

MINUTES
Airport Advisory Board
April 2007

The meeting was called to order by Chairman B.J. Hunter at 12:30 p.m. in the North Terminal Conference Room on Wednesday, April 4, 2007.

Present: Jim Elliott, Don Miles, B.J. Hunter, Bob Taylor, Larry Foster, Ron Craft, Nicholas Shapiro, Rick Shanker
Kathy Frerking, Tammy Puett – Airport Administration
John Glascock – Director, City of Columbia Public Works
Skip Elkin – Boone County Commission
Kevin Coleman – Tribune
Terry Rackers, Randy Clark – Central Missouri Aviation
Mike Naughton – City of Columbia Visioning Committee
Cliff Faulkner – Station Manager Air Midwest
Sid Silvey – DHL
Don Laird – President, Columbia Chamber of Commerce
Chuck Mayer – Enterprise Rent-A-Car
Barb Davis – Manager Great Southern Tiger Travel
Greg Digrando – KMIZ
Cindy Conner - Manager, FAA System Support Center
Jennifer Ayers – KOMU
Paul Fowley – KRCCG
Herman Lueckenotte – Visitor

Excused: Greg Cecil, Randy Eckley

Absent: No one

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Nick Shapiro made the motion to approve the March minutes, Don Miles seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Barbara Davis, Manager Great Southern Tiger Travel - Ms. Davis was present to give a travel agent's point of view regarding the airline service from Columbia Regional Airport. Ms. Davis reported that agents would like to sell tickets out of Columbia but it is not easy right now. There is an on-going problem with refunds and Ms. Davis has not been able to get a response from Mesa regarding this. The primary concern of the travel agents is the customer, and problems have made it difficult to sell out of Columbia. Ms. Davis reported that she thought other codeshares might help some of the travel problems. B.J. Hunter thanked Ms. Davis for coming and reported that hopefully things will change for the better soon.

Don Laird, President of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce - Mr. Laird reported the Chamber is working with surrounding communities regarding the airport. The airport is important for the Economic Development of the City and the Columbia Chamber is working with Jefferson City on various regional projects. Mr. Laird reported that an airport name change might be a benefit in the long term but that service problems need to be resolved first.

OLD BUSINESS: Recommendations for the FY08 Airport Budget - Bob Taylor made the motion to accept the recommendations for the FY08 budget, Nick Shapiro seconded the motion and the motion passed. These recommendations will be sent to the Public Works Director for consideration in the next year's budget.

NEW BUSINESS: Proposed Schedule Change for Airline - Mesa has asked that the City approve a schedule change. The airline would like to change all the flights to Kansas City instead of splitting the flights between St. Louis and Kansas City. The City Council discussed this at the April 2nd Board meeting and has asked for the Airport Board comments. Council also set a public hearing for April 16th regarding the change. There was discussion regarding flying to one destination and the Board determined greater frequency to one airport would be a benefit. Another benefit identified is the spare plane that is available in Kansas City. This could ensure a higher level of reliability in cases of aircraft mechanical problems. Rick Shanker made the motion to approve changing the schedule to all flights to Kansas City, Jim Elliott seconded the motion, the motion passed with one member voting no. The Board recommended that the flight change be approved but that the airport should continue to look for additional service to other destinations.

REPORTS:

Central Missouri Aviation - Terry Rackers reported that the main runway at the Jefferson City airport would be closed starting June 1, which could make more GA traffic for Columbia. Ron Craft reported one runway will always be open but that the main runway will be closed for approximately 42 days for repair.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman B.J. Hunter at 1:43 p.m.