



Department of Public Works

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MINUTES UNAPPROVED

TUOLUMNE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Airports Advisory Committee
September 25, 2024, at 2:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Kathleen Haff, District 4 Supervisor, Jaron Brandon, District 5 Supervisor, Mark Banks, Columbia Airport User, Jim Stenger, Columbia Airport Tenant-FBO, Joe Sobczak, Pine Mountain Lake Airport Resident/User, Jeremy Zawodny, Pine Mountain Lake Airport Resident/User

STAFF: Blossom Scott-Heim, Director of Public Works, Tonya Scheftner, Airport Manager, Traci Williams-O'Neill, Administrative Technician II

GUESTS: Rachel Gummerson, Board Clerk

ABSENT: Adam Artzer, Columbia Airport Resident

CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Brandon Called the meeting of Wednesday, September 25, 2024, to order at 2:11 P.M. Quorum met.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Blossom Scott-Heim, Director of Public Works, introduced Tonya Scheftner, Airport Manager, and Traci Williams-O'Neill, Airport Admin. Round table of introductions: Joe Sobczak, Kathleen Haff, District 4 Supervisor; Mark Banks, Jim Stenger, Jeremy Zawodny; Jaron Brandon, District 5 Supervisor; Tonya Scheftner, Airport Manager, spoke regarding her excitement for the Airports Advisory Committee as a mastermind group for the airport opportunities to produce solutions to make the airports better together.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

The public may speak on any item not on the printed agenda. No Action may be taken by the Committee. The amount of time allocated for the public forum is limited to 15 minutes total.

No Public Comment

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- Rachel Gummerson, Board Clerk, issued the oath to all new committee members. Requested committee members to raise their right hand and read the oath.

4. STAFF /COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. AAC Committee Purpose

Blossom Scott-Heim read the purpose statement for the Airports Advisory Committee, outlining its role in advising the Board of Supervisors on Tuolumne

County Airport issues, including development, operations, and usage. The committee serves as a sounding board and a catalyst for developing recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. This collaborative approach ensures that airport concerns and ideas are effectively communicated and addressed.

- b. Jim Stenger commented that Advisory Committee (AAC) was reconstituted following the 2022 Grand Jury Report, which aimed to better advise the supervisors on airport district issues and enhance the board's understanding to better serve the airports.

- c. **Airport Events**

Tonya Scheftner, announced the Pine Mountain Lake Airport Day scheduled for Saturday, October 5, 2024 and airport technicians will be on site. The Young Eagles event is scheduled for Saturday, October 12, 2024. The registration contact is Janet Gregory.

Supervisor Brandon shared extremely positive feedback regarding the Father's Day Fly-In, highlighting it as a fantastic event. He extended congratulations to the airport staff for their hard work and success in making the event a memorable experience. Great job, team!

Tonya Scheftner reported that the Father's Day Fly-In broke even and came in under budget, with an impressive attendance of 3,500. Events like this foster a love for aviation and connect people of all ages.

She also recognized Traci Williams-O'Neill for her outstanding work and dedication to ensuring safety, managing finances, and building connections that brought pilots and aircraft to the event. Thank you, Traci, for your invaluable contributions!

Mark Banks praised the staff for their exceptional performance in coordinating the Father's Day Fly-In, especially considering it was their first experience managing an event of this size. He acknowledged the challenges they faced but highlighted that they truly rose to the occasion and did a fantastic job. Well done, team!

Jim Stenger praised the staff for their excellent work in producing a successful Father's Day Fly-In.

- d. **Airport Feasibility and Viability Study**

Supervisor Brandon inquired about the release timeline for the Airport Feasibility Viability study. Blossom Scott-Heim confirmed that the study will be made available two weeks prior to the next Airports Advisory Committee Meeting.

Jim also emphasized the need for improvements in the airport's signage and infrastructure, as well as the importance of ensuring that property taxes collected at the airport are returned to support the airport's budgets. These enhancements are crucial for the continued growth and success of the airport.

Supervisor Brandon emphasized the importance of generating additional revenue to enhance airport infrastructure and promote economic revival. He highlighted that these goals are a priority for the airport, underlining the committee's commitment to ensuring the airport thrives and serves the community effectively. Exploring new revenue opportunities will be key to achieving these objectives.

Tonya Scheftner discussed the creation of a marketing list to promote airport activities and initiatives. She noted that efforts are underway to submit the Airport Capital Improvement Project list to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and secure funding for the required 10% match. Additionally, she mentioned plans to conduct a hangar development analysis to assess future opportunities for growth. These steps are crucial for advancing the airport's development and sustainability.

e. Tuolumne County Aeronautical Association

Mark Banks reported that the Tuolumne County Aeronautical Association (TCAA) has been reformed and is actively working on various improvements, including new doors and windows for the pavilion. He highlighted the unique features of Columbia Airport, particularly its grass runway and pavilion, which set it apart.

Mark also expressed support for the relatively new airport manager, praising her enthusiasm and dedication to the airports. Exciting times ahead for the TCAA and Columbia Airport!

- f.** Supervisor Brandon requested that this agenda section be named Staff / Member Reports.

5. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

- a.** Change the location of all future Airports Advisory Committee meetings to the Committee and Commissions Room at 48 Yaney St, 3rd Floor, Sonora, or the Board of Supervisors Chambers at 2 South Green St, 4th Floor, Sonora.

Blossom Scott-Heim provided background on the directive to hold all Committee and Commission Meetings at the ANF Building, located at 48 Yaney St, 3rd Floor, Sonora, in the Committee and Commissions Room. Historically, the Airports Advisory Committee (AAC) met at the Groveland Community Hall or the Airport Pavilion. The proposal is to change all future meetings to the

Committee and Commissions Room or the Board of Supervisors Chambers for improved accessibility and consistency.

Committee members discussed adding an additional location of the Tuolumne County Community Resilience Center—Groveland at 18986 Ferretti Rd. Groveland.

A motion was made to change the location of all future Airports Advisory Committee meetings to the Committee and Commissions Room at 48 Yaney St, 3rd Floor, Sonora, or the Board of Supervisors Chambers at 2 South Green St, 4th Floor, Sonora, or the Tuolumne County Community Resilience Center in Groveland at 18986 Ferretti Rd., Groveland. The motion also directs staff to research Zoom options for remote participation.

The motion was made by Mark Banks and seconded by Jim Stenger.

- **Ayes:** Kathleen Haff (District 4 Supervisor), Jaron Brandon (District 5 Supervisor), Mark Banks (Columbia Airport User), Jim Stenger (Columbia Airport Tenant-FBO), Joe Sobczak (Pine Mountain Lake Airport Resident/User), Jeremy Zawodny (Pine Mountain Lake Airport Resident/User).
- **Opposed:** None
- **Abstained:** None

6. **NEXT MEETING** – October 30, 2024, 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors Chambers located at 2 South Green St, 4th Floor, Sonora. November 12, 2024, 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Tuolumne County Community Resilience Center—Groveland at 18986 Ferretti Rd. Groveland.

- a. Discussion regarding the release of the Airport Feasibility & Viability Study, including adding a Zoom option, Access Tuolumne, and two meetings, one in Sonora and one in Groveland.

7. **ADJOURNMENT** 2:02 p.m.