



A regular meeting of the Alamosa County Airport Advisory Board was held in person and virtually on March 14th, 2024, at 8:15am.

Members Present

- Carl Denslow
- Randy Wright
- Donna Wehe
- Andrew Hartman

Others Present:

- Will Hickman
- Keeli Larsen
- Erin Minks
- Roni Wisdom
- Vern Heersink
- Jon Waters
- Jon Weeks
- Chris Martinez
- Tara Maugham

CALL TO ORDER AT 8:15a.m.

Roll Call

ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Donna made a motion to approve the March 14, 2024 agenda and Randy second. The agenda was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the March 14, 2023 minutes by Andrew, and Donna second. Minutes were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Erin Minks explained that Will and her had had conversations about the potential hangar to house the air carrier aircraft. But with part 139, entitlement funds are not eligible for hangar development at this time.



Airport Manager -Will Hickman

EAS Renewal – Will explained that we did have a few bidders on the EAS contract: Denver Air Connection (DAC), Boutique Air, and Contour Airlines. At the previous BOCC meeting, the Commissioners voted to recommend Denver Air Connection for another 2 year contract. We still have not heard back officially from the DOT. DOT ultimately decides, but they usually go with the community's recommendation. Jon Coleman was invited but was on vacation. Will did receive questions from the AAB members to ask DAC, and those questions were brought forth during his report, along with Jon Coleman's responses. There was much discussion regarding the question about crew rest hours. Carl and Randy both recommended and requested that we try to setup another discussion with DAC to flesh out some of these questions more, possibly a special committee meeting. Roni Wisdom recommended that we hold a work session with proper notice to address the questions. More talk about the local desire to get the earlier flight out of ALS, and load factor numbers, and other carriers and destinations.

Enplanements: Jan-758, 49% increase from 2023, Feb-699, 67% increase from 2023. Watching the paid parking situation to make sure it does not affect our enplanements.

SpotHero Parking updates – Keeli Larsen reported that January had 65 reservations. They (SpotHero) cut us a check but it wasn't for the right amount. January revenue \$1563. Feb – 85 reservations, \$2420.82. Something happened with their accounting system, so we had some errors with the checks we were given. Have not got an answer back from SpotHero yet. They are working with us, but it is slow. Keeli calculated during an inspection (11 minutes), that 8/26 did not have a reservation or expired. She thinks it would take our staff about 30 min to inspect the lot. The computer system is a little more difficult than she thought it would be. We are not enforcing the lot yet. She mentioned that there is a kiosk, but suggested maybe putting another one in the sterile area. Overall, there is mostly positive feedback on the parking system.

Snow equipment status – Snow blower is being worked on; quite a few issues with it but hoping to get it back in the next few weeks. All of the other equipment is doing well. We just put new bristles on one of the brooms.

SRE/ARFF Building – Showed some pictures. Predicting to be finished by end of June. Construction meetings are held every 2 weeks with Alcon and Woolpert. Provided information about the general layout and parking area.

NAVAID project update – PAPI lights, rotating beacon, REILs, RDR signs. This project will be started this summer. Bid opening in April, grant issued in June. \$705,263 total cost of project, Federal match is \$670,000. Local contribution is 2.5%. Provided general details.

Runway Broom - \$815,000 total cost. \$774,250 is federal share. Aviation/Woolpert is assisting us with this project.

Hangar B Door – Maintenance issue – just stopped working. Adept LLC is contracting with us to repair this door. Adept is the only company in CO that works solely on aircraft hangar doors. Will described the problem with the door motors and shaft in more detail. Buying a new strap lift kit from Schweiss which is about \$35,000.



Staffing update – New Operations Supervisor, Amos Cordova. We have been interviewing for another ARFF/Operations Tech. Keeli announced that she accepted a manager position with Denver Air Connection.

Airshow & Fly-In Planning Committee – Will introduced the idea of establishing a committee through the Airport Advisory Board to plan and organize fly-ins at ALS, and to set things in motion for bringing an Air Show back to the community. Donna commented that she thought it was a good proposal and a good idea. Randy asked if there were any general aviation groups that help with these kind of events. Carl responded that there was the Alamosa [SLV] Pilot’s Association, Colorado Pilot’s Association, and airshow coordination organizations that we could contact. Will added that the FAA would have to approve our plan if we were to have an airshow. Donna suggested that if there was a lot of overlap with this meeting, then we could adjourn the AAB meeting and then hold the planning committee meetings after the AAB meetings. She also suggested that we could bump the AAB meeting to 0800-0900 with a 15 minute break, and then the other planning committee meeting could start, just to utilize people’s time effectively, further recommending that we not add the Airshow/Fly-In Planning to the AAB agenda, but keeping it separate. Will asked as to how we would officially start the committee. Donna confirmed with Roni Wisdom that the Early Iron organization is its own 501(c)(3), so we would have to decide if we would want to make this official, because once we start taking money, we have to figure that part out unless we work with another non-profit group. Roni Wisdom suggested that maybe we could become the facilitator but have somebody else actually manage it, but we would have the space here to host it here and help with the airside aspect of it, but not necessarily running it. Randy commented that he thought that’s the perfect idea, and Will agreed. Will added that he wants these type of events to work for the tenants and stakeholders of the airport, and receive their input. Roni mentioned that she thought it would be better that we hold an event when there is not another event going on in the community. Randy added that if we hold the event outside of the shoulder season, the hotels would be a lot happier about it and more willing to work with you [Airport]. He also mentioned how there used to be the Balloon Fest in early October and always had perfect weather, and it was outside the shoulder season.

HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT (HSG)- Will Hickman

Will did not have anything to report at this time.

GENERAL AVIATION- CARL DENSLOW

Carl explained that the Boys and Girls Club coordinated with the Falcon Aero Lab and had a airventure event about a month ago. There were pilots here from Colorado Springs and local pilots that took the kids up for discovery flights, and there were about 30 kids. He felt like it was a really great situation overall. Carl will be coordinating with the Boys and Girls Club moving forward on how we can get more involvement from the young people in the community in aviation. This would really tie into the other things like airshows and fly-ins. Roni asked if Carl knew Jay Sorensen from the Del Norte area and said that he has an aviation course at Sargent HS and is teaching them and taking them flying. She suggested that he might be a good person to talk to when we talk with Falcon. A lot of the kids are very interested in aviation and some of the kids are going onto aviation mechanic schools, etc. Carl took note of that, and thanked Roni.



EAS- DENVER AIR CONNECTION JON COLEMAN

See Will Hickman's Airport Manager update. Nothing for Denver Air Connection.

MARKETING- KALE MORTENSEN

Kale explained that there was not a lot to update, but that the Marketing District does do a grant for events, up to \$7500 in event support, depending on the project and timing of it. The Marketing District loves the idea of the shoulder season because of the difficulty of finding days in the summer season where there is not something else happening. They are seeing a lot of September events pop up, so the idea of the October aviation event at ALS would be really big, and that he is trying to promote fall events. As we are looking at this airshow or fly-in, keep us [Marketing District] in mind. Our grant app opens up in January and closes at the end of February, and funding would go from March to March of the next year (2025). Marketing focus is very much on community awareness for the airport, trying to increase enplanements. It may be worthwhile to hold a worksession to look at what Visit Alamosa is doing, and what we are trying to capture and where the airport fits within there or some markets that make a lot of sense and start working in that direction. With some of the print advertisements, it's hard to track and see the actual results. But if it is a great alignment, market, and the right demographics, we can start adjusting the strategy and looking at outside markets. Randy mentioned that the Marketing District could be a wealth of knowledge for determining where are visitors are coming from. Kale mentioned that they have a lot of the puzzle pieces but we would have to help fill in some of it. Roni asked Kale to see if the airport could be incorporated into some of the tourism videos for this area. Kale could continue to work with Jon Coleman and his team but one of the challenges was getting access into the airport. It is easier because now we have a consistent airline and consistent rental car service. Social media marketing is on DAC.

CENTRIC AVIATION FBO- TARA MAUGHAM

Tara reported:

January 2024 serviced -188 aircraft

Airline- 29%

General Aviation-71%

February 2024-206

Airline-27%

General Aviation -73%

Total To Date 2024- 394 flights serviced

Other news: Hangar B door – It is the full service hangar. Tenants in there are all business aircraft. Having them sit outside on ramp in snow and ice is not ideal. So just given the extent and time frames taking for the repair, Centric has been issuing hangar rent credits to the customers.

Randy stated that one of Randy's employees flew in for a couple of weeks and there were no cars to rent. He was hopeful that there would be more cars to rent in the coming months. Tara said that they were planning on scaling up with more cars coming.

OTHER BUSINESS:

No other business.



ADJOURNED:

Meeting Adjourned at 9:52 a.m.