

M I N U T E S
AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMISSION
March 8, 2022

The Airport Advisory Commission of the City of Farmington met on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 4:30 p.m., in the Executive Conference Room at 800 Municipal Drive, Farmington, NM.

Members Present:

Mark Gordon
 Zachary Kermitz, Alternate
 Michael Mead
 Richard Roderick, Chairman
 Jonathan Rudolf

Members Absent:

Wayne Mangum, Pro Tem

Staff Present:

Julie Baird, Assistant City Manager
 Mike Lewis, Airport Manager

Others Present:**Call to Order**

The Airport Advisory Commission (AAC) regular meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chairman Richard Roderick, there being a quorum present, the following proceedings were duly had and taken.

Approval of the March 8, 2022 Agenda

Chairman Richard Roderick asked for a motion to approve the agenda for March 8, 2022. A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Rudolf and seconded by Commissioner Mark Gordon to approve the agenda for March 8, 2022 and passed by a vote of 5-0.

Approval of the Minutes from the February 8, 2022 Regular Meeting of the AAC

Chairman Richard Roderick asked for a motion to approve the minutes from February 8, 2022. A motion was made by Commissioner Mark Gordon, and seconded by Commissioner Jonathan Rudolf to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2022 regular meeting of the AAC, and passed by a vote of 5-0.

Operations Report

Airport Manager Mike Lewis presented the statistics as they appear in the agenda and presented some comparisons to past years. There was a short discussion regarding air traffic sources.

It was noted fuel prices will probably rise soon due to the current economic environment. A short discussion followed regarding comparative aviation fuel prices in the area.

Chairman Richard Roderick mentioned the Airnav website had not yet been updated with information or a logo for airport restaurant No Worries. Chairman Roderick noted he felt advertising the restaurant would help to generate more air traffic. There was a short discussion regarding fees to advertise on the Airnav website. Administrative Aide Jody Carman mentioned she had logos and a menu to forward on to Atlantic General Manager Felicia Bekis to pass on to Atlantic Corporate Office marketing team, and she would do so.

Additional Operations Information

Airport Manager Mike Lewis reported on additional operational items not listed in the agenda.

- 1) The process is in motion to put out the construction bid for the 8.5 million dollar (\$8,500,000.00) second half of the Runway 5-23 runway and Taxiway B & G relocation for reference code upgrade to CII. The FAA is hoping to get funding expedited soon in order to get the work started sooner rather than later.
- 2) Runway 5-23 VASIs have been removed, and the new PAPIs have been installed. We are coordinating efforts to accomplish an FAA flight test to certify the new system.
- 3) Manager Mike Lewis told the commission he would be participating in a zoom call, Wednesday March 9th at 10:30 a.m., to get the details regarding the two hundred and ninety-five thousand dollar (\$295,000.00) Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill passed last fall. Once details are provided, the airport manager and commissioners can get together and make a plan for using that money.
- 4) The New Mexico Legislature unanimously passed House Bill 171, which is an amendment to the original Rural Air Service Enhancement Act. The original bill provided subsidies to communities trying to establish 9 passenger air service, with a subsidy of up to 1.25 million dollars (\$1,250,000.00). This amendment increases the aircraft size to 30 passengers, and the subsidy amount to 2.25 million dollars (\$2,250,000.00). Airport Manager Mike Lewis is working with the New Mexico Department of Transportation, Aviation Division to secure the particulars in order to submit an application. The funding will not be available until July 1, 2022.

Chairman Richard Roderick asked if there was any information about Arkstar, the Denver Air Connection, and if there was anything to report regarding air service at Four Corners Regional Airport (FCRA). Airport Manager Mike Lewis responded we may hear more on that subject next week.

There was more discussion regarding Arkstar's consulting role as a marketing research firm and providing airline search assistance to Four Corners Regional Airport. There was conversation regarding which cities had air service, and how scheduling, planning and revenues might work for us. It was also noted Covid-19 has been a direct deterrent in our search for an airline.

- 5) Atlantic Aviation is still working on providing us with more details on the self-serve fuel system installation. Manager Lewis has specifically asked Atlantic Aviation for assistance regarding what verbage would be included in a contract to guarantee a specific level of pricing. Minimal labor and break down of costs should be considered. Manager Lewis feels Atlantic has a better capability to secure lower fuel prices than if we were doing the fuel purchasing through the city.

Airport Manager Mike Lewis added we need to look at self-serve fuel pump location. There was discussion regarding adding an addendum to add 10 years to the Atlantic Aviation Lease. It was noted Atlantic would be making half a million dollar investment. It was brought up by Manager Lewis, in 2014 the cost to install a self-serve fuel station at Four Corners Regional Airport was a quarter of a million dollars. That pricing has gone up considerably over the years.

There was a short discussion regarding Atlantic Aviation manpower and how that might affect the overhead for self-serve fuel. It was brought up that one of the advantages of self-serve fuel is to bring more operations to the airport. Lower fuel costs will make a huge difference to most pilots.

Chairman Roderick really wants to see No Worries listed on the Airnav website. He added having self-serve fuel capability, along with pilot awareness of a good restaurant on site, would be a very advantageous draw. Manager Lewis brought up airport plans to host fly-ins with Atlantic and not necessarily airport restaurant No Worries. He feels the restaurant believes their business revenues are generated from 3:00 p.m. to closing. Manager Lewis feels as Atlantic Aviation is an integral part of airport operations, they are a better choice to assist with a fly-in program.

Airport Manager Mike Lewis asked if there were any more questions.

Self-Serve Fuel Pump Location Discussion

Airport Manager Mike Lewis determined this agenda item had already been covered in the meeting's previous discussions.

Discussion to Recommend Changes to Airport Rates, Charges, and Regulations

Airport Manager Mike Lewis asked if anyone had any comments about changes to rates and charges or regulations. Chairman Roderick responded he saw no reason to change anything. Airport Manager Mike Lewis noted FAA grant money offsets our fees for rates and charges, and feels that helps to keep fees reasonable for the aviation public and lucrative enough for the city. It was noted by Manager Lewis, Four Corners Regional Airport minimum standards are consistent, and fits in the template for a good business model.

There was a short discussion regarding the existing businesses at Four Corners Regional Airport, and how those businesses complement each other. The discussion moved to how streamlined contracts are utilized by FCRA, which allow flexibility and easily resolved business issues.

Business from the Chairman:

Chairman Richard Roderick had a request. He asked all commission members, upon receiving the invite for monthly Airport Advisory Commission Meeting, might RSVP to Administrative Aide Jody Carman. It would be helpful to know if a quorum would be present to the AAC meetings.

Chairman Richard Roderick had no more business, questions, or comments at this time.

Business from the Members:

Chairman Richard Roderick asked if there were any questions from commission members.

Commissioner Jonathan Rudolf spoke about his concerns regarding tower procedures he had brought up at the last AAC meeting in regards to lineup and wait. A short discussion followed regarding lineup and wait. Commissioner Jonathan Rudolf noted larger airports work differently, in his observation. Commissioner Rudolf thanked Manager Lewis for looking into it and responding so quickly with an email response. Manager Lewis added that Tower Manager Steve Turner would most likely be receptive to visiting about any issue or question our local pilots might have regarding local policies practiced. Manager Lewis would email everyone the Tower Manager Steve Turner's contact information, in the event someone might want to connect with him, regarding how and why things are done at Four Corners Regional Airport.

It was asked if the tower was open for tours. Airport Manager Mike Lewis responded he would find out. He added Covid-19 had initially kept the tower visitors restricted, however they are critically short staffed right now, and illness could devastate them.

Chairman Richard Roderick noted he had a complaint from an airport tenant regarding missing a turn onto Taxiway C off of Taxiway B. He wondered if it would be possible to make markings on the pavement and whether or not it was something that could be done. It was noted the taxiway configuration has been the same for 20 years, it is easy to miss navigating the currently new taxiway configuration. There was a short discussion regarding signage and possible lighting options.

There were no more questions or comments.

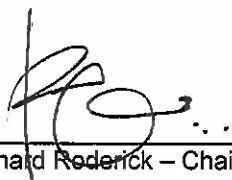
Business from the Staff:

Chairman Richard Roderick asked if there were any questions from staff. There were no questions or comments.

Business from the Floor:

Chairman Richard Roderick asked if anyone from the floor. There were no questions or comments.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the March 8, 2022 meeting was adjourned by Chairman Richard Roderick, the motion was made by Commissioner Michael Mead and seconded by Commissioner Jonathan Rudolf at 5:10 p.m.



Richard Roderick – Chairman



Jody Carman – Administrative Aide