

MINUTES
Airport Advisory Board
February 3, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Greg Cecil at 12:30 p.m. in the North Terminal Conference Room on Wednesday, January 13, 2010.

Present: Leon Hoffsette, Don Miles, B.J. Hunter, William Carner, Matt Jenne, Ron Craft, John Riddick, Greg Cecil, Annie Sobel, Randy Eckley
Kathy Frerking, Tammy Puett, Don Elliott - Airport Administration
Jill Stedem - Public Works Public Information Specialist
Skip Elkin – Boone County Commission
Cindy Conner - Manager, FAA System Support Center
John Glascock – Public Works, City of Columbia
Bill Watkins – City Manager, City of Columbia
Chris Herd – Ashland City Administrator
Mike Brooks – REDI
Darwin Hindman – Mayor, City of Columbia
Mike Boyd – Boyd Group
Dan Callis – Tribune
Randy Clark – Central Missouri Aviation
Don Laird, Kristi Ray – Columbia Chamber
Paul Toler – University of Missouri
Joe Pestka – MoDOT Aviation
Brenton Daniels – COU Airline Manager, Regional Elite Airline Services
Bob Taylor – Visitor
Rick Shanker – Visitor
Herman Lueckenotte – Visitor
KMIZ

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Bill Carner made the motion to approve the January 13, 2010 minutes, John Riddick seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

PRESENTATION OF THE NOVEMBER 2009 STATE OF MISSOURI AIR SERVICE STUDY- MICHAEL BOYD OF BOYD GROUP INTERNATIONAL.

Mike Boyd presented the State of Missouri Air Service Study which had been completed at the request of MoDOT on behalf of the five (5) Essential Air Service (EAS) airports in Missouri. These airports include Columbia, Cape Girardeau, Joplin, Kirksville and Waynesville. The presentation included an overview of the airline industry, addressed issues with the EAS program and identified some steps that need to be taken when talking with airlines to get additional service to COU. Mr. Boyd pointed out that some of the issues that should help during discussions with other airlines include the fact that the University has people coming in from all over the world and the traffic trend in COU is increasing, which shows opportunity for other airlines. He stated that a good fit for COU would be with American Airlines flying to Dallas or Chicago, and that there are currently a limited number of airline options. Mr. Boyd said

Southwest would most likely meet with airline officials but they would not fly out of COU so that option should not be pursued. Mr. Boyd reported the steps COU needs to take are to continue talking to airlines, keep presenting COU's increasing enplanement figures, and concentrate on airlines that connect to a hub. He indicated flying to Kansas City and St. Louis are not options that COU needs. It was reported to Mr. Boyd that the Board is currently working on an incentives policy to present to City Council and he was asked for recommendations on what that policy should include. He stated that incentives are primarily emotional support to an airline because they generally represent only a fraction of their operating expenses, but that reducing landing fees is one thing that can be important to an airline.

Mr. Boyd indicated that the EAS program has some problems and needs to be rebuilt, and pointed out that COU's current EAS contract expires in August. Mr. Boyd suggested the City keep communication open with Delta because it is essential that they continue to serve COU. Mr. Boyd stated that he wouldn't rule out Delta flying from COU to Minneapolis. Mr. Boyd recommended that COU disregard any packaged deals when the EAS contract is rebid. In other words, we shouldn't steer away from schedules that are packaged with, for example, Joplin or Cape Girardeau. He also said visiting with officials in Washington regarding the EAS program could be helpful.

OLD BUSINESS:

Boards and Commissions Questionnaire. Greg Cecil completed the questionnaire based on previous Board discussions and forwarded it to the Board for their review and further input. Several items were discussed and B.J. Hunter then made the motion that the questionnaire be sent to Council with the discussed changes. Matt Jenne seconded the motion and the motion passed. Greg will make changes and send the questionnaire to the Mayor and Council.

Airline Incentives – General Discussion. John Riddick made the motion to amend the policy to say the airport would advertise the airport instead of an individual airline. B.J. Hunter seconded the motion. Kathy suggested that it may be easier to amend the motion to strike advertising from the policy and simply make a note at the bottom saying how much in advertising dollars would be available instead of confusing the issue by leaving a funding level for advertising in the policy. Voting Yes: Hunter, Riddick, Miles. Voting No: Cecil, Eckley, Hoffsette, Jenne, Sobel. Absent: Carner. Not Voting: Craft. The motion did not pass.

Voting to send the draft policy to Council as written: Yes: Hoffsette, Hunter, Jenne, Cecil, Sobel, Eckley. No: Riddick, Miles. Absent: Carner. Not Voting: Craft. The motion passed. The Incentives Policy will be sent to the City Council for consideration.

REPORTS:

Airport Manager - Kathy Frerking reported that enplanements for January will be lower than originally expected due to several canceled flights, some of which were due to fog in Columbia and some because of ice in Memphis. The new 50-passenger regional jet service that will begin February 11th for the overnight flight already had 46 of 50 seats booked on the first arrival and 31 outbound the next morning.

Terminal seating has arrived but installation has been postponed until later this month. The same company installing the airport seating is also working on the new City Hall and the original installation date was conflicting with the City Hall move.

Ashland update - Randy Eckley stated that he has been hearing good reports regarding the commercial service. Randy reported that Ashland is looking to make the speed limit 40 mph on Angel Lane. He also mentioned that he had heard comments regarding the need for additional seating in the terminal but he knew that was already being addressed.

GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC:

Rick Shanker stated that he is the Building Codes Commission Chairman would be working with Randy Clark with regards to Fire Codes. He also mentioned that Boonville Airport was building additional T-Hangars.

GENERAL COMMENTS BY AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD:

Don Miles stated that the DHL building was for sale and empty. Don requested the Board be updated on the status of buildings at the airport. Don would also like a list of based aircraft at the airport.

There was a question raised regarding plans for the Automated Flight Service Station building once Lockheed Martin's operation was eliminated completely. It was reported that the FAA might be interested in the building but the City was looking at other options.

Annie Sobel made a recommendation that City representatives stay in touch with our Federal delegation regarding the EAS program.

John Riddick stated that a friend of his had a bad experience at the airport, thought that Customer Service might be an issue, but wasn't sure what had actually happened. The friend said they were on time, airline personnel said she was late.

It was suggested that a letter be sent to Mike Boyd thanking him for the excellent presentation.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Greg Cecil at 2:52 p.m.