



AIRPORT COMMISSION

ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES OF ADJOURNED MEETING

Wednesday, January 9, 2019

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Vice Chairman Hoehn called the Airport Commission meeting to order at 8:00 A.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. POSTING OF THE AGENDA: Posted on January 3, 2019.

3. ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present: Altman, Berriman, Breslin (arrived later), Call, Clarkson, Corcoran, Dada, Freymuth, Hedrick, Hoehn, Hughes, Jones, King, Lass, Pattison, Pye, Riesen, Schmitz, Suero.

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: City Manager Ready, Airport Executive Director Nolan, Assistant Airport Director Aguirre, Airport Administration Manager Jucht, Airport Operations Manager Graff, Palm Springs Police Chief Reyes, Airport Police Sergeant Flynn, Assistant City Attorney King, Finance Director Pauley, Finance Executive Administrative Assistant Muniz, Airport Executive Administrative Assistant Seery.

Others Present: Mr. Robert Thibault, CVB – Mr. Rawley Vaughan, Ricondo & Associates.

4. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA:

ACTION: Accept the Agenda as presented. **Moved and seconded and unanimously carried.**

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the Regular Meeting held on December 12, 2018, were presented for approval. **Moved and seconded.**

Ayes: Altman, Berriman, Call, Clarkson, Dada, Freymuth, Hedrick, Hoehn, Hughes, Jones, King, Pattison, Pye, Riesen, Schmitz,

Noes: Nil

Abstain: Corcoran, Lass, Suero.

Absent: Breslin (arrived later)

7. INTRODUCTIONS:

Executive Airport Director Nolan presented a recognition plaque to Airport Commission Chairman Wachs who served on the Commission from June 2012 to December 2018 and thanked him for his service as Commissioner, Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee and Commission Chairman.

Mr. Wachs expressed his pleasure at serving on the Commission and thanked Commissioners and Airport staff. Mr. Wachs received a warm round of applause.

Mr. Nolan then introduced three new Commissioners representing Palm Springs: Mr. Kevin J. Corcoran, Mr. Dan Lass and Mr. M. Guillermo Suero who served in the past.

All three Commissioners gave a brief presentation of their backgrounds.

Commissioner Breslin arrived.

7.A ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Vice Chairman Hoehn explained how the Chairman and Vice Chairman positions were up for election and opened the floor for nominations for the Chairman position.

Commissioner Freymuth nominated Commissioner Jones.

In the absence of other nominations for the Chairman's position, Vice Chairman Hoehn declared nominations closed and called for a vote:

ACTION: Nominate Commissioner Jones to the position of Chairman of the Airport Commission.

Unanimously carried with a show of hands.

Commissioner Jones accepted the nomination and thanked the Commission for their support. He then recognized former Airport Commission Chairman Wachs.

Chairman Jones opened the floor for nominations for the Vice Chairman position.

Commissioner Hughes nominated Commissioner Hoehn.

In the absence of other nominations for the Vice Chairman's position, Chairman Jones declared nominations closed and called for a vote:

ACTION: Nominate Commissioner Hoehn to the position of Vice Chairman of the Airport Commission.

Unanimously carried with a show of hands.

Vice Chairman Hoehn accepted the nomination and thanked the Airport Commissioners for the confidence they have placed in him.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman were warmly applauded.

8. PRESENTATIONS:

Airport Executive Director Nolan presented a PowerPoint and narrated two photos: one of a large military movement at the airport USO facility over the holidays, and the second one of an underground water leak which occurred near the terminal on Christmas eve.

9. CITY MANAGER REPORT:

Mr. Nolan then provided an update on the food, beverage and gift concessions consultant contract, beginning with the introduction of the project's manager.

Mr. Vaughn, Director - Ricondo and Associates Inc., gave a synopsis of his personal professional background then explained how Ricondo is beginning the process by conducting a space and financial analysis of all food and beverage and news and gifts concessions at the Palm Springs International Airport.

10. BUDGET AND FINANCE REPORT:

Airport Administration Manager Jucht introduced the newly appointed City of Palm Springs Finance Director, Ms. Nancy Pauley,

Mr. Jucht presented the (still incomplete) December 2018 Financial Summary. He pointed out the year-over-year increase of the car rentals Customer Facility Charges as well as the increase in ticket sales reflected in the Passenger Facility Charges.

He explained how the budget is on track, with one third of the yearly revenues about to be generated in the next four months, and how the unrestricted cash stands at \$2.5 million.

Commissioner Lass inquired about the security expenses which have increased.

Chairman Jones explained how the airport has added three police officers.

Commissioner Freymuth asked if the unspent airline incentive restricted cash would revert to the unrestricted fund in January 2019.

Commissioner King asked if a refresher on the functioning of the budget could be given at the next airport commission meeting for the benefit of new Commissioners.

11. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:

11.A California Proposition 64 – Airport Marijuana Possession Policy Statement (Action)

Executive Director Nolan presented the airport marijuana possession statement previously reviewed and discussed by the Commission on December 12, 2018.

Assistant City Attorney King addressed the two points which were questioned at the last meeting: the use of “may” in the sentence “you may be subject to regulations and laws TSA is responsible for enforcing” and the necessity for the last sentence of the second paragraph: “And, depending on where you are traveling to, the legality of marijuana and marijuana-based products and paraphernalia may vary by state or country.”

Various Commissioners points were made about striking a balance between being welcoming and reflecting reality on this matter which is equivocal, how PSPD is not tasked with enforcing federal law nor with disposing large quantities of marijuana, how some airports have banned marijuana altogether, and how the end objective is to discourage travelers from coming to the airport with this substance. Regarding the removal of the last sentence of the second paragraph, an argument was made that the airport may be held liable for not warning passengers adequately about different rules elsewhere, which the City Assistant Attorney had originally considered, however it was agreed that this concern was unfounded from a legal standpoint.

Two motions were made.

ACTION: Remove the last sentence of the second paragraph: “And, depending on where you are traveling to, the legality of marijuana and marijuana-based products and paraphernalia may vary by state or country.” **Moved by Commissioner Hedrick seconded by Commissioner Call.**

AYES: Altman, Berriman, Breslin, Call, Clarkson, Corcoran, Dada, Freymuth, Hedrick, Hoehn, Hughes, Jones, King, Lass, Pattison, Riesen, Schmitz, Suero.

NOES: Pye

ABSTAIN: Nil

ACTION: Replace “you may be subject to regulations” with “you are subject to regulations”. **Moved by Vice Chairman Hoehn and seconded by Commissioner Hedrick and unanimously approved.**

11.B. Update on Bono Terminal Chair Procurement (Discussion)

Airport Executive Director Nolan explained that the airport is proceeding with the installation of new seating in the Bono concourse, a total of about 515 chairs. Assistant Airport Director Aguirre explained how the vendor who provided the chairs installed in October is elaborating seating plans which should be ready within two weeks.

12. EXECUTIVE AND STAFF REPORTS:

Mr. Nolan explained how a national news reporter contacted him regarding the government shutdown, specifically about PSP’s TSA. Mr. Nolan explained how the FAA and TSA are required staffing; how the issue about managing taking time off is administered by the TSA and not under the purview of the Airport Director. He added that the checkpoint is functioning and no deficiencies were noticed at this time. How we cannot prognosticate circumstances if the situation persists but the functionality is closely monitored and we maintain open discussions through a collaborative relationship with the TSA.

Commissioner Freymuth inquired about issuing a news release.

Mr. Nolan replied that he spoke to CNN, the Desert Sun and two TV stations.

The City Manager pointed out that a city press release would not have as wide a coverage as CNN and since the situation may change without warning, a press release may be detrimental, suggesting to leave it alone and continue to monitor the situation.

Chairman Jones expressed the Commission’s appreciation to the TSA for the hard work they are doing under these difficult circumstances.

Mr. Nolan updated the Commission that the consulting firm Gensler had been retained for the car rental project, and that we are in the third round of extensive scope development and negotiations. That running parallel with this are negotiations with the consultant hired for the rental car project construction management.

How the Ticketing Wing Project’s constructability analysis is almost concluded by another consultant and the prequalification of contractors is completed with a Notice To Proceed likely in August.

Mr. Nolan discussed a letter received from Mr. Cardiff, a long-time and valued ground transportation operator at PSP, who expressed his concern about the disparity in fees

between their type of company and Transportation Network Companies (App Based Rideshare). A copy was provided for the record.

Mr. Nolan reminded the Commission that PSP has now only two taxicab companies instead of three, how this is beyond our control, and how, with our record traffic, there may be delays obtaining a cab this season particularly during popular events.

He described how Ricondo and Associates have now been given the Notice to Proceed and are working on their analysis of PSP's longstanding Airline Use and Lease Agreement to make recommendations on any revisions to that document.

How Sun Country announced they will not be proceeding with the proposed Palm Springs-Dallas service on February 6, 2019, due to lack of bookings.

13. COMMISSIONERS REQUESTS AND REPORTS:

Commissioner King inquired about the sign above the entrance of the baggage claim area encouraging those not picking up bags or renting cars to wait in the lounge or outside.

Commissioner Call, who raised landscape conversion at the last meeting, requested that an Ad hoc committee be established to develop a plan to proceed with landscape conversion to desertscape in order to eventually eliminate the grass at the airport. How the idea is to look at ways of financing this conversion since funding it through the regular budget process might not be possible because of restrictions imposed by the airlines.

Chairman Jones indicated that a new selection of Committees would be conducted before the next meeting and the Ad hoc Landscaping Committee could be part of the process of Committee assignment.

The City Manager explained how the landscape conversion had been examined a few years ago during the drought, how it was a sizeable cost, and how it may be time to revisit it at least to get some base. He suggested to involve the Sustainability Commission with a new Sustainability Manager coming on next week. Mr. Ready also suggested that a sub-committee of the Sustainability Commission join the airport Ad hoc committee to perhaps help find funding synergy through the Sustainability fund.

Vice Chairman Hoehn mentioned the passing of Herb Kelleher, founder of Southwest Airlines, whom he described as being a unique individual, with a great sense of humor.

14. REPORT OF CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS:

The Airline Incentive Program goes to Council on the 23rd, as will the Authorization for a Purchase Order with WSP for Design Services, and the Approval of Pre-Qualified List of Contractors and Ticket Wing Final Design and Plans (to be prepared by Marcus Fuller).

15. CORRESPONDENCE: E-mail from Mr. G. Cardiff dated January 8, 2019.

16. RECEIVE AND FILE:

ACTION: Receive and file: 16.B. February 2019 Airlines Schedules.

The December 2018 Activity report was not ready to be presented to the Commission as airlines have until the 10th of each month to compile and turn in their figures.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn. **Moved and seconded and unanimously carried.**

The Airport Commission adjourned at 8:57 A.M. to Wednesday, February 13, 2019, at 8:00 A.M., in the airport conference room, 3400 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs.

Nadia P. Seery
Executive Administrative Assistant