

# AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD

August 11, 2010

## MINUTES

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lawrence Gill, Chairman, Woody Gilliland, Vice Chairman, Stan Egger, Joe Crowder, Cindy Haley, Jimi Coplen, Jim Leonard, Stan Egger, Myrna Grigsby

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Kirk Thaxton, Jimi Coplen, David Lynn

**AIRPORT STAFF:** Don Green, Chris Taylor, Melissa Murphy, Alex Cargile

**CITY EMPLOYEES:** Dan Santee, City Attorney, Richard Burdine, Assistant City Manager

**VISITORS:** Dwight Williams, Airspace Manager – Dyess AFB, Tim Poer – National Air Traffic Controllers Association, Scott Kirk – Abilene Reporter News

### REGULAR SESSION

**1. Call to order.**

Mr. Gill called the Airport Development Board meeting to order at 3:34 pm.

**2. Introduce visitors**

Mr. Green introduced, Dwight Williams, the Airspace Manager for Dyess AFB, Mr. Poer with the National Air Traffic Controllers Association and Scott Kirk with Abilene Reporter News.

**3. Consideration and Action approving minutes of the May 2010 meeting**

Mr. Gill asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the May 2010 meeting. Multiple corrections were made to the May 2010 minutes. Mr. Corley is no longer on the board and will be removed from the May 2010 minutes. Mr. Gilliland's first name was used and will be corrected. There were also two listings for Mr. Egger, one will be removed.

**4. Presentation by Tim Poer, local representative for National Air Traffic Controllers' Association**

Mr. Poer discussed the movement of the Terminal Radar Approach Control (TRACON) for Abilene runways to Dallas, TX. Mr. Poer detailed NATCA's opinion on the potential effects to the airport and the region. He discussed the potential for increased delays due to more constrained takeoff procedures. Mr. Poer also discussed the movement of jobs from Abilene to Dallas. Boise, ID has a similar situation where they fought the movement and won. In Boise, ID, the City spent 8 months fighting the TRACON movement and eventually won due to the FAA's alleged inflated figures on cost savings. Mr. Poer stated that the General Aviation and military counts dropped in other regions once this plan had gone through. It was discussed that there are strategic advantages to having the TRACON in Abilene in the event of power failures. Mr. Green talked with the Airport Director and Air Traffic Manager at Pueblo, CO about these issues. Both said the consolidation had been successful. The drop in military at Pueblo is due to increased civilian operations and the Air Force does not want to bring their C130's into the mix.

**5. Economic Development Department Report**

Mr. Burdine did not present the Economic Development Report. Mr. Burdine will discuss the American Eagle Divestiture in the Airport Management Report.

## **6. Finance and Operations Sub Committee Report**

Mrs. Grigsby presented the Finance and Operations report for July 7<sup>th</sup>. The values being reported are for the end of June. This represents 75% of the year. Revenue is at 68% of the budget at approximately \$89,000 under budget. However, the expenses are at 61% of the budget. The bottom line is \$146,000 in the positive. The parking lot revenue and the rental car commissions are down compared to budget.

## **7. Economic Development and Public Relations Sub Committee Report**

Mr. Crowder discussed the Economic Development and Public Relations Report from August 4, 2010. The airport is looking to begin focusing on younger travelers through the colleges in town. The committee suggested working with the universities through their social networking connections. It was also suggested that the airport may give reduced parking fees or discounts at Alley Cats. Also, the airport has a new television commercial that will begin airing. Mrs. Murphy discussed a non-profit Christmas tree decorating contest. The winning organization will take all proceeds with the airport receiving none of the funds.

## **8. Airport Management Report:**

### **a. Review and acknowledgement of the Statistical Reports**

Enplanements are down with American Eagle and charter flights. Airport staff can only conclude that enplanements are down due to the economy. Some airports in our region are showing some improvement, but most are following the regional trend. Parking revenue is down approximately 8% for the year. Rental car revenue is down, but less than in previous months.

### **b. Budget Update**

### **c. TSA's Secure Flight**

TSA's Secure Flight program was started in August 2009. Passengers must provide their full name, gender and date of birth at the time of booking the flight. They must also provide it when checking. This system is meant to avoid conflicts with the no-fly registry. Currently there are approximately 100,000 names on the watch list. The airline can be fined \$25,000 for incorrect information. American Eagle is looking to introduce cell phone check-ins.

### **d. TSA's Advanced Imaging Technology**

The TSA is looking to install the "full body scanner" in Abilene within the next year. Currently there are difficulties in separating the scanner with the viewing room. There are also difficulties in placement of the scanner as there is limited space at TSA security. There are lawsuit issues in place right now, which may cause delays. The scanner is expected to increase the time it takes to check each person. The new scanner is also personnel intensive and the TSA may have to increase staff. There is no additional cost to the airport.

### **e. American Eagle Divestiture**

American Eagle has a new President, Daniel Garton. One of his tasks is to reevaluate the divestiture of American Eagle. This can take place in a variety of ways. It could involve going public through the issuance of stock. They may also try to sell to another entity. Currently this is in the internal evaluation stage. Mr. Burdine has discussed this issue with the American Eagle executives. He stated that Mr. Garton has a two year contract specifically for this project. Eagle Aviation Services is looking to expand services in

Abilene. With this divestiture potential, the DCOA will have to decide what direction to take. If DCOA does not build a new hangar, EASI will lose one dock line due to efficiency problems. Speaking with EASI, the loss of one dock line does not look to have a dramatic impact on service. There are multiple reasons for the divestiture. Firstly the divestiture is expected to bring in money. Also, because American has an in-house regional carrier, they are locked into only one regional carrier airline.

- f. Update on Current Projects –  
Air Carrier Ramp Area D – Complete.  
Air Carrier Ramp Area E – Started at the completion of Area D. Last phase of Ramp Reconstruction  
T-Hangar Taxilane Area B – Complete.  
T-Hangar Taxilane Area C – Started July 26<sup>th</sup> at the completion of Area B  
New Control Tower - Progressing very well.  
Runway 17L/35R Localizer – Antenna is scheduled to be replaced in August.  
ARFF Truck – Bid in May. The bid was pulled and rewritten. This project has been shelved until November due to financial software changes at the city. A delay in this project should have no immediate impact on services.  
Projects in design -
- g. Air Service and Business Development Update – The overall region is down 4% on enplanements.
- Airline pricing – New destinations on the pricing guide. Prices were rising as shown on the reports. Mrs. Murphy contacted American Eagle and now the prices are lower.
  - SCASD Extension – The airport has requested another extension. This is the second and last extension. The airport will hear word, most likely in August or September.
  - Gift Shop – The RFP has been generated and approved. This RFP is on hold due to declining enplanement numbers.

#### **Executive Session:**

**Pursuant to Govt. Code Section 551.072, a governmental body may conduct a closed meeting to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the governmental body in negotiations with a third person. Additionally, Section 551.087 allows a governmental body to discuss or deliberate on commercial or financial information that has been received from a business prospect that the governmental body seeks to have locate, stay, or expand in or near the City and with which there may be ongoing negotiations or deliberate the offer of a financial or other incentive to a business prospect. Further, Section 551.071 provides that a governmental body may seek advice from its attorney regarding a pending or contemplated litigation subject, settlement offer, or attorney-client privileged information. After discussion in executive session, any action or vote will be taken in public.**

**Executive session was entered into at 4:34 pm and exited at 4:41 pm with no decisions being made.**

**9. Consideration and Action to recommend accepting a contract with Geo-Marine Inc. for a Wildlife Hazard Assessment**

This project will be a yearlong study on the wildlife at the airport. Previously this study would only take place if a significant air strike had occurred. However, with the incident with US Airways and the Hudson River landing, all air carrier airports are required to have this study completed. The contract price is \$95,576 under Task Order 1. There is also a Wildlife Management Plan that may be required depending on the FAA's determinations based on the Wildlife Hazard Assessment. Abilene Regional Airport has had very few incidents with animal strikes.

Motion to accept made by Mr. Leonard and Seconded by Mrs. Haley. Motion passed.

**10. Consideration and Action to recommend accepting AIP Grant 40 at a higher amount than approved in May**

The FAA has decided to consolidate the grant into Grant 40. This is due to issues with Congress and the FAA reauthorization. The revision will change the amount from \$1.2 Million to \$1.3 Million.

There was no action taken for this item.

**11. Consideration and Action to recommend accepting Task Orders 21, 23, 25 and 26 with URS**

**Task Order 21**

Rehabilitate Taxiway C and Connectors (Design) - \$267,810

Motion to accept made by Mr. Leonard and Seconded by Mr. Gilliland. Motion passed.

**Task Order 23**

Snow Removal Equipment Storage Building (Design) - \$77,681

Motion to accept made by Mr. Leonard and Seconded by Mr. Crowder. Motion passed.

**Task Order 25**

Taxiway M, N, P Reconstruction (Design) – \$143,161

Motion to accept made by Mr. Leonard and Seconded by Mr. Crowder. Motion passed.

**Task Order 26**

Taxiway EASI Reconstruction (Design) – \$98,165

Motion to accept made by Mr. Leonard and Seconded by Mr. Egger. Motion passed.

**12. Adjourn.**

Motion to adjourn at 4:52 pm made by Mr. Egger. Seconded by Mr. Leonard. Motion passed.