

MINUTES
Airport Advisory Board
March 2008

The meeting was called to order by Chairman B.J. Hunter at 12:30 p.m. in the North Terminal Conference Room on Wednesday, March 5, 2008.

Present: Jim Elliott, B.J. Hunter, Bob Taylor, Larry Foster, Rick Shanker, Randy Eckley, David Rosman
Kathy Frerking, Tammy Puett - Airport Administration
Bill Watkins – City Manager, City of Columbia
Jill Stedem - Public Works Information Specialist
Cindy Conner - Manager, FAA System Support Center
Brad Watson - Station Manager, Air Midwest
Tribune
Matt Gandy – Enterprise Rent-A-Car
Sid Silvey – DHL
Randy Clark – CMA
Mark Slavitt – KRCCG
Herman Lueckenotte - Visitor

Excused: Don Miles, Ron Craft, Greg Cecil

Absent: No One

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Randy Eckley made the motion to approve the February minutes, Jim Elliott seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

GUEST SPEAKER: Bill Watkins, City Manager, City of Columbia - Mr. Watkins apologized for canceling the last time he was scheduled to speak at a Board meeting, and said that he appreciated the opportunity to talk about Columbia Regional Airport. Mr. Watkins reported that the Council is very interested in the airport but noted that the condition the airport was in didn't happen overnight and, therefore, could not be fixed overnight.

Mr. Watkins reported that EAS subsidized commercial air service is not what Columbia Regional needs, but provides a minimum level of service until another provider can be found. Studies over the past 20 years have shown that the destinations desired by mid-Missourians are Chicago, Dallas, Washington D.C., New York and Atlanta, with the emphasis being destinations primarily to the east. A regional consortium has pledged incentive money for pursuing airlines that could be used in the form revenue guarantees, marketing funds and needed infrastructure.

Mr. Watkins addressed the importance of commercial air service to mid-Missouri but also indicated the importance of generating more activity around the airport. Mr. Watkins stated

that it is important for space to be ready for industrial use but that utility infrastructure, primarily sanitary sewers, is needed before industrial growth can occur around the airport.

There has been some money secured, thanks to Senator Bond's office, to go toward extending the runway but the Master Plan needs to be updated before this can happen. Mr. Watkins stated that it is a crazy market right now but the City is committed to doing everything they can to make Columbia Regional better.

Mr. Watkins indicated the need to continue to market Columbia Regional for the type of air service we desire to have, as well as look at commercial users such as DHL, military uses and general aviation for further growth of the airport. He said it was important to balance all sources of use.

The regional consortium has also requested consideration for a name change for the airport, which City management thinks is a reasonable request since they would have a financial investment towards the airport when an airline is obtained but the City would main control over the airport operation.

Mr. Watkins reported that there are ongoing communications with various airlines and these must be kept confidential, as requested by the airlines.

Mr. Rosman commented that he thought the Board was not being used efficiently. He said the members had a vast range of excellent experience that could be helpful to City administration and requested more direction for the Board. Mr. Watkins reported that the Mayor and Council would be sending out a letter to all of the boards and commissions to get feedback regarding plans for the upcoming year and looking for recommendations for ways to improve communication. He also mentioned that the Water & Light Advisory Board does an excellent job of reviewing policies and procedures and recommending changes they think would benefit the operations, and he sees that as what should be a primary responsibility of the Airport Advisory Board.

OLD BUSINESS: Eight (8) responses to the T-hangar survey have been received to date. The majority of the surveys received have expressed interest in having T-hangars at Columbia Regional but wanted to keep the rent under \$150/month. Several respondents also noted they appreciated the opportunity to voice their opinion and were pleased to see the City's interest in general aviation

NEW BUSINESS: Eleven (11) firms attended the pre-proposal conference for the Master Plan so there appears to be a lot of interest in the project. Master Plan proposals are due March 14.

REPORTS:

CMA - Randy Clark reported they are still in the process of talking to the City regarding their building.

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Air Midwest - Brad Watson reported that they expect to have no changes in the service until a replacement airline comes in.

Airport Manager Kathy Frerking reported that there were no noted findings on the FAA annual inspection. Kathy thanked the airport staff and CMA for a job well done.

GENERAL COMMENTS BY AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD:

Randy Eckley mentioned that comparing the Airport Advisory Board to the Water and Light Board might not be a good comparison since Columbia citizens don't have a choice where they get their water and electricity but that customers of Columbia Regional Airport do have a choice of facilities to use.

Herman Lueckenotte stated that he has experience in setting up airlines and would be willing to help out with a new airline. Herman reported that he would be taking a proposal to the City Council as soon as he has time to update his business plan.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman B.J. Hunter at 1:45 p.m.