

The Seven Hundred-Forty-fifth Meeting of the Worcester Regional Airport Commission was held on Monday, May 8, 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 Robert Nemeth.

Also present were: 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 April 10, 2006 Meeting

Commissioner Nemeth moved, seconded by Commissioner Zwirblia, to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2006 Meeting. **All in favor - So Voted.**

2. Report of Commission Chairman

Chairman Delehaunty reported on the following items:

- Signed and submitted Grant requests to FAA & MAC for security upgrades totaling \$88,000. City Council approved at a recent meeting
- Airport Master Plan - TPAC meeting was held Friday April 28; representative of Leigh Fischer consultants presented a conceptual framework for this plan. Data collection has been completed; FAA, Massport, MAC, City and Town of Leicester reps and airport staff, provided comments on the framework. The 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.
- Advised Members that the RFP for auto advertising approved at the last meeting, is not yet been developed due to concerns from the City Manager's office that need to be resolved.
- Noted that the final interviews for the vacant Commissioner position are in process-he expects that the position should be filled by the June meeting.
- Handed out a copy of Airport Commission Rules & Procedures for discussion at the June meeting, especially scheduling of July & August meetings.
- Advised Members that, with regard to tonight's agenda, he will take item 6, New Business, out of order to leave enough time to address the Airport Name Change item.

6. New Business - Out of Order

Picturepark Boston Request - Mr. Waldron advised the Members that Picturepark, Boston has requested to film a video in the Terminal Building on Saturday May 13, 2006 from 7 AM to 7 PM. The Company proposes to shoot this video for Bose Corp. Mr. Waldron advised that, while he has not work directly with this company, they are known to Massport and they have used other Massport facilities in the past. Because there are no Allegiant flights on Saturdays, Mr. Waldron believes there is no conflict. The airport will receive \$3,000 for this shoot; the company has produced insurance certificates including \$1 million in general liability, naming the City and Massport as additional insureds, and evidence of workers compensation. Massport Legal has drafted a License Agreement for the event.

Commissioner Gorham moved, seconded by Commissioner Nemeth, to approve the Picturepark request and to authorize the Chairman to execute all related documents. **All in favor - So Voted.**

3. Commissioners Reports

Marketing- Commissioner DeSantis reported that the Marketing Committee met and focused on improvements that can be made in roadway markings and way-finding from 290 to and from the airport along a preferred route. Flagging of the route, similar to what exists at Grafton Hill is one alternative that will be explored more fully, to determine feasibility and cost. A second focus of discussion centered on raising public awareness of the airport, and different means to achieve that, including improvements that might be made to the web site.

Aviation- No report.

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.

Auto advertising in terminal-update - Covered in Chairman's report.

Road construction – status - Mr. Waldron indicated that the state and DPW now estimate that work on Airport Drive will be completed sometime in September. Once it is completed, we will have a new and wider road. In the intervening time, there will be lane closures throughout the summer.

Armenian Aviation Officials Visit - On Friday, May 12th, a group of aviation officials from Armenia will visit Worcester Regional Airport as part of a multi-airport tour of United States. Mr. Waldron and Mr. Niddrie will give them a tour of the facilities and a briefing on our operations.

JumpStart 2006 - The Director will attend 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 expects to meet with several airlines to discuss the Worcester market and our interest in having them serve our market.

5. Old Business

Marketing report – In deference to the Chairman's desire to have adequate time for the Airport name change issue, Mr. Niddrie gave an abbreviated report on the activity from last month.

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. That Task Force has requested data and that an energy profile for the airport be completed. The goal of the Task Force is to reduce greenhouse gases and reduce energy consumption and thereby costs for various City facilities. The group has been given a six-month timeline to report their findings and ideas to the City Manager.

Airport Name Change – Chairman Delehaunty asked Commissioner Nemeth to summarize the points articulated in his memorandum explaining why the Commission is contemplating a name change for the airport. The three reasons outlined were:

1. IMG, the City's air service/airport consultant recommended that the Commission consider changing the name to better reflect the airport's proximity to Boston, noting that the current name does not reflect the airport's market area.
2. There has been a tendency for smaller airport markets to affiliate with larger markets so that the name of the smaller market will come up on computer reservation systems when inquiries are made regarding the larger market.

3. Commissioner Nemeth believes that the future of the airport is tied to Massport; he has talked to Massport CEO Craig Coy, who has indicated that Massport would look favorably on a name change for the airport that reflects its proximity to Boston.

After some discussion, Commissioner Nemeth moved, seconded by Commissioner Gorham, to change the airport's name to reflect its regional proximity to Boston. **All in favor - So Voted.**

After that vote, discussion ensued about other reasons for changing the airport's name, including to market the airport as a destination and to better reflect the airport catchment area, all of which are related to its proximity to Boston.

At this point, the Chairman handed out a list of potential names that has been developed from suggestions by IMG, Commissioners and Massport. There were 16 names identified on the list. There was much discussion on the various names, as well as focus on developing another name.

After extensive discussion, Commissioner DeSantis moved, seconded by Commissioner Nemeth, to change the airport's name to Worcester Metro West Boston Airport. **All in favor - So Voted.**

There was further discussion concerning the earlier vote to change the airport name to reflect its regional proximity Boston. Some more concerned that the vote should include the points that were reflected in the discussion immediately after the vote, that the name is also changed to market the airport as a destination and to better reflect the airport catchment area, all of which are related to its proximity to Boston.

After limited additional discussion, Commissioner Gorham moved, seconded by Commissioner Zwirblia, to amend the earlier vote to indicate that the name is being changed to reflect the airport's regional proximity to Boston, to market the airport as a destination and to better reflect the airport catchment area, all of which are related to its proximity to Boston. **All in favor - So Voted.**

Prior to adjourning, the next meeting date was tentatively set for June 19, 2006, at 6:30 PM.

7. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

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