

The Seven Hundred-Forty-third Meeting of the Worcester Regional Airport Commission was held on Monday, March 13, 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.

Also present were: Eddie Tyson, Massport Operations Shift Manager, Phil Niddrie, Airport Liaison and Eric N. Waldron, Airport Director.

Chairman Delehaunty called the meeting to order at 6:39 PM.

1. Approval of the minutes of the February 13, 2006 Meeting

Commissioner Gorham moved, seconded by Commissioner Zwirblia, to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2006 **Meeting. All in favor - So Voted.**

2. Report of Commission Chairman

Chairman Delehaunty reported on the following items:

- Information from a newspaper article regarding open meeting law regulations and National Sunshine Week, featuring the public's right to know.
- The Chair and the Vice-Chair will attend a training session run by the City of Worcester for Chairman and Vice-Chairman on April 5th. He also reviewed his meeting with the City Manager and other Board & Commission Members.
- The TPAC meeting for the Master Plan, that has been on hold awaiting the FAA New England Regional Airport Study Forecasts, has now been scheduled for March 30th, with a follow-up meeting on April 28. A community meeting will follow those two Committee meetings, possibly sometime in May. The specific date has not yet been set, pending results of the TPAC discussions.

3. Commissioners Reports

Marketing- Commissioner DeSantis reported that the Marketing Committee will meet this month to review the marketing efforts to date and discuss options going forward. The Committee is made up of himself, Phil Niddrie, Eric Waldron and two others (one possibly from City Hall and a marketing/advertising representative). He anticipates that the Committee will have a report for the next meeting.

Aviation- No report.

Master Plan- Commissioner Gorham reiterated the dates for the TPAC meeting and expects to have a report at the April Meeting.

4. Reports of Airport Director –

Report on Allegiant operations - Commissioners were briefed on the enplaned and deplaned passenger numbers, load factors and parking revenue to date, which are positive.

Master Plan Status - Covered in Chairman's report

5. Old Business -

Marketing report - Mr. Niddrie reported on the activity from last month, including: Blackstone Valley Home and Business Expo Two Chamber of Commerce (North Central & Worcester and CMEA inserts, 98.5 and 91.6 radio ads, Telegram & Gazette, Fitchburg Sentinel and the new Billboard on 290 and 146. Other venues being discussed are web site links and banner ads. Additionally, the latest report of the passenger surveys was discussed; there continues to be increased traffic from North and South Counties, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Metro-West.

Airport Name Change – A great deal of discussion occurred regarding the potential name change and the strategy to bring the issue forward. It was decided that Chairman Delehaunty will request a meeting with the City Manager to discuss the Commission's thoughts and to develop a strategy to make a potential recommendation to the public.

Automobile advertising in terminal – Mr. Waldron advised that he checked with engineers from Massport who determined that there are significant issues regarding the size and weight of vehicles that might be able to be on the Terrazzo flooring. No decision was made; staff will review this and report back if there are solutions. Mr. Waldron also indicated that the City Purchasing Office stated that an RFP would likely need to be accomplished because the revenue is anticipated to exceed \$5,000/year.

6. New Business -

The Director briefed the Members on a request by Patrick O'Connor Photography to use a portion of the terminal for a photo shoot. He noted that the airport has worked with this studio in the past, with no problems. The date of the shoot is March 17th; the airport will be paid \$2,000 for the day, plus any required overtime costs. Commissioner DeSantis moved, seconded by Commissioner Zwirblia, to approve the request and to authorize the Chairman to execute all related documents. **All in favor - So Voted.**

Vice-Chair Zwirblia advised that the City Energy Task Force will meet on March 22nd and that he will attend the meeting. Prior to adjourning, the next meeting date was tentatively set for April 10, 2006, at 6:30 PM.

7. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

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