

**Airport Advisory Committee
Minden-Tahoe Airport
Meeting Minutes for September 14, 2011**

The September 14, 2011 meeting of the Airport Advisory Committee (AAC) was held at the Board of County Commission Chambers, 1616 Eighth Street, Minden, Nevada. Members present were Fred LaSor, Chairman, Keith Swanson, Mike Wendling and Rick Miller. Those absent included Tim Christy, Brad Spires and Ed Hayes. County employees or representatives in attendance were, Chris Johnson, Operations Supervisor and Cathie Kite, Office Manager.

1. **Opening.** The meeting was called to order on at 6:06 PM at the Historic Courthouse in Minden, NV by Chairman LaSor. Rick Miller led the pledge of allegiance.

2. **Public Interest Comments.** Brent Knittel addressed the Board. He runs an investment property business and is interested in starting a self-fueling operation at the Minden-Tahoe Airport. He believes that not having a self-fueling facility could have a negative domino effect on business in general at the airport. He feels he has a solution, but has found a barrier to his plans in the Airport Minimum Standards. He indicated that Carson City does not have the barriers we have here. The hours are less for full serve and the fuel is more expensive here than in Carson. He feels he has a solution to the self-serve issue if some of the barriers are lifted.

Fred reminded Mr. Knittel that because it is not an agenda item, the Board is unable to discuss it, but asked Mr. Knittel for more information about himself. He said he moved here ten years ago and was a teacher at Douglas High School before going into the investment property business. He believes we need to change the model of airports. Young people are not going into aviation. He does not want to be an FBO but would like to operate a self-fueling operation.

Fred said minimum standards are set up to keep people from undercutting competition without having had to invest anything in the infrastructure at the airport. He was not aware that 2 line tech people are required between 8:00 and 5:00 for self-fueling and will look into that for a discussion at later meeting when the issue has been properly agenda item. Keith Swanson indicated he would be interested in getting more information on the issue as well. Fred asked Mr. Knittel to provide the Board members with more information on his background and intentions prior to the next meeting.

3. **Approval of Previous Minutes.** Chairman LaSor asked for approval of the Minutes of the July 13, 2011 minutes. After some discussion, the minutes were approved with the following clarification:

Clarification to minutes as directed during September 14, 2011 meeting-
Rick Miller indicated that when he said "stimulus dollars", he was referring to funds that might be available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. He was referencing the Bloomberg report from July 13th with the title {Bernanke Says Fed 'Prepared to Respond' If Stimulus Needed}" Fred Lasor concurred that while Bobbi discussed AIP funding, Rick had been looking for access to federal funds separate from that. Fred agreed that the Board had intended the minutes to reflect that airport management had been requested to draft letters to Senators Dean Heller and Harry Reid as well as Representative Mark Amodei stating our interest in alternative funding sources most specifically for use on the East Side Development. The emphasis here is on tapping into any funding that is available.

4. **AAC Update.** Chairman, Fred initiated the discussion on AAC members and their pending term limits. Fred, Brad Spires and Ed Hayes will be termed out as of the end of this year. Mike Wendling as well as Tim Christy have one more year on the Board with their current appointments. Rick Miller, who completes his initial term at the end of 2011 announced that he will be applying for another appointment. Fred placed this item on the agenda because he felt it is important for existing Board members to think about potential members to apply to fill the three that will be vacated. He asked that current members encourage others to contact the Board of County Commissioners regarding their interest in applying.

The second thing under the AAC Update is what the Board should be thinking of doing during the coming year. Fred suggested creating a list of potential agenda items for next year. Rick said he had spoken to Bobbi regarding the AAC's position to help the airport management in getting out to the community. He suggested not necessarily making presentations, but attending service group meetings, etc. just to have a presence if there are questions about the airport from those groups. The Airport needs a voice and a presence in the community. Chris Johnson advised the board that he is doing an outreach to the local schools regarding this issue. Mike feels they should also go the homeowner's associations to be available to hear their concerns regarding the airport. The Board should be a resource for the Airport and should speak out about their own interest in aviation and their personal use of the airport. Mike concurred that attending homeowner's meetings is very important – not necessarily their Board meetings, but their regular membership meetings. His experience as a member of an association has been generally positive when he has attended both as a member of the community and an advocate for the airport. Keith Swanson suggested that because we may have a majority of new members next year, perhaps a workshop to bring the new members up to date as they take office would be helpful. Rick asked Fred if he would be willing to be a part of a new speaker's bureau if formed even though he is no longer going to be a member of this Board. Fred said he would be willing to speak if asked.

Mike suggested appointing a committee of volunteers that would be willing to work with the AAC Board to promote the airport. This item will be reagendaized for further consideration at the next meeting.

Chris Johnson gave an overview of the Aviation Roundup. We've had a lot of comments, both positive and negative, especially from volunteers regarding what was good and what could be done better. We may look at changing the time for the show next year, perhaps having it in June because of 'density altitude' issues and the heat we experienced in August. Fred asked if there was a national schedule of air shows, to which Chris replied yes. Right now, it appears that June would be a good time without interfering with other local community events. Chris asked the Board for comments and feedback on the timing for next year's event.

Chris then went through the PowerPoint presentation that was to be presented to the Board of County Commissioners, thanking local officials and all other local entities that supported this event. Volunteers did a wonderful job and we are grateful to the community for their support for this first time event. Comments on Facebook were very positive. He showed and explained our outreach to the Autism Coalition was so meaningful for one young lady and how positive her response was to the planes on the ramp. Chris then showed photos, about 3 - 4 minutes, taken over the week-end and during the show,.

The Board asked for statistics regarding the show. Chris reported that we started with fourteen performers and ended up with six due to accidents along with density altitude issues. Since memorial services were being held for some of those accident victims, we lost a few slated to be here. We're guessing between 3,000 and 3,500 spectators for the show. Fred felt that those were not bad numbers for a first time event. Perhaps many locals did not realize that it was actually an air show, not just an open house. Word of mouth will help. The Board felt that advertising was good. Fred thanked Chris and Bobbi and staff for all the effort that went into putting the show together. Rick congratulated us and indicated that the County Manager made positive comments regarding the air show and staff on a local on-line discussion.

Keith Swanson said he would like some more numbers on the air show, including revenue, parking statistics, etc. He feels it would be better to change the date to later in June than earlier and maybe one day instead of two would be better. He agreed that word of mouth will make a big difference. The Tahoe air show had a huge turn-out even though it wasn't as well organized as before. More military displays would be good, but overall, for a first show, it was exceptional. He thanked Bobbi and the staff for our efforts.

Mike Wendling made the motion to adjourn, motion seconded and approved. The next meeting will be November 9, 2011. Meeting adjourned.