

The Seven Hundred-Forty-sixth Meeting of the Worcester Regional Airport Commission was held on Monday, June 19, 2006, at 6:30 PM in the Conference Room at the Worcester Regional Airport.

Members present were: Chairman Jim Delehaunty, Vice-Chairman Joe Zwirblia and Commissioners Tim DeSantis, Tom Gorham and Pat Santa Maria.

Also present were: Doug Robinson, Swissport General Manager, Phil Niddrie, Airport Liaison and Eric N. Waldron, Airport Director.

Chairman Delehaunty called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

1. Approval of the minutes of the May 8, 2006 Meeting

Commissioner Gorham moved, seconded by Commissioner Zwirblia, to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2006 Meeting. **All in favor - So Voted.**

2. Report of Commission Chairman

Chairman Delehaunty reported on the following items:

- The City Manager's proposed candidate to fill the vacant Commission position, Tom Reynolds, will be up for approval by City Council tomorrow night; if approved, he should be at the next Commission meeting.
- Airport Master Plan – The second Community Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 21, at 6:30 PM at the airport terminal to present the data as well as the framework of the plan. There will be some briefings provided prior to the meeting. Final recommendations will be presented at a future Community Meeting, sometime this fall.
- The Chair gave a brief report on MAMA on the Hill day, at which the Chair, Mr. Waldron and Mr. Niddrie represented Worcester Airport.

3. Commissioners Reports

Marketing- Commissioner DeSantis informed the Members that this Committee had a very good meeting with the City IT Department, at which short and long-term goals were identified to improve the airport web site. The Chairman wants to make sure is to get the ability to have a "hit count", to show/see how many people are looking at the site. Finally, prices have not yet been obtained for the airport banners that may be put along the side of the road to assist travelers with way-finding.

Aviation- Commissioner Santa Maria informed the Members that he has been working closely with Swissport to help attract corporate aircraft to base at ORH and that they have been successful in negotiating an agreement with a company to base their large corporate jet at ORH. According to the National Business Aircraft Association (NBAA), an aircraft of this size will generate between \$2,000,000 and \$3 million annually to the local economy. Swissport anticipates that the lease will commence on July 1, 2006. There are some repairs that need to be made to the facilities to accommodate this aircraft; the City Manager has committed to repairing the hangar roof where the aircraft is to be stored. Mr. Santa Maria and Mr. Robinson, of Swissport, are also working with three other companies at this time, to base their aircraft at ORH.

Commissioner Santa Maria advised that an aircraft manufacturing firm that manufactures numerous aircraft models, has asked him to help them locate a service site in New England, to enhance maintenance for their aircraft.

Master Plan- Covered in Chairman's report.

4. Reports of Airport Director –

Report on Allegiant operations - Commissioners were briefed on the enplaned and deplaned passenger numbers for the month; Mr. Waldron advised that Mr. Niddrie would have more information about Allegiant in his report.

MAMA on the Hill Day - As indicated in the Chairman's report, the Chair, Mr. Waldron and Mr. Niddrie represented Worcester at this event. Massachusetts Secretary of Transportation Cogliano and FAA Regional Administrator, Amy Corbett were the featured speakers. All of the public use airports in the Commonwealth had displays depicting their facilities at the session. Approximately 30 state legislators unattended the luncheon and met with representatives from their constituent airports. Mr. Waldron, as President of the organization, served as luncheon host and outlined the activities and positions of the group on various aviation items, including funding.

JumpStart 2006 - The Director attended an airline marketing and communications conference and JumpStart Air Service Development Program, hosted by Airport Council International, from June 11 through 14, in Austin Texas. During this event the Director had formal meetings with with four airlines, and informal meetings with several others, to discuss the Worcester market and our interest in having them serve our market. While this did not result in immediate additional air service, the meetings were very successful in continuing relationship building and updating the carriers on the ORH market. All of the carriers and many of the other airports that the Director were aware of the pending airport name change for ORH. All thought that it was a good idea, but that the proposed name is too long. There was also significant interest on the part of the carriers and the airports in the unique Operating Agreement that we developed for Allegiant at Worcester.

Linear Air Charter - Mr. Niddrie and Mr. Waldron have been working extensively with Linear Air, a Hanscom based charter flight operator that currently flies single engine turboprop Cessna Caravan's and that has purchase orders for numerous Eclipse Jets, one of the new Very Light Jets that are being certificated by FAA at this time and which, because of their comparatively low-cost, are expected to have a significant impact on corporate and leisure air travel in the coming years. The goal has been to help Linear developed charter customers and thereby operations from ORH. Last week the company flew its first charter from ORH, the first of what staff hopes will be many more, so that the company will ultimately base aircraft at Worcester. Linear also has very limited scheduled flights in the Caravan to the Cape and Islands, in the summertime.

5. Old Business

Marketing report – The airport has embarked on additional advertising that focuses more on the convenience of ORH, the closeness of ORH to a variety of areas, the lower cost of using ORH, for tolls, parking and gas, as well as overall convenience. He reviewed some of the newspaper ads featuring these points with the Members.

We are planning to celebrate two major milestone events for Allegiant. Later this week, the 10,000th enplaned passenger will board the flight. This milestone is important, because 10,000 enplaned passengers is the threshold for qualifying the airport for \$1,000,000 in grant funds. The second Allegiant event will occur next Monday, when the carrier will fly its 100th flight from ORH. WTAG radio will broadcast live from the terminal, we have a local school dance troupe that will entertain passengers and lunch will be provided for the passengers. Commissioner

Santa Maria offered to donate coupons to the Red Lantern restaurant for handouts to passengers on that flight.

Airport Name Change - Mr. Niddrie gave a summary of the costs to change the area signage to reflect an airport name change

Energy Task Force Update - Vice-Chair Zwirblia advised that the City Energy Task Force met again and that he attended the meeting on behalf of the Airport. The Task Force is developing a relationship with National Grid, which has many programs to help companies reduce energy consumption. The group needs to walk through the Airport Terminal, to identify areas where the airport may be able to cut energy costs.

6. New Business

Commissioner Rules & Procedures - Chairman Delahaunty passed out copies of Airport Commission Rules of Procedures, which were adopted in 1976. He suggested that these may need to be updated, and asked that Members review the document and make suggestions of what they feel needs to be changed. There was a request that the documents be scanned or otherwise converted to Microsoft Word, so that changes can be easily made.

July and August Meetings - One of the items noted in the old Rules of Procedures is that traditionally, the Commission did not meet in July and August. The Chair wanted to know how the Members felt about that, and whether consideration should be given to canceling one or both of the meetings this year. After discussion, the Members decided to have a meeting in late July, and then to determine if a meeting is required in August.

Request to amend the Taxiway B & E FAA grant - Due to unforeseen conditions during construction of this project, there were quantity overruns on excavation and seeding that have caused the grant funding originally offered by FAA and MAC to be exceeded. FAA will participate beyond the original grant amount at 95% of the new amount, subject to availability of funds as determined at the end of the project. MAC will participate up to, but not over, the original grant amount. Underruns on the consultant services partially offset the construction overruns. Thus, there will be a cost to be borne by the City for the extra work, estimated to be \$1,560 with FAA participation, or \$31,200 without FAA participation. The City has a significant amount of available FAA entitlement funding, so it is most likely that the FAA will participate in this extra work, through a request by the City for an amendment to the original FAA grant.

Commissioner Gorham moved, seconded by Commissioner DeSantis, to approve amending the grant and to request that the City amend the original FAA grant for the Taxiway B & E project to cover these overrun costs, and to authorize the Chairman to execute all documents related to this action. **All in favor - So Voted.**

Prior to adjourning, the next meeting date was tentatively set for July 31, 2006, at 6:30 PM.

7. Adjournment

Commissioner Santa Maria moved, seconded by Commissioner Gorham, to adjourn the meeting. **All in favor - So Voted.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Eric N. Waldron, A.A.E., ACE
Airport Director and
Clerk of the Commission