

RICHLAND-LEXINGTON AIRPORT DISTRICT
Commission Meeting
Draft Minutes
May 16, 2022 @ 4:00 p.m. Carolina Room

Attendance

Carol Fowler, Chairwoman; Hazel Bennett, Vice Chairwoman (Zoom); Dan Bell; David Jordan; Duane Cooper (Zoom); Breon Walker (Zoom); Pat Smith; Hank Jibaja; LaJoia Broughton; Sarah Johnson

Absent

James Whitmire; Jim Wellman

Staff

Mike Gula; Gregg Hornsby; Eddie Martin; Frank Murray; Ryan Kreulen; Joel Livingston; Kim Crafton; Tamie Head; Jessica Foster; Tom Victa; John Fisher (Attorney); Lynne Douglas (Secretary)

Guests

Ron Harvey (Global Core); Dave Carpenter (Foth IE); Herbert Sims, Sandra Sims (Carolina Concessions); Michael Medsker (Jim Hamilton-LB Owens Airport)

1. **Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Jordan made the motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Bell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. **Approval of Commission Minutes of April 18, 2022**

Mr. Jordan made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Bell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. **Committee Reports**

a. **Finance Committee Report – David Jordan**

i. **Proposed Site 16 Land Sale**

Mr. Jordan reported that the committee met prior to the Commission meeting to discuss the sale of 8.5 acres listed as Site 16. After discussion, the committee decided not to accept the offer and to keep the property at this time.

4. **April 2022 Financial Report – Gregg Hornsby, CPA**

Mr. Hornsby reported that April was a very flat month on cash with very little change. Days cash is 608. He went on to say there were no other CRSSA draws this month. Monthly draws are being made on the note that was undertaken to partially fund the In-line Baggage/West Ticketing project. The draws may be increasing as we're entering a financially intensive portion of the construction schedule where portions of the equipment to be installed will be funded. Mr. Hornsby continued by saying that enplanements are showing some similarity with 2018. April enplanements are currently at 75% of 2019's numbers.

On the YTD page of the financial report, Mr. Hornsby referenced Lines 19 (Bonds Payable – Current) and Line 23 (Bonds Payable). Line 19 reflects the principal payment that will be due January 1 and March 1, 2023 on the aviation revenue bonds and the GO bonds.

Parking Revenue is the primary reason the budget exceeded over \$216,000 for the month. Per Ms. Broughton's request at last month's meeting, a chart comparing parking options and rates at surrounding airports was included in this month's financial package provided to Commissioners. Mr. Hornsby said that Airport Operations was over budget due to installation fees such as water, sewer, and electrical hook-up for communication lines for McEntire's operation. There were also some expenses in Marketing for advertising as referenced in the financial package's Dashboard.

5. **Staff Reports**

a. **Chairman's Report – Commission Chairwoman, Carol Fowler**

Chairwoman Fowler reported that she met with Nelson Lindsay, President and CEO, Central Carolina Alliance. As Airport Commission Chair, she will serve on their board. She will attend Tuesday's board meeting and will report back to the Commission. Ms. Fowler went on to share that some Commissioners have suggested the Governance Manual be updated and will appoint a sub-committee to review the manual for updates. She asked that Commissioners, who are interested in reviewing the manual and recommending updates, to contact her.

Chairwoman Fowler continued by saying that an Airport Roundtable series was held in Columbia last week. She asked Ms. Crafton to report on the event. Ms. Crafton explained that this is a series that Ailevon Pacific, CAE's air service development firm, puts together in conjunction with an airport. There are typically three to four around the country annually. CAE originally entered a bid in 2019 to be the host airport and destination and received the bid for 2020. Due to Covid, it was cancelled and rescheduled for last week. Almost fifty attendees representing twenty-two airports attended. This represented a good response as these events are intentionally kept small. Representatives from United, American, Delta, Allegiant, Southwest, and Breeze also attended and provided updates. This event provides opportunities for airport representatives to talk with the airlines and also with their airport peers about various topics, to share information about projects and to share wins, challenges, and experiences. Rave reviews were received regarding Columbia and the region from attendees. Experience Columbia SC and the Columbia Chamber were both great community partners and hosted events. Ms. Crafton thanked CAE team members for their support with the event to include assisting with logistics and transportation of the airline representatives to/from the host hotel. Ms. Crafton offered her apologies for not fully connecting with the Commission regarding this event and ensured them it was not intentional.

Vice Chairwoman Bennett asked if this event would have provided an opportunity for Delegation members to have attended so as to provide them with CAE updates. Ms. Crafton apologized for any miscommunication and said that legislators have not historically attended this event. The primary focus of the event is for airport peers to meet together along with airline representatives. Vice Chairwoman Bennett suggested that staff look into scheduling an opportunity to update the Delegation on CAE's accomplishments and projects. Chairwoman Fowler thanked Ms. Bennett for her suggestion.

Mr. Cooper asked about airline updates. Ms. Crafton said the pilot shortage was a main topic of conversation. She went on to say that she had a great conversation with Allegiant. They are not starting any new markets until the summer of 2023. She will continue to stay

in on-going communication with them. The American Airlines route planner in attendance had not visited Columbia before this event and was impressed with both CAE and with Columbia. After some discussion about current airline updates and efforts to attract new air service, Mr. Cooper asked that an air service committee meeting be scheduled. The purpose will be to review current air service and to discuss what we want, to discuss potential low cost carriers, and to discuss potential partnership efforts with the business community.

b. **Director's Report – Mike Gula, AAE**

Mr. Gula reported that there was much discussion, at the Roundtable event, about the pilot shortage and its effect on smaller airports especially those with regional service. There is legislation that may pass that will raise the federally mandated retirement age for airline pilots from 65 years to 67 years or possibly higher. And, this may possibly include reducing the flight hours' requirements for training to receive a commercial pilot's license. Airlines are re-thinking their flight training programs and entry requirements. Delta recently joined with other major carriers and dropped their four year degree from their pilot training requirements.

Mr. Gula went on to provide a legislative update on the funding for the state's six commercial service airports. The House put forth the \$65 million that was originally in the House version back into the initial budget. The Senate did not concur and dropped the amount to \$10 million. This will now go to conference committee. Mr. Gula shared the names of those legislators on this committee. The airports will continue to push for the full \$65 million.

New federal legislation is pending on minimum pay and labor standards for service workers at airports. This will require airports, who are receiving federal dollars, to ensure that their service workers (concessions and airlines) are making a minimum of \$15 per hour. Mr. Gula will provide updates as they become available.

Mr. Gula reported that the Executive Staff has completed the first three training sessions of the EOS (Entrepreneurial Operating System) process. He said the program will assist the team in prioritizing the issues where progress needs to be made. It will also assist with the Commission knowing where those priorities are focused.

Ms. Broughton asked if there were any updates on the amendment to House Bill 5150 regarding alcohol consumption within the TSA area. Mr. Gula responded there are no current updates. Ms. Crafton shared that the Post and Courier had contacted her regarding this topic. They advised they were also contacting each of the state's commercial service airports and said there would be a brief article in Tuesday's edition.

6. **Executive Session for Legal Briefing**

Mr. Jordan made a motion to enter Executive Session. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

7. **Proposed FOIA Resolution and Policy**

After coming out of Executive Session, Mr. Bell put forth the motion to adopt the resolution by Attorney Dickey to formalize our procedures for responding to FOIA requests. Mr. Jordan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

8. **Discussion & Suggestions**

a. **Comments from Public**

There was no additional discussion.

9. **Next Meeting is June 20, 2022**

10. **Adjournment**

Chairwoman Fowler adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynne Douglas".

Lynne Douglas, Commission Secretary