

M I N U T E S
AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMISSION
September 12, 2023

The Airport Advisory Commission of the City of Farmington met on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 4:02 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: Jody Carman, Airport Admin Aid
 Mike Lewis, Airport Manager

Others Present: Jimmie Curley, Atlantic Aviation
 Dr. Sugar Singleton
 Larry Stanley

Call to Order

The Airport Advisory Commission (AAC) regular meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by Chairman Richard Roderick, there being a quorum present, the following proceedings were duly had and taken.

Approval of the September 12, 2023 Agenda

Chairman Richard Roderick asked for a motion to approve the agenda for September 12, 2023. A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Rudolf, and seconded by Commissioner Mark Gordon to approve the agenda for September 12, 2023 and passed by a vote of 4-0.

Approval of the Minutes from the August 8, 2023 Regular Meeting of the AAC

Chairman Richard Roderick asked for a motion to approve the minutes from August 8, 2023. A motion was made by Commissioner Mark Gordon, and seconded by Commissioner Morey Havens to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2023 regular meeting of the AAC, and passed by a vote of 4-0.

Operations Report

Airport Manager Mike Lewis presented the statistics as they appear in the agenda. There were short discussions regarding each item, notably a discussion regarding restaurant prices and trends. Airport Manager Mike Lewis introduced a new chart showing a summary of monthly percentage changes and year-to-date comparisons.

Additional Operations Information

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

- 1) The city purchasing department has sent out a solicitation or letters of interest regarding constructing a hangar at the airport. There were zero responses.
- 2) Staff have been working on the September 23rd Fly-in, Drive-in, Dine-in event. Airport Manager Mike Lewis reported the Avenger had cancelled, Civil Air Patrol would not be able to help with parking coordination, and Cannon Air Force Base has declined participation as well as Kirtland. Manager Lewis noted he would appeal to his contact, a Wing Commander at Kirtland Air Force Base, and pursue other various contacts. Plans for this event are moving forward with other participants and local pilots displaying their aircraft.
- 3) The next AIP grant project has started, which is the airline ramp overhaul. The engineering piece should be done in the fall of 2023, paving the way for construction to start in the spring of 2024.
- 4) The windsock located on approach of Runway 5-23 will be soon relocated. The painting on some taxiway markings, that didn't get painted in the recent construction, will be completed very soon. It took little more time than anticipated to go through the funding process. There was a short discussion regarding the engineering process timeline and cost, which leads to construction timeline and cost

Chairman Richard Roderick asked if Manager Lewis would like to speak about his visit to Monticello Airport for the EAA event hosted there. Mike gave a short overview of his experiences air marshalling, networking and goals of that event as it pertained to FCRA. The Monticello EAA is encouraging an EAA chapter to be formed in the Four Corners Area. The idea is to come together with a number of smaller area airport to offer more pilots for local events. There was a short discussion regarding participation of local pilots in EAA events.

Discussion Regarding Small Air Service Residency at Four Corners Regional Airport

Chairman Richard Roderick told the commission about the possible startup small air service. Chairman Roderick presented an overview of his opinion about the feasibility of the business coming to fruition. The company is Venture Air Inc., with Thomas Fields as the owner/operator.

Chairman Roderick had suggested at past meetings, the City of Farmington might be receptive to the idea of an individual trying to start an airline business from the ground up, at Four Corners Regional Airport. Chairman Roderick noted he had been communicating and exchanging ideas with Mr. Fields for over a year regarding starting a small airline service at FCRA. The realization came to Chairman Roderick, and in conjunction with Manager Lewis, this individual was not ready to execute his ideas and business.

Chairman Richard Roderick thanked Airport Manager Mike Lewis for agreeing to an open door policy and additionally offering the use of the terminal building, at no cost for a period of time. Chairman Roderick expressed his wishes the City of Farmington will continue to be open minded, as it remains to be seen as to whether or not Mr. Fields can finalize any plan to begin air service at Four Corners Regional Airport.

There was a short discussion regarding how smaller aviation businesses should be formed, and it was agreed a strong business model would be the key, as this piece was missing from Venture Air, Inc. Also discussed was important elements in the formation of said business was lacking. However, Chairman Roderick noted, by keeping an open mind, the situation could change.

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.

Commissioner Morey Havens asked how the flight school meeting went at the college including the Mayor and City Manager. Manager Lewis responded he thought perhaps there may be some movement regarding negotiations with San Juan College, that direction, studies, and further discussion would be involved. Manager Lewis told the commission he would follow up on acquiring more information.

Commissioner Morey Havens inquired about where the new hangar project stood. Manager Mike Lewis responded there was still interest in building something and the City would be moving forward.

There were no more questions or comments.

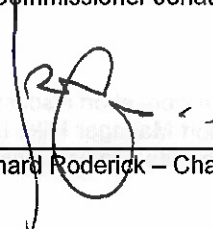
Business from the Staff:


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 being no further business to come before the Commission, the September 12, 2023 meeting was adjourned by Chairman Richard Roderick, the motion was made by Commissioner Mark Gordon and seconded by Commissioner Jonathan Rudolf at 4:30 p.m.


Richard Roderick – Chairman


Jody Carman – Administrative Aide