

M I N U T E S
AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMISSION
August 8, 2023

The Airport Advisory Commission of the City of Farmington met on Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at 4:00 p.m., in the Executive Conference Room at 800 Municipal Drive, Farmington, NM.

Members Present:

Mark Gordon
 Morey Havens
 Richard Roderick, Chairman
 Jonathan Rudolf

Members Absent:

Bill Foutz, Alternate

Staff Present:

Julie Baird, Deputy City Manager
 Jody Carman, Airport Admin Aid
 Russel Frost, Deputy City Attorney
 Mike Lewis, Airport Manager

Others Present:

Jimmie Curley, Atlantic Aviation
 Mayor Nate Duckett
 Gary Risley, San Juan Rotary

Call to Order

The Airport Advisory Commission (AAC) regular meeting was called to order at 3:58 p.m. by Chairman Richard Roderick and at this time thanked San Juan County Rotary, Fly-in Drive-in coordinator Gary Risley for attending the Airport Advisory Commission Meeting to speak about the event. There being a quorum present, the following proceedings were duly had and taken.

Approval of the August 8, 2023 Agenda

Chairman Richard Roderick asked for a motion to approve the agenda for August 8, 2023. A motion was made by Commissioner Mark Gordon, and seconded by Commissioner Jonathan Rudolf to approve the agenda for August 8, 2023 and passed by a vote of 4-0.

Approval of the Minutes from the July 11, 2023 Regular Meeting of the AAC

Chairman Richard Roderick asked for a motion to approve the minutes from July 11, 2023. A motion was made by Commissioner Mark Gordon, and seconded by Commissioner Jonathan Rudolf to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2023 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. There were short discussions regarding each item.

Additional Operations Information

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

- 1) The City of Farmington Purchasing Department has sent out a solicitation or letters of interest regarding constructing a hangar at the airport. The deadline for responding is August 17, 2023.
- 2) Airport Manager Mike Lewis noted he received the correction letter from the FAA Part 139 inspection. It listed four (4) items to adjust.
 - a) There are a few updates needed to the Airport Certification Manual (ACM), mostly related to adding or updating information after the last construction.
 - b) Move the windsock to approach end of Runway 5-23.
 - c) Sink holes near the new lighting need filling.
 - d) Painting taxiway sidelines that look dull next to the new paint.
- 3) Staff has been focusing attention on the Fly-in Drive-in event to be held on September 23rd, 2023. With this item noted, Airport Manager Mike Lewis and Chairman Richard Roderick presented San Juan Rotary member and Fly-in Drive-in coordinator Gary Risley. He gave a rundown of activities and expectations as shared below.

The San Juan Rotary Fly-In Drive-In Dine-in is scheduled for September 23rd in Farmington at Four Corners Regional Airport. Our last event, four years ago, had over 2000 people in attendance, and we are seeking to double that number this year.

The event will feature a pancake breakfast from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. hosted by Heavy Burgers. The Arc will provide hotdogs. The event itself runs to 2:00 p.m.

Military aircraft, emergency services aircraft, business aircraft, and general aviation aircraft will be on display, i.e. Osprey, C-130, and Blackhawk, etc.

The Commemorative Air Force Museum out of Mesa, AZ will be bringing up their C-47, and will be offering static tours and paid rides during our event. Dream Flights, a charity run by the owner of Three Rivers Estates, will be here flying WWII and Korean War veterans in their Stearman.

Roadrunner Flight School will be offering short discovery flights. Additionally we hope to have SJRMC and Guardian Flight display their life flight aircraft. There is possibility Grand Junction could bring their Avenger.

There was a short discussion regarding the recent interesting aircraft traffic at FCRA mostly due to fire suppression activity.

The classic car clubs have committed to come, along with the antique tractor club, and the off-road/rock crawling club. There was a short discussion regarding other possible participants and local static display opportunities.

Set up will occur on the Friday afternoon before the event, so everything will be staged by the time the gates open at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday.

We have an overall sponsor, display sponsors, and booth/display participants attending. One purpose of the event is for the City to put this significant asset, Four Corners Regional Airport, on display. The other is in support of the Rotary Club's **One School, One Book** program.

The profits from this event go to fund that program. The program provides a book to each student in a particular elementary school (McCormick has been the testbed for our program), and the book is studied by all grades that semester. A new book is provided for the spring semester. At the end of the semester, students who participated have a chance to win a scooter or a bicycle (one bike or scooter for a boy and one for a girl at each grade level). It costs \$5000 per school per year to have the program, and there are requests to expand the program to other county elementary schools.

Education is the pathway out of poverty for many people. Reading proficiency is key to success in obtaining an education and a successful working career. The San Juan County Rotary Club is seeking to open doors of opportunity by improving reading comprehension in schools where reading performance lags.

We would love to have local pilots come place their aircraft on display and join our **Aircraft Poker Chip Run**. The pilots will take off around noon, fly to Cortez Airport first, where each will draw five chips from a bag (there are five colors and five of each color in the bag), they will mark down how many of each color they drew, then they will fly to DRO, Navajo Dam, Aztec, and then back to Farmington, doing the same thing at each stop.

When everyone has made it back, a chip will be drawn out of the bag – the first color drawn will be worth 50 points, the second 40, third 40, and so on. Each person will calibrate their score based upon the total score of the chips they drew at each airport. First place is \$250, second place is \$100, and third place is \$50. We may have some white elephant gift for the lowest score.

There was a short discussion regarding other possible activities.

Gary Risley noted he would appreciate any and all support the members of the Advisory Committee might be able to offer and expressed his hope they will participate.

There was further discussion involving general marketing of the event, Facebook groups, generating interest in avionics/aircraft maintenance, ticket sales, registration for the event, parking, and entry fees.

Chairman Roderick and Manager Lewis both thanked Gary Risley for his presentation.

Presentation from Mayor Nate Duckett

City of Farmington, Mayor Nate Duckett made a presentation at the regular meeting of the AAC, to specifically thank commission members for their service. He made note of his focus on the community being volunteerism. Mayor Duckett explained our community thrives on participation activities, and transparency is critical for governments and its citizens. When citizens are engaged, it promotes valuable participation. He expressed the Airport Advisory Commission members are ambassadors by passing on concerns and ideas to the community. Mayor Duckett presented a token of appreciation to each member of the commission for their service in the Airport Advisory Commission. He expressed his heartfelt thanks to the commission, on behalf of himself, City Manager, and the City of Farmington Council.

Mayor Duckett asked if there were any questions. Chairman Roderick responded by asking the mayor about the possibilities of providing incentives for new airport businesses, such as avionics, mechanics, and any other aviation oriented services, with a Four Corners focus. Mayor Duckett shared with the attendees of the AAC meeting, the City of Farmington has re-approached San Juan College to start an aviation program. Mayor Duckett noted statistics show there is a need for over 10,000 new pilots a year. The hope is to also work with Skywest as they could provide a healthy partnership.

Mayor Nate Duckett noted there was simulator availability in town. He added Roadrunner Flight School has spoken about someone to host the valuable simulator piece. Chairman Roderick noted that he too, knew of simulator access. Mayor Duckett expressed his interest in rolling all the pieces into a partnership with the college. Mayor Duckett noted there was great interest, especially with new staff at the college. There have been meetings regarding aviation education in the area and the viable resources available.

Mayor Nate Duckett announced Monticello Utah has extended an invitation to City of Farmington representatives, to attend an EAA Chapter 1606 meeting, designed to entice Four Corners area airports to host local events that encourage kids to be involved.

Airport Manager Mike Lewis talked about his past participation in the Monticello EAA club and had attended to see how it was presented. Gary Risley contributed information about the EAA foundation and about forming a club to encourage and raise money to support pilot and airport management education opportunities.

Mayor Duckett then presented his tokens of appreciation to commission members.

Discussion Regarding Financial Incentives for Businesses Related to Aviation Services.

Chairman Richard Roderick introduced this item from the agenda by noting the aviation industry is experiencing an extreme shortage of aircraft mechanics and avionics technicians. Chairman Roderick noted it would be very productive if the City would establish an incentive program to attract those businesses to KFMN.

Chairman Roderick explained several parties have approached him with interest in locating their aviation related business to KFMN. The most recent is an Air Force veteran of 22 years, aircraft mechanic, who grew up in Farmington, graduated Farmington High School in 1994, now retired from the Air Force, who would like to return home with his wife to open an aircraft maintenance shop at KFMN.

Chairman Roderick supposes the City of Farmington study the possibilities of offering incentives to interested individuals in order to help them relocate here. His suggestions were to offer possible first year reductions of airport hangar lease rates, bank loans at special rates through participating banks, special utility rates, etc.

Chairman Roderick also suggested the City could put together a "packet" for new businesses that would explain the incentives offered and also contain information about opportunities like the free Business Incubator program at San Juan College.

Gary Risley added San Juan College has free classes via the Business Incubator Program offered to new business owners to help them structure their businesses to succeed financially and organizationally. Gary Risley mentioned so many new businesses fail because while they may offer a good service, they mismanage their first year.

It was suggested by Chairman Roderick that Warren Unsicker, City of Farmington Director of Community Development, might offer some ideas.

Chairman Roderick noted the usual monthly calendar topic regarding airport business would be to discuss the ranking of AIP projects. He noted this topic was already discussed in last month's meeting.

Chairman Roderick asked if there were any more questions or discussion. There was none.

Business from the Chairman:

Chairman Richard Roderick said he 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. There were no more questions or comments.


Business from the Staff:

Chairman Richard Roderick asked if there were any questions from staff. Administrative Aide Jody Carman added there would be a welcome ceremony for the C-47 upon arrival on Thursday, September 21st at 11:00 a.m. There were no more questions or comments.

Business from the Floor:

Chairman Richard Roderick asked if anyone from the floor.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the August 8, 2023 meeting was adjourned by Chairman Richard Roderick, the motion was made by Commissioner Mark Gordon and seconded by Commissioner Jonathan Rudolf at 4:55 p.m.


Richard Roderick – Chairman


Jody Carman – Administrative Aide

