strategic goals, then it allows them the opportunity, as the City, to be able to back to Council and say, okay, this is a goal that we adopted, we need to do something about it, even if it means using the Economic Development Office to help assist us with the private community, in conjunction and get those marketing projects or programs out here. So please take a look through here and continue to add your comments. Chairman Wood stated to Mr. Maestas that he really appreciated him describing it in that manner and how the process works. He also mentioned to Mr. Privette that his comments went into the notes and City Council will get them because from an outside person, who is not on the Board, this is extremely valuable what he is saying. Mr. Privette replied, that he appreciates that and nobody knows we are out here; somebody needs to just be promoting the airport; we need specific focus right here.

Mr. Edwards made a comment about marketing. He stated that he flies cross country and the places he stops at are the ones that tell him they are there. He is very specifically reinforcing what Mr. Privette said. Chairman Wood asked him how they are telling him they are there. Mr. Edwards replied, once example is airnav.com, it is a website that a lot of people use for gas prices but they also have specific ads; ads do catch his eye. Mr. Ditmore stated that this was a fuel stop when they had the restaurant. They use to see executive jets come in here all the time; they could get fuel and get a bite to eat. They did not have to mess with all the homeland security

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they had at El Paso. Board Member Newton replied, the overhead of the restaurant was too expensive to run the restaurant on the airport. Discussion was held.

Board Member Newton stated that corporate aviation is on the climb; that is what they need to get and that is connected with the Spaceport; that is what they need to bring in, that corporate business; that is the one growth area that is happening. Chairman Wood stated that he has already requested that the FBOs and the airport staff collect the corporate jet aircraft tail numbers that come in here, find out who they are, so our City Council Liaison can walk into Council and say, this is what happens at our airport; so we are moving in that direction but we have to show them what is going on here physically, in a written form in a quarterly type situation. So we can show the amount of corporate aircraft that are coming in here. Mr. Wilcox stated that the City needs to have a facility before they start marketing. Discussion was held.

Board Member Dearing stated that he had a couple of comments on second page of the letter on the business plan, number six. Are they ever going to see those rates that are on the business plan? Chairman Wood replied, we are supposed to see the new rates and charges and that is something to ask them at the next meeting; we want that stuff. Board Member Dearing replied, okay, and the other question is on the cost of the installation of the PAPIs. He asked Ms. Murphy what the additional cost of about \$70,000 is in addition to the bid. Ms. Murphy replied, there is a FAA flight check that they need to pay for and she also thinks that they rolled in some of the design costs into that.

Chairman Wood stated that he appreciates everyone's input because once again, they are an advisory board; they need their input because they are trying to market this airport for the City and that has been their objective ever since he has been on this Board.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Mr. Edwards stated that he had to leave last time in the middle of the presentation by the Fire Dept. regarding hangar inspections. He wanted to know if there was any actionable outcome from that discussion, is anything going to change, is anything going to happen as a result of that discussion. He asked if Ms. Murphy going to do anything different. As a hangar renter, is he going to have to do anything different this year or do we not know yet. Board Member Newton stated that he had not heard anything from them. Chairman Wood asked Ms. Murphy if that has gone anywhere, has anything transpired. Ms. Murphy replied, no, we all support it but nothing yet, they would actually have to buy the equipment. Chairman Wood said, so nothing yet; so nothing is changing right away. Ms. Murphy replied, no.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS:

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Board Member Newton stated that he sent all the Board members information on MOGAS and the incentive on MOGAS. The other group with the flight club here, they have a truck here and they are ready to go. Are they going to be able to use that truck because they are going to use it jointly? What is the next step that needs to be done? Does it need to be inspected by the Fire Dept.? Ms. Murphy replied, that they had sent her a picture of the truck and it had no stickers or fire extinguishers. Chairman Wood asked Ms. Murphy if there was a standard operating or a path they need to take on this to get approval to use this truck on the airport. Ms. Murphy replied, they just need to comply with all the fire codes and they will not have to conduct any fueling activities in the hangars and pull the truck out at least 50 feet. She already told them they could bring it on the airport. Chairman Wood asked who they would have to go to, to get all the inspections done before they can actually use it. Ms. Murphy replied, Fire Dept. Board Member Newton stated that he spoke to Bob Worthington today and this is brand new, he is connected with the US Pilots Association. He asked him if he would be available for a fly in for the USPA, he thinks for the first week of October. He told him he would need to bring that up with the airport also. Ms. Murphy replied, yes have him call me.

Board Member Dearing said that concerning flying over White Sands Missile Range. Two or three days around the Christmas holiday, maybe New Year's, you would see jet trails from commercial aircraft coming across there and one or two days lately; so they are allowing air traffic. Board Member Newton replied, absolutely above 27,000 feet. Chairman Wood asked, how much is the air space open above that? Board Member Newton replied, that as far as he knows, it is up to 60,000, that is the top of the Class A. It is high altitude and he thinks it is only open periodically. Board Member Laney stated that speaking with the General before Coffin, they said you will never get an airway through there because of the unexploded ordinance that has littered the base.

Chairman Wood stated that he talked to the Spaceport Authority up in Santa Fe, the other day about the Drone Symposium they were supposed to have in March, which has been canceled. So what is happening in the Drone field, which they have explained to him, is the FAA came up with their regulations in December, however what took place is the American Model Builders Association is suing the FAA and this had brought the whole commercial aspect of Drones to a standstill; there is no more Drone racing going on in the United States which used to be sanctioned by the FAA, So the Spaceport is very apprehensive to do anything that might go against FAA, so they have put it off until possibly the Fall, so that is where that stands. Board Member Newton stated that the FAA really came up short on that Drone situation. He has been contacted by UTEP and NMSU graduate schools wanting to train graduate students that wanted to use Drones in projects they were doing. To operate a Drone commercially, you have to have a pilot's license that is just a stop gap that the FAA threw in there. The FAA threw that in there, he thinks, because they want them to get the regulations and so forth. Board Member Lenzo stated that there are schools

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popping up to be internal and external pilots which are really good and then those kids go out and get with a business who gets the approval and the okay from the FAA after they are trained to fly their UAV and they have to have a second class medical. Discussion was held.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Wood asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Board Member motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Board Member Lenzo. Motion passed, meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m.



Robert Wood, Chairman



Lori Romero, Recording Secretary