

RICHLAND-LEXINGTON AIRPORT DISTRICT
Commission Meeting
June 19, 2023 @ 4:00 p.m. Carolina Room
Draft Minutes

Attendance

Carol Fowler, Chair; Anton Gunn, Vice Chair; Dan Bell; Duane Cooper (Zoom); Hank Jibaja; Jim Wellman; LaJoia Broughton; Sarah Johnson; John Folsom; Chappelle Broome Stevenson

Absent

Breon Walker; Pat Smith

Staff

Mike Gula; Gregg Hornsby; Ryan Kreulen; Lindsay Copelan; Cameron Zimmerman; Daniel Ruggiero; Mickey Cooke; Roger Allen; Jessica Foster; John Fisher (Attorney); Lynne Douglas (Secretary)

Guests

Dave Carpenter, Jon Queen (Foth); Joseph Barkevich (WK Dickson); Ron Harvey (Global Core)

A. Call to Order and Introductions

1. Determination of a Quorum

Chair Fowler confirmed that a quorum was in attendance.

2. Approve Order and Contents of the Overall Agenda

Commissioner Wellman made a motion to approve the agenda. Vice Chair Gunn seconded the motion. Motion carried.

B. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the May 15, 2023 Commission Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Broughton requested a correction to the minutes to add her remarks at the meeting that, prior to the vote for Vice Chair, she was called out of the meeting room at the time of the vote and was not included in the vote. Commissioner Folsom made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Commissioner Wellman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

C. Regular Agenda

1. Title Change for Executive Director

Commissioner Wellman made a motion to change the title of the Executive Director's position to President & CEO. Commissioner Folsom seconded the motion. Motion carried. Commissioner Stevenson said that, as CAE's former Director of HR, she had previously recommended that title change to be more in-line with other airports and is pleased with this change.

D. Committee Reports

1. Finance Committee Report

a. USC/Learfield Contract

Committee Chair Wellman reported that the committee discussed the proposed USC/Learfield Official Airport of the Gamecocks Partnership Contract in great detail.

Commissioner Folsom put forth the committee's motion to approve the contract as presented and empower Mr. Gula to negotiate the additional elements to improve the contract, if possible; however, if unable to achieve any or all of those we move forward with the contract as presented subject to legal counsel's review. Motion carried.

b. FBO Study

Committee Chair Wellman reported that the FBO Study Presentation will be re-scheduled at a later date.

E. Information/Announcements/Staff Reports/Correspondence

1. May 2023 Financial Report

Mr. Hornsby reported Days Cash is at 548. Funds available decreased primarily due to capital expenditures ranging from taxiway and apron improvements and some other long-standing projects. There is a slight decrease from last month with the Airline CPE. Enplanements are above 2022 and the trend through June is positive. Leased site rentals did well in revenues – Air Wisconsin has been renting out the Doolittle Hangar month to month for over a year and this has worked well. Other Revenue includes the sale of surplus equipment to include two John Deere mowers sold this month. May YTD Enplanements are at 81.30% as compared to 2019.

In concluding his report, Mr. Hornsby said that he recently participated on an ACI-NA Webinar call with about 100 airport CFOs and Controllers. The question was proposed to the group asking where their airports stood with enplanements as compared to 2019. A poll was taken and results showed that 45-46% of the airports of all sizes on the call are more in the 80% range.

2. Commission Chair's Report

Chair Fowler shared that she arrived on a flight Saturday evening to CAE just after the power had been restored on the concourse after being out all day. Mr. Kreulen, who had been on-scene all day along with other CAE staff members, briefed Chair Fowler upon her return as to the power outage issue. Chair Fowler said she was impressed with how everyone took action and dealt with the situation. No flights were cancelled. She expressed her appreciation for the good work carried out by the staff.

Chair Fowler reported, that in the continuing attempt to schedule the retreat, she will re-send the questionnaire to Commissioners with suggested dates of either September 21-22 or October 12-13. The suggested date on the questionnaire sent out last week will not work due to that being during the ACI-NA Annual Conference. She will continue to work with staff on a meeting location.

3. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Gula reported that he recently attended the Annual AAAE Conference in Denver. He said there were good breakout sessions and leadership panels. He also attended ACI-NA's JumpStart and had several good one-on-one airline meetings. The pilot shortage continues to be an issue for the regional and low-cost carriers.

State funding update: South Carolina's six commercial air service airports had asked for \$50 million for this year to be allocated among the six. Mr. Gula reported that the House

and Senate recently came to the agreement to cut the funding by \$30 million thus providing \$20 million to be allocated.

Commissioner Broughton shared that she has received positive feedback for the airport throughout the community regarding the return of the non-stop Miami service. She has been asked when the flights will be offered on a Thursday or Friday and why they are offered for only a couple of months. Mr. Gula responded that the service is seasonal and that the service was originally planned for only one flight per week; however, American has increased the service to six flights and days of operation are Monday – Saturday.

Mr. Gula went on to report that he has had conversations with Scout, a new company coming to Blythewood, as relates to air service. There was some conversation about exploring opportunities to work with the SC Department of Commerce and Richland County with the air service effort.

Mr. Kreulen provided a briefing on Saturday's power outage to include the cause and the response to action by staff. He commended those staff responding from Public Safety, Operations, and Facilities as they handled various logistical issues as well. No flights were cancelled. Mr. Gula commended and thanked Mr. Kreulen and the staff for their good work.

Commissioner Stevenson suggested that Chair Fowler send out an email to those employees who responded to Saturday's power outage to let them know how much she and the Commission appreciated their response and actions. She went on to say that some of those who responded are not typically scheduled to work on Saturdays and were on site all day as the outage began around 1:00 a.m. Commissioner Stevenson said that sometimes the message of the Commission's appreciation doesn't always trickle down to those staff on the ground and this would mean a lot to them. Chair Fowler said this was an excellent idea.

F. Discussion/Suggestions

1. Comments from the Public

There were no comments.

G. Adjournment

Chair Fowler adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Lynne Douglas, Commission Secretary