**RICHLAND-LEXINGTON AIRPORT DISTRICT**

**Commission Meeting**

**April 22, 2024 @ 4:00 p.m.**

**Carolina Room**

**Draft Minutes**

**Attendance**

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

**Absent**

Tripp Jones

**Staff**

Mike Gula; Gregg Hornsby; Frank Murray; Ryan Kreulen; Kim Crafton; Daniel Ruggiero; Cameron Zimmerman; Jessica Foster; John Fisher (Attorney); Lynne Douglas (Secretary)

**Guests**

Herbert and Sandra Sims (Carolina Concessions); Jon Queen, Dave Carpenter (Foth); Lee Thomas (Eagle Aviation); Bri Barrineau (WK Dickson)

1. **Call to Order and Introductions**
2. **Determination of a Quorum**

Chair Gunn called the meeting to order and confirmed that a quorum was in attendance.

1. **Approve Order and Contents of Overall Agenda**

Commissioner Bell made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Fowler seconded the motion. Motion carried.

1. **Consent Agenda**
2. **Approval of the March 18, 2024 Commission Meeting Minutes**

Vice Chair Smith made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

1. **Lobbyist Contract**
2. **Adams and Reese**
3. **The Campbell Consulting Group**

Mr. Gula said that we already have approved contracts with both firms to provide work for us on the state level. He went on to share background of their efforts to date to secure state funding of $8 million for airport projects to include renovation of the Customs facility. An answer regarding the funding should be forthcoming in mid-June.

Regarding this item, both firms have reached out to advise Mr. Gula there is construction funds that are becoming available on the federal level. Both firms have connections in Washington and strongly believe they can assist us with this effort. Both firms are asking for an additional $5,000 each per month to extend their consulting and lobbyist services to the federal level. Commissioner Broughton said she wanted bragging rights as she made the recommendation last year that CAE could be $8 million richer if we moved ahead with lobbyist services. Chair Gunn said Commissioner Broughton demonstrated foresight and leadership to get us to this position. Commissioner Cooper commended Mr. Gula on getting the lobbyist teams we have in place. He offered some additional comments and noted the great opportunities these firms can provide at the federal level.

Commissioner Folsom made a motion to approve the addition of consulting and lobbyist services at the federal level with Adams and Reese LLP and with The Campbell Consulting Group. Commissioner Cooper seconded the motion. Motion carried.

1. **Information/Announcements/Staff Reports/Correspondence**
2. **March 2024 Financial Report**

Mr. Hornsby reported that funds available increased by over $409,000. Enplanement projections continue to look good with increases expected due to Delta adding seats in June. March YTD enplanements are at 96.55% of 2019. He continued with additional highlights as reflected in the financial report included with the Commission packet.

1. **DBE Quarterly Report**

Mr. Hornsby presented the DBE report, also included in the March 2024 Financial packet. He said that it is consistent with this time last year and that we tend to see the number of DBEs increase as the year continues.

1. **Commission Chair’s Report**

Chair Gunn said that Mr. Gula and Ms. Crafton surprised him last Saturday by arranging for him to throw out the first pitch of the Carolina baseball game as part of CAE’s title sponsorship of the game. He went on to commend them both for their leadership as relates to CAE’s partnership with USC. He has heard Mr. Gula several times on the radio talking about CAE and helping listeners understand the value of flying local.

Chair Gunn is planning to attend the upcoming AAAE Conference in Nashville. His goal is to learn what we can do to make CAE better and to build relationships that can be helpful to us.

1. **President/CEO Report**

Mr. Gula said there will be an event for CAE employees and their families at Thursday night’s Columbia Fireflies game as part of our partnership with the team. He continued his remarks by expressing kudos to Herbert and Sandra Sims, with Carolina Concessions, as sales are up with food and beverage. He also commended them on the recent improvements. Mr. Gula reiterated Mr. Hornsby’s comments that summer traffic looks very good.

Ms. Crafton reported that this week kicks off SC Aviation Week. She shared the schedule of events planned throughout the week to elevate and raise awareness of updates and projects at CAE.

Mr. Murray gave a report on the solar microgrid project. He explained that CAE originally wanted to have a solar farm on top of the garage a number of years ago but funding for the project has been the challenge. He had good meetings with the FAA last month and learned there are some grants available for sustainability projects as long as they serve public areas. He shared additional comments about the project and advised that he is currently working on a plan to ensure the parking structure can support such a project.

1. **Discussion/Suggestions**
2. There was no additional discussion.
3. **Adjournment**

Commissioner Walker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chair Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lynne Douglas, Commission Secretary