

## M I N U T E S

### AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMISSION

#### October 10, 2023

The Airport Advisory Commission of the City of Farmington met on Tuesday, October 10, 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  
Mike Lewis, Airport Manager

**Others Present:**

Dr. Frank Arnold, Airport Tenant  
Felicia Bekis, Atlantic Aviation Manager  
Darryll Foster, Farmington Air Traffic Control Tower Chief

**Call to Order**

The Airport Advisory Commission (AAC) regular meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Richard Roderick, there being a quorum present, the following proceedings were duly had and taken.

**Approval of the October 10, 2023 Agenda**

Chairman Richard Roderick asked for a motion to approve the agenda for October 10, 2023. A motion was made by Commissioner Mark Gordon and seconded by Commissioner Jonathan Rudolf to approve the agenda for October 10, 2023 and passed by a vote of 4-0.

**Approval of the Minutes from the September 12, 2023 Regular Meeting of the AAC**

Chairman Richard Roderick asked for a motion to approve the minutes from September 12, 2023. A motion was made by Commissioner Mark Gordon, and seconded by Commissioner Morey Havens to approve the minutes of the September 12, 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. Manager Lewis presented an additional chart designed to reflect percentage of change and trends for operations, fuel, and airport restaurant over a four (4) year period.

**Additional Operations Information**

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

- 1) Four Corners Regional Airport was the venue for a successful event on Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. A TBM Avenger and the Osprey unfortunately had to back out within two (2) weeks of the scheduled event. It was too late to find replacement military displays. Attendance was lower than predicted, most likely due to the combination of other conflicting aviation oriented events, the economy and inclement weather in the morning.  
  
The Arizona Commemorative Air Force Museum reported they were pleased with C-47 ride and tour sales. One hundred and one (101) year old, WWII B-25 pilot, John Formea, got a ride in the C-47 and DreamFlight's Stearman classic bi-plane. The DreamFlight organization had a total of nine (9) flights arranged.
- 2) The painting required by the FAA inspection has been completed. Manager Lewis was able to secure an extension on the relocation of the supplemental wind cone at the approach end of Runway 5-23. The delay was due to supply chain issues with replacement parts, but should be completed in early November. There was a discussion regarding the runway light updating procedure, and how light operations are configured at Four Corners Regional Airport.
- 3) Airport Manager Mike Lewis reported he is working diligently to complete Airport Compliance Manual revisions as per the FAA inspection requirements.
- 4) The entire pavement condition inspection, provided by a contractor paid for by the State of New Mexico, has been completed. The state provides the pavement structure inspection to all airports in New Mexico, in order to record how pavement is structured, so a completed report of all NM airports can be delivered to the FAA.
- 5) Starting the next project which is the airline ramp overhaul drilled hole through the pavement to study the soil beneath.
- 6) Airport Manager Mike Lewis reported hot air balloon landed at the airport during the City of Farmington hosted Balloon Fiesta on the weekend of September 29<sup>th</sup>. A short discussion followed about hot air balloon rides, and the process for hot air balloons to take off and land.

Manager Lewis asked if there were any questions

Commissioner Morey Havens noted the airport event on the 23<sup>rd</sup> was well done and he had fun. Commissioner Havens added the feedback from the Facebook Mooney group was there were quite a number of other aviation events in the area; Double Eagle in Albuquerque, El Paso, and two (2) fly-ins hosted in Arizona. Manager Lewis gave an update of how our airport event date was chosen and added it's hard to coordinate early fall events due to so many events happening locally. It was noted Cortez Airport was having their annual fall event this coming Saturday, October 14th.

There was further event discussion regarding air show type acts at the next event presented by Four Corners Regional Airport. Manager Lewis felt there was enough attendance to justify more air acts in the future. There was a short discussion regarding expenses, insurance, planning, and sponsors. There was also discussion regarding feasibility of booking the fabulous Thunderbirds, which led to a short discussion about aviation presentations Mike would be attending in the near future.

Airport Manager Mike Lewis called attention to the personalized letters handed out to each commission member, regarding the approval of an application for a Part 135 Certificate for SkyWest Airlines. Manager Lewis explained he has contacted all senatorial offices and congressional members to lobby to the USDOT to approve the certificate request. Manager Lewis asked the commission to sign their personalized letter in order to support the approval of SkyWest's certificate request. The letters have been written to FAA Associate Administrator of Aviation Safety, Mr. David H. Boulter. Manager Lewis gratefully added that Chairman Roderick wrote the letter, to target the City of Farmington's unique position.

This furthered discussion regarding the pilot's union, part 135 rules, pilot requirements, air service quality and local needs for frequency of flights.

Chairman Richard Roderick introduced the next item on the agenda.

#### **EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association) Local Chapter Discussion**

Airport Manager Mike Lewis explained to the commission when he was at the EAA event in Monticello, there was talk about starting an EAA chapter in this area. As it was explained to Manager Lewis, the chapters in the Four Corners Region could get together to supply pilots for their EAA Young Eagles events at rotating airport venues. That way, there would be a good amount of pilots available to give rides in different areas, to aspiring young people interested in aviation. Manager Lewis explained Mayor Nate Duckett has been avidly interested in promoting an EAA chapter in this area.

There was a short discussion regarding who and how small local airports operate for those EAA events. Manager Lewis asked the commission if they might gauge any interest in starting a chapter here. We would be in need of a local EAA certified pilot to spearhead and start a group here.

Chairman Roderick noted he was hoping someone might come along with interest in this endeavor. Chairman Roderick thought there may very well be EAA qualified pilots on the field, however, he felt there has been no interest in anyone starting a chapter at Four Corners Regional Airport.

Commissioner Gordon thought he recalled there was pursuit of an EAA chapter with local pilots on the field in the past, but there wasn't much interest. From the floor, Dr. Frank Arnold mentioned his past experience with EAA and how their chapter operated. He did add he had no interest in being involved in that sort of project here. There was a little discussion of where to meet if something were formed, but it was generally agreed there was little to no interest on our airfield.

#### **Business from the Chairman:**

Chairman Richard Roderick extended a welcome to Tower Chief Darryl Foster. There was a short discussion regarding his tower staff complement. Chairman Roderick then noted 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.

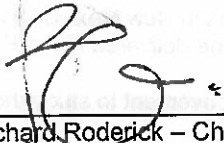
#### **Business from the Staff:**

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

#### **Business from the Floor:**

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

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the October 10, 2023 meeting was adjourned by Chairman Richard Roderick, the motion was made by Commissioner Mark Gordon and seconded by Commissioner Jonathan Rudolf at 4:40 p.m.

  
Richard Roderick – Chairman

  
Jody Carman – Administrative Aide