



## Draft Minutes

City of Flagstaff

### AIRPORT COMMISSION

1:00 to 2:30 P.M. Aug 8, 2019

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Council Chambers at City Hall, 211 W Aspen Ave



In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Carrie Elsass at 928-213-2930 (or 774-5281 TDD). Notification at least 48 hours in advance will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements.

I. **CALL TO ORDER** Chair Ketter called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS:**

Brian Ketter, Chair, *present*  
Cal McLoy, *present*  
Vacant,  
Amanda Shankland, *absent*  
Susan Shields, *present*  
Miranda Sweet, *present*  
T. Paul Thomas, Vice-Chair, *absent*

**CITY STAFF:**

Barney Helmick, Airport Director, *present*  
Tim Skinner, ARFF/Ops Manager, *present*  
Carrie Elsass, Recording Secretary, *present*

II. **PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS**

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/INPUT**

*(Items presented during the Public Participation/Input portion of the agenda cannot be acted upon by the Commission. Individual members of the Commission may ask questions of the public, but are prohibited by the Open Meeting Law from discussion or considering the item among themselves until the item has been officially placed on the agenda.)*

James Gorney of Kachina Village: Would like to continue raising the issue of noise from commercial flights. How can we mitigate pilots choosing to fly over Kachina? What is the Airport going to do to address this issue?

John Baker of Kachina Village: When the City requested to expand the runway, they promised there would be flight controllers the would have control of the air traffic patterns. Why are we spending money on Flight Controllers if they have no control? It is the city's responsibility to keep their promise.

Jill Rundan: They noise from commercial aircraft is becoming nearly unbearable and making it so that people do not want to be outside. Looking at the larger picture of continued growth, how is the City of Flagstaff going to address this issue?

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Regular Meeting of July 11, 2019.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approve the minutes of July 11, 2019, as submitted.

**MOTION:** Chair Ketter moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Commissioner McLoy seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

III. **STAFF REPORTS**

1. Commercial enplanements, aviation activity and sale of fuel (*Barney Helmick*)

Operations in July increased because of the Museum Fire. We had 4 helicopters based here. The fixed wing assets were flying out of Prescott and Mesa.

Grant Wiseman is speaking about fuel flow but a lot of weather issues in Dallas and Denver contributed to increase fuel sales.

Enplanements were down slightly with American Airlines at a 70% load factor and United holding strong at 89%. We are on track to exceed 100,000 enplanements this year.

Deplanements are the number of passengers flying into Flagstaff. We had 12,233 in July. We share this number with local businesses and agencies at the airport so that they can project growth for the coming months.

Open for questions: NONE

IV. **ACTION ITEM**

1. Thunder Over Flagstaff (*Jack Keegan*)

Guest speaker did not make it to the meeting. Barney Helmick stood in.

Each year the Airport has an Open House. This year it is on August 24<sup>th</sup>. There is a suggested \$5 donation that goes to the Young Eagles program. There is a static aircraft display and a car show. There will also be a food truck event. It will last from 8AM to 3PM. There will also be free flights for kids ages 8 to 17.

Commissioner McLoy: Will there be an airshow?

Barney Helmick: No. Airshows require extensive FAA checks and would interfere with commercial air service. Aircraft may come and do a flight around the airport but that is not considered a flight display. We are hoping to have a new F35 visit but it has not been confirmed yet. Primary focus is getting kids up to fly to encourage interest in aviation. A young man who had his first flight at this event recently graduated from flight training with the Navy. Young Eagles is a national program to promote flying with the younger generations.

## **V. DISCUSSION ITEM**

### **1. Heli Base Operations (*Grant Wiseman*)**

The role of Pulliam Airport in the Museum Fire operations: The fire started July 21<sup>st</sup> at around 11AM and by noon the aviation office arrived to see how many helicopters Wiseman Aviation could support. If they get creative they can do 6 helicopters. At 12:30PM Wiseman staff began moving planes to make space on the ramp for the helicopters.

Type 1 helicopters are the largest support helicopters. The Sikorsky Sky Crane was the first to arrive. They dropped their maintenance crew off and immediately went to fight the fire. By 3PM a total of three type 1 helicopters had arrived. They were doing one hour fuel cycles with all three aircraft flying at one time. As the fire progressed the forest service began staggering which aircraft were flying.

By Monday morning there were 2 Chinooks using Bambi buckets to fight the fire. The buckets are taller than 6'5" and can hold up to 2600 gal. They are run by hydraulic lines and controlled from the cockpit. They must be able to gather their full capacity within 90 seconds. The other Chinook was using a suction system to fill an internal tank that held 2500 gal.

Other support aircraft included 3 air attack fixed wing planes. One of those aircraft is always stationed here in Flagstaff. They act as Air Traffic Control and fly above the fire to direct all other aerial assets. They also assist in directing ground assets. There were also two lead planes assigned to the fire. They lead the bombers to where their drops sites are.

The fire crowned at 2AM Sunday night and grew another 500 acres. By early morning Wiseman staff were calling trucks to reallocate fuel from their other locations (Winslow and Cottonwood). Mechanic crews work all night to ensure the aircraft are ready to fly during the day, so Wiseman had food and drinks for the crews.

Wiseman ordered about 40,000 gal of fuel per day. They were pulling loads from Albuquerque and Denver.

Open for comments: NONE

**VI. FIXED BASE OPERATOR REPORT**

1. General aviation issues, fuel sales and business report. (*Grant Wiseman*)  
The biggest challenge Wiseman Aviation faces right now is fuel storage. Logistics continue to be difficult and the need a second storage tank. General Aviation traffic continues to be slow this summer.

Open for Questions: NONE

**VII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Chairperson
2. Commissioners

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING**

**MOTION:** Vice-Chair Ketter moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner McLoy seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously. Chair Ketter adjourned the meeting at 1:35 PM.