

RICHLAND-LEXINGTON AIRPORT DISTRICT

Commission Meeting

March 18, 2024 @ 4:00 PM

Carolina Room

Attendance

Anton Gunn, Chair; Pat Smith, Vice Chair; Carol Fowler; Dan Bell (Zoom); Duane Cooper; Breon Walker; Hank Jibaja (Zoom); Jim Wellman; LaJoia Broughton; John Folsom (Zoom); Chappelle Broome-Stevenson; Tripp Jones

Staff

Mike Gula (Zoom); Gregg Hornsby; Frank Murray; Kim Crafton; Lindsay Copelan; Daniel Ruggiero; Jessica Foster; John Fisher (Attorney); Lynne Douglas (Secretary)

Guests

Joseph Dickey, Elizabeth Black (Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd); Ron Harvey (GCS); Jon Queen, Dave Carpenter (Foth); Lee Thomas (Eagle Aviation); Terry Macaluso (WK Dickson)

A. Call to Order and Introductions

1. Determination of a Quorum

Chair Gunn called the meeting to order and 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. Commissioner Cooper seconded the motion. Motion carried.

B. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the February 19, 2024 Commission Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

C. Committee Reports

1. Finance, Contracts & Planning Committee Report

a. Proposed Land Sale Site 11C

Committee Chair Wellman reported that the committee met prior to the Commission Meeting to discuss the proposed sale of Site 11C, a 28.84 acre parcel. Ms. Copelan went on to report that the land sale offer is proposed by Equus Capital Partners, represented by Colliers, at \$1,156,800. There will be a 90 day due diligence period followed by 210 days for the closing period. Chair Wellman said the committee had some concerns and discussion regarding the long closing period. Should the buyer not close at the first closing period, there will be a \$50,000 non-refundable deposit. Chair Wellman said the committee voted unanimously to approve the sale of the property and put forth the committee's recommendation to move forward with the sale. The Commission approved the committee recommendation. Commissioner Folsom recused himself from the vote.

D. Executive Session

Commissioner Jones made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a legal matter. Commissioner Wellman seconded the motion. Motion carried. There was no action taken as a result of Executive Session.

E. Information/Announcements/Staff Reports/Correspondence

1. February 2024 Financial Report

Mr. Hornsby reported that cash increased by \$60,000 and days cash on hand is 429. He pointed out the Enplanements graph in the financial report and said that he is using airline schedules as a basis to project the 2024 enplanement numbers. Based on airline schedules, he is predicting June to be one of our larger months. He went on to review his report as included in the Commission packet. Following some general questions, Mr. Hornsby concluded his report.

2. Commission Chair's Report

Chair Gunn reported that he attended the Georgia/South Carolina Airports dinner at the ACI-NA/AAAE Legislative Conference in Washington DC last Wednesday. The airports' leadership met with their Congressional Delegation members regarding the legislative agenda for those airports and also discussed the challenges and opportunities that airports are pushing the airlines on. He said that an economic impact statement was shared for the airports and he went on to share the economic impact numbers for the South Carolina airports. Chair Gunn continued by sharing some of the legislative issues that were discussed to include the airports' support of the FAA Re-Authorization 5-year Program, the ask to increase the cap on PFCs, discussion about the pilot shortage, and the FAA mandates for airports and the congressional oversight. Chair Gunn said that we have a lot to be proud of. He went on to say that he would like for the Commission to be aware of these kinds of issues on a regular basis as they go about their business so they can help the community understand the value of the airport and to encourage more investment.

Chair Gunn said that a significant review of our operational processes to include procurement and hiring is needed. He said that it warrants us to have a fully vetted understanding of how we make our processes more efficient and more simple that are in the best interests of the airport and to minimize costs. He asked that Commissioners come prepared to the next Commission meeting to have some discussion. He said that a special committee is warranted to put together a plan of action in moving forward to make our work more efficient. He asked for the Commission's support and engagement.

3. President/CEO's Report

Mr. Gula joined the meeting on Zoom as he was attending the SEC-AAAE Annual Conference in Birmingham, Alabama. He had just attended an air service session and gave an update on airline issues as shared in that session. He also reported that he had EOS training last Tuesday and had an all-day session on Wednesday at the Riley Institute.

F. Discussion/Suggestions

1. Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the guests but there were some additional comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Cooper attended the AAAE/ACI Legislative Conference and shared some comments and information from those meetings. He also provided a handout to Commissioners titled *Airport Priorities – Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriations*.

Commissioner Stevenson said she wanted to follow up on Chair Gunn’s comments reference review of the operational processes and said she supports the idea to consider a Procurement Staff position. She said there has been some conversation in the past about this and that it has been many years since the airport has had this position.

Commissioner Jones referenced the *No Concealable Weapons Allowed* signage upon entering the terminal and said that he would like to receive more information about the new law as it pertains to the airport grounds as a whole. He also asked about the status of the airport lake issue. Mr. Hornsby and Mr. Fisher provided a brief update.

G. Adjournment

Commissioner Jones made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Stevenson seconded the motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynne Douglas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lynne Douglas
Commission Secretary