



Minutes of the TAVCO REGULAR MEETING April 16, 2025

Tempe Aviation Commission meeting held via virtual Microsoft Teams meeting with call in +1 480-498-8745, 730410859# Unites States, Phoenix (Toll) Conference ID: 730 410 859# at Community Development Conference Lobby.

Present:

Staff:

Jim Camargo	Ryan Levesque, Deputy Director Comm Dev
Lane Carraway	Jacob Payne, Principal Planner
Lance Labun	Oddvar Tveit, Temporary Aviation Coordinator*
Stuart Mitnik*	
Desiree Walker*	
Peter H Schelstraete*	
	*Participants attending remotely

1) Call to Order & Introductions

Meeting convened at 5:30 p.m. and was called to order by 5:32 p.m.

2) Public Appearances: the Tempe Aviation Commission welcomes public comments at this time. The Commission may not respond to public comments unless the topic has been placed on the agenda. There is a three-minutes time limit per citizen.

3) Voting of the Meeting Minutes:

Meeting Minutes from March 12, 2025

Commissioner Camargo has one edit request. The last sentence under Item #5. Please delete the words “and the not head member”.

Commissioner Lane requested changing “Mr” to “Ms” for Desiree Walker.

Motion by Commissioner Labun to approve Meeting Minutes from March 12, 2025; second by Commissioner Camargo. Motion passed on **6-0** vote.

Ayes: Chair Carraway, Vice Chair Camargo, Commissioners Labun, Mitnik, Walker and Schelstraete

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Commissioners McBride, Billingsly and Hunter

4) Update on Sky Harbor operations; speaker Jordan Feld, Deputy Aviation Director at Phoenix Sky Harbor.

Mr. Jordan Feld gave a presentation Sky Harbor operations. Mr. Feld began by sharing his agenda to cover safety and current projects at Sky Harbor, and then to cover the new Intergovernmental Agreement entered into by Tempe and Phoenix related to airport operations.

Vice Chair Camargo asked related to safety if there has been any conclusion to the FAA investigation on the close aircraft event that happened earlier in the year, to which Mr. Feld indicated that he had not seen or been involved with any outcomes from that investigation.

Commissioner Mitnik asked related to safety if Sky Harbor and the FAA are having staffing issues at the air traffic control tower, to which Mr. Feld noted that understaffing has been a prominent issue at FAA operations in airports across the country for some time now, but airport operations would never commence if staffing was not adequate to run the facility.

Mr. Feld shared statistics on safety measures at Sky Harbor over the past five years, noting that Sky Harbor continues to operate safely with minimal incidents. He explained the several coordination efforts undertaken by Tempe and Phoenix to ensure safe operations, including through committees and working groups. Commissioner Mitnik asked Mr. Feld if lasers have been an increasing issue for safety at the airport, to which Mr. Feld responded that lasers are indeed a danger to aircraft and that specifically helicopters are prone to being targeted by civilian lasers. Mr. Feld continued to describe safety practice operations that both Phoenix and Tempe Fire Departments participate in regularly. He continued on safety by noting that as technology becomes more advanced, safety measures will become increasingly effective.

Commissioner Mitnik asked Mr. Feld if a combined "East Valley Aviation Committee" might be a productive idea for a collaborative, regional body to assess aviation concerns and developments. Mr. Feld noted that he has no strong feelings either way about this idea, and that it could or could not be an effective body depending on its scope and duty.

Mr. Levesque asked Mr. Feld, relating to a mention of a 7460 OE item on his slides, whether or not such permits would be required over a geographic area covering all of the downtown area of Tempe. Mr. Feld responded that it really depends on the development project, its location and its height above sea level whether or not the 7460 OE is needed.

Vice Chair Camargo ask, relating to the Wildlife Habitat Management Plan, if Sky Harbor has had issues due to being so close to the Salt River and Tempe Town Lake, which provide riparian habitats for bird. Mr. Feld said that Sky Harbor is in a unique crossroads of being an urban airport and dealing with urban animals like pigeons and rats, while also being near to wildlife with birds of prey and other mammals.

Mr. Feld then gave an update on Sky Harbor's current projects under development and currently in programming. Commissioner Mitnik asked about the statuses of some federal grant monies, to which Mr. Feld noted that the funds for these projects had already been entitled. Projects mentioned by Mr. Feld included the future West Terminal, the northern land acquisitions, the infrastructure improvements and additions to the existing terminals, and the west areas Cultural Corridor.

Lastly, Mr. Feld covered the new IGA. He stated that the IGA amendment does not explain any kind of process for drawing the 65 decibel average contour, and stated that he wouldn't expect very much change from 2015. Mr. Feld indicated that he would return to the TAVCO once there are outcomes from this effort.

Mr. Ryan Levesque stated that if the Commission needs a more detailed explanation on how the amended IGA will be implemented, we can do that with staff and Jordan's team.

Commissioner Labun asked, is Sky Harbor looking at air mobility vehicles for long range planning? Mr. Feld stated they are, and that they completed advanced air mobility plan for our three airports. Commissioner Labun asked if the study is available to the public? Mr. Feld stated it was not posted but would be happy to share with the Commission.

- 5) Update and Discussion of TAVCO's stand at the Neighborhood Celebration Event;** Discussion of the event and other thoughts or comments.

Mr. Jacob Payne stated he was able to attend the event with Chair Carraway, Vice Chair Camargo, Commissioners Labun, Mitnik and Hunter. Mr. Payne and the Commissioners had a conversation with about 12-15 people during the event. Having the poster about the airport brought a lot of people in. There were about 6 or 7 stickers on our map noting where attendees of the event had experienced airport noise. Chair Carraway asked about possibly getting it in the water bill to get the word out for TAVCO. Commissioner Mitnik suggested putting a one liner in the water bill, "Did you know Tempe used to have an airport?" with the TAVCO website address. Commissioner Mitnik asked if staff knew how many handouts we had left. Mr. Payne stated he did not keep a count on them, but he might be able to see how many visits the website got. The general sentiment among the Commission was that the event was successful in providing the Commission with publicity.

Commissioner Mitnik reminded everyone about the Boards and Commissions Celebration event will be on April 25th.

6) Scheduling a tour of FAA operations at Phoenix Sky Harbor Tower and TRACON; for discussion and action.

Chair Carraway started the discussion, bringing up the date options for the tours of the FAA facilities and air traffic control tower at Sky Harbor. Mr. Payne reminded the Commission that Mr. Tveit had sent the Commissioners options for scheduling the tour with April 29, May 27 or a future to be determined date in June or July. Chair Carraway polled the members of the Commission and consensus could not be reached on either the April or May date, so this item was postponed to the next Commission meeting at which time options for June and July might be available.

Commissioner Walker asked if City staff might be able to coordinate carpooling to attend the tour event, Mr. Payne and Mr. Levesque indicated that this could be accommodated with a pool vehicle or van.

7) Commissioners Business; suggestions for future agenda items.

Chair Carraway asked if the Commission was looking for or able to take a "vacation" month where the Commission does not meet. Mr. Payne mentioned that there is a conflict with the TAVCO's standard date on October 15, due to a faith-based holiday and that that meeting would need to be canceled or rescheduled anyways. The Commission discussed seeing at a later meeting whether or not they will be canceling or looking to reschedule the October meeting.

8) Staff updates and announcements; quarterly report.

Mr. Tveit shared the Quarterly PHX East compliance report that he generated for quarter one of 2025.

Commissioner Mitnik suggested that the report start with an executive summary and be submitted to the city. Spent some time describing the new technique versus the old technique, why it was necessary and how it works.

9) Schedule Next TAVCO Meeting

May 21, 2025 at 5:30pm.

10) Adjournment

Motion by Chair Carraway to adjourn; second by Commissioner Walker. Motion passed on **6-0** vote.

Ayes: Chair Carraway, Vice Chair Camargo, Commissioners Labun, Mitnik, Walker and Schelstraete

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Commissioners McBride, Billingsly and Hunter

