



**COLORADO SPRINGS
AIRPORT**

Colorado's small airport

**MINUTES
Airport Advisory Commission
Tuesday, October 24, 2023
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Colorado Springs Airport Conference Room B
(Public Via Teleconference)
Teams Meeting**

VOTING

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: John Buckley – Interim Chairman (via Teams)
Michelle Ruehl – Interim Vice Chairman
Danny Mientka – Commissioner
Al Peterson – Commissioner
George Mentz – Commissioner (via TEAMS)
John Eastman – Commissioner (via TEAMS)

VOTING

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Mark Volcheff – Commissioner

NON-VOTING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Roehrs – Alternate Commissioner
Randy Helms – City Council Representative (via TEAMS,
late)

NON-VOTING

MEMBERS ABSENT: Brian Risley – City Council Representative
Dave Elliot – Meadow Lake Airport Liaison
County Commissioner Longinos Gonzalez, Jr. – Liaison
Commissioner
County Commissioner Stan VanderWerf – Liaison
Commissioner

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

Greg Phillips – Director of Aviation
Michael Gendill – Senior Attorney
Jennifer Cook – Executive Assistant
Joe Nevill – Air Service Development Manager
Troy Stover – Business Park Development Director
Dana Jackson – Properties Manager (via TEAMS)
Deanna Stoddard – Design and Construction Manager
Chris Padilla – Senior Airport Planner
Josh MacCammon – Air Service Development Analyst II
(via TEAMS)

GUESTS PRESENT:

Jeff Bohn, US Space Force
Other attendees via phone were unknown

I. **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 3:00 PM OCTOBER 24, 2023, by INTERIM VICE CHAIRMAN RUEHL**

II. **APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 27, 2023 MEETING MINUTES**

Interim Chairman Buckley made a motion to approve the September 27, 2023 meeting minutes. Commissioner Peterson seconded.

Discussion: None

VOTE: **APPROVED (Unanimous, Roll Call Passes 6 Yes)**

III. **COMMUNICATIONS**

- Welcome new Commissioners John Eastman and Dan Roehrs.
- Interim Vice Chairman Ruehl announced that Alternate Commissioner George Mentz has been elevated to Voting Commissioner.

IV. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- None

V. **NEW BUSINESS AND REPORT ITEMS**

A. **Land Use Review – Chris Padilla**

Chris Padilla presented twelve (12) Land Use Items.

Commissioner Mientka made a motion to recommend approval of Land Use Items #1 through #12 as presented by airport staff. Commissioner Peterson seconded.

Discussion: None

VOTE: **APPROVED (Unanimous, Roll Call Passes 6 Yes)**

B. **Director’s Airport Business Report**

- **Project Status Report**
 - Airport/Airfield construction report presented by Deanna Stoddard.
 - Concourse Modernization – Future packages and permit sets being carved and compiled (boilers, elevators, fire alarm, next Concourse phases, etc.). Ongoing coordination with stakeholders.

- Inline Baggage System Preliminary Design – COS was provided preliminary alternatives of possible In-Line Baggage System facility and conveyances. Selection of preferred alternative and ROM cost estimate by late October.
- Taxiway Bravo – Pavement work complete; pond work continues; permanent markings once pavement cure time is met.
- TSA Queuing Area Remodel – Punch list items remaining. Ceiling mechanical work to be completed at a later date. Checkpoint improvements to be implemented. Hudson temporary walls to be installed; design submitted for permit.
- Oversize Babbage Handling System – Masonry work for screening room in progress. Contractor coordination walk to identify areas of concern. West-end demo in the next few weeks.
- Concourse Modernization (construction) – Concourse Package A work continues with emphasis on finishing south restrooms ahead of Christmas. Scheduling, procurement, and coordination is ongoing.
- RAC Rehab and Fiber Install Construction – Final Walk to be scheduled week of 10/23. Bringing fiber to former Budget building for new tenant.

- **Traffic Trend Report**

- The airline data analysis was presented by Joe Nevill.
- In the month of September, Colorado Springs Airport (COS) saw a significant surge in passenger numbers, marking a nearly 12 percent increase in traffic compared to the same period last year.
- During September, COS recorded 109,219 enplanements and served 217,748 total passengers, reflecting a continued pattern of growth in 2023.
- The COS team will be attending the Southwest Culture Connection at the Southwest Headquarters in Dallas, Texas beginning Wednesday, October 25th.

- **COS Financial Report**

- COS financial report presented by Greg Phillips.

- **Airport Business Development Report**

- Airport business development report presented by Troy Stover.

C. General Business – Director Greg Phillips

- A group of seven from COS will be attending the Southwest Culture Connection in Dallas, Texas beginning Wednesday, October 25th.
- COS is finalizing a management agreement for the Premier Lounge; more information to come.
- Our new Finance and Properties Manager Steve Hedden will begin with COS on December 4th.
- The Sunflower Program is an initiative aimed at providing better support and assistance to individuals with invisible disabilities, who may require additional understanding and patience during their travel experience.
- SSP America Team awarded food & beverage contract by Colorado Springs Airport. The new brand lineup will include Atrevida Beer Co, Camden Food Co,

Colorado Craft, Drifter's Hamburgers, Einstein Bros Bagels, Mi Casa Cantina, Peet's Coffee, Pizzeria Rustica, and Street Eats by Chef Brother Luck.

- The 2024 Airshow will be announced at the Press Conference on November 1st, held at the World War II Museum.
- FAA reauthorization funding is only assured through November 17th, COS is watching closely.
- COS has filed a petition for reconsideration to TSA regarding the unfunded mandate on aviation worker screening.

D. Chairman's Report – Interim Vice Chairman Ruehl

- Interim Vice Chairman Ruehl shared her appreciation for the invitation to the triannual OEM exercise.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

- None

VII. COMMISSION MEMBERS' COMMENTS

- None

VIII. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

- None

IX. AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMISSION ELECTIONS: Chairman/Vice Chairman

- Election of officers for 2024
 - Paper ballots were distributed to the commissioners.
 - Commissioner John Buckley was elected as Chairman of the AAC for a term of 12 months by a majority of those present and eligible to vote for Chairman.
 - Commissioner Michelle Ruehl was elected as Vice Chairman of the AAC for a term of 12 months by a majority of those present and eligible to vote for Vice-Chairman.

*Note: By the Rules and Procedures of the AAC, a nomination is not required to be placed in consideration for election to the position of Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Commission.

X. ADJOURNMENT

- Vice Chairman Ruehl adjourned the meeting at 4:48 PM.

The next meeting date is Wednesday, November 15, 2023