

AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD

December 8, 2021

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lawrence Gill, Chairman, Woody Gilliland, Vice Chairman, Nanci Liles, Kirk Thaxton, Jordan Hibbs, Lori Dodd

MEMBERS ABSENT: Joe Crowder, Darrin Black, Gray Bridwell, Randy Williams

AIRPORT STAFF: Don Green, Zach Cothorn, Kate Alvarez, Alex Cargile

CITY EMPLOYEES: Stanley Smith, City Attorney

VISITORS: Martin Kammerman, Informa, Regi McCabe-Gossett, DCOA

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 pm. Mr. Green introduced the new Airport Development Board member Lori Dodd.

2. Consideration and Action approving minutes of the October 13, 2021 meeting

Mr. Gill asked if there were any corrections to the minutes for the October 13, 2021 meeting.

Motion to accept minutes made by Mr. Thaxton, seconded by Ms. Liles. Motion passed.

3. Agenda Items:

1. Airport Management Report:

a. Review and acknowledgement of Statistical Reports

This item was not discussed in order to allow time for the Air Service Presentation.

b. Regulatory and Legislative Issues Update

This item was not discussed in order to allow time for the Air Service Presentation.

c. Update on current projects:

New Fire Station

Terminal Improvements

COVID Relief Grants

Aircraft Charging Station

Federal Vaccine Mandate

Funding Opportunities for Land Development

Greeting Desk Proposal – A taxi company is interested in renting the greeting desk for use in providing taxi service. This would not give any company exclusivity over providing ride services.

d. Air Services and Business Development Update

4. Discussion and Action on Revised Terminal Design Task Order 4 with Corgan

Task Order 4 deals with designing Airport Terminal Renovations over the next few years. This would be a first step toward that goal with funding from 2015 bond funds. Originally this project had a larger scope, but Task Order 4 needed to be revised. This plan will include the lower level restrooms, removing the gift shop and painting the terminal. An alternate bid would include the upper level restrooms next to the restaurant. A second alternate would be for renovation of the Terminal Admin Offices.

This reduces the price of Corgan's Task Order from \$185,205 to \$168,190. These costs include the plan development and the bid process.

Motion to accept made by Ms, Dodd and seconded by Mr. Thaxton. Motion Approved.

5. Future of Air Service Presentation

Martin Kammerman is an Air Service Development Consultant with Informa. Mr. Kammerman presented on Air Service, as well as, United Airlines activities in Abilene. This was videotaped to be provided to City Council.

United Airlines has removed many new routes from their schedule. Many of these were approximately the same size as Abilene. Currently there is a pilot shortage across all airlines. During the early days of Covid pilots and employees of airlines were given the option to take early retirements. When demand returned, the larger airlines acquired regional airline pilots, leaving less regional airline pilots available. With the pilot shortage United needed to close routes, which included Abilene.

Enplanements started low, but during the summer they rose and did well. Business destinations have not recovered quite as much as leisure destinations. Abilene historically has had more business travel.

Once United announced the route would be ended, enplanements dropped.

United says that they still see potential in Abilene's market, but they currently need the pilots elsewhere.

Mr. Kammerman discussed potential airlines for Abilene, as well as, potential new markets through American Airlines. There are other airlines to consider, including Allegiant, Spirit and Frontier Airlines.

Executive Session:

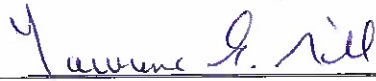
Pursuant to Govt. Code Section 551.072, a governmental body may conduct a closed meeting to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the governmental body in negotiations with a third person. 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. Additionally, Section 551.076 provides that a governmental body may conduct a closed meeting to deliberate the deployment, or specific occasions for implementation, of security personnel or devices; or a security audit. After discussion in executive session, any action or vote will be taken in public.

The Airport Development Board did not enter into executive session.

6. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Liles, seconded by Mr. Gilliland. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:33pm.

Signature of Chairman to confirm minutes: _____



Date: 1/24/22