

# Aspen/Pitkin County Airport Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes February 17, 2022

- I. Meeting called to order 3:00PM.
- II. Roll Call:  
In person: Jacquelyn Francis, Meg Haynes, Valerie Braun, Michael Solondz, Jon Peacock and Dan Bartholomew  
Virtual: Auden Schendler, Rick Heede, Howey Mallory, Bruce Gordon, Richard Burkley, Clint Kinney, Sara Ott, and Catherine Christoff  
Gallery: Jonathan Jones
- III. Approval of Meeting Minutes from 1/20: Approved with two additions
- IV. Board Comments:  
Valerie requested E175 discussion be added to the 2/20 Minutes  
Priority Topics suggestions, individuals mentioned the following:
  - a. How to get more efficient aircraft operating at ASE
  - b. New terminal needs mass transit
  - c. Have a rep. from the ATCT call in to discuss how to reduce Drop and Go Operations
  - d. Howie mentioned that Noise and Emissions data collection needs to be a high priorityIntroduction - Michael Solondz
- V. Public Comment: Jonathan Jones said that Atlantic Aviation is looking at sustainability at all of their locations but Aspen would be first as it is a priority for Pitkin County. Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) was introduced in April 2021 and Atlantic is offsetting all fuel at ASE. LED Lights were introduced several years ago and they have been phasing in electric equipment since 2010
- VI. Old Business:  
Dan asked that each member please send in their priority topics. Some are naturally already falling into place - ALP, FBO, Resolution 105-2020. Jacque reiterated that everyone should send in his or her list to Sandra Story.  
Priority Topics suggestions, individuals mentioned the following:
  - a. Auden - How to get more efficient aircraft operating at ASE
  - b. Auden - New terminal needs mass transit connection
  - c. Michael - Have a rep. from the ATCT call in to discuss how to reduce Drop and Go Operations
  - d. Howie - Noise and Emissions data collection needs to be a high priority
- VII. New Business:
  - a. Overview of Pitkin County Resolution 105-2020 – Jon Peacock. BOCC adopted the recommendations of the ASE Vision Committee with a few additions.
    - 123 Community volunteers
    - 5 Advisory Boards
    - 47 public meetings
    - Delayed due to COVID

Vision Committee Report additions:

- Directed Staff to meet with the FAA on a new ALP that reflects the improvements that were recommended
- Start conversations to achieve the goals around aircraft noise and emissions
- Appoint an Airport Advisory Board

Lots of work to come for this committee.

There were 71 sub recommendations that fall into 17 areas:

- Maximizing safety at the Airport
- Maximizing the sustainability at the Airport
- Seamless ground connectivity
- Improving Airline reliability and service
- Non Airline reserved parking
- FBO reflects the community's values
- New Terminal
- Enhance the traveler and staff experience
- Open Air Jetways
- Provide and design 6 to 8 gates
- Flexible gates
- Replace and improve the ALP
- Leave the runway where it is
- Phase construction to minimize community disruption

Common Ground Recommendations included a Map that offers visual depiction of goals of the BoCC. Any major deviations should be brought back to the AAB and the BoCC for further discussion. For example: moving the terminal, moving the tower or changes to the west side of the airport.

Board Comments:

-Jacque asked that everyone become very familiar with the resolution. The charge of the AAB is to work on compromise that will best serve the community.

-Michael asked who is the ultimate authority in this process. Jon replied that the BoCC has that authority.

-Meg reiterated that compromise will be key.

b. Changes to the Airport due to COVID – Dan:

- ASE was not as impacted as most other airports
- Change in operational mix – GA went up and commercial went down
- Mask requirement still in place at the airport until at least March 18
- Implemented many cleaning protocols
- We had flight cancellations due to Airline crew and staffing shortages

-Meg asked if ASE had employee hiring issues. Dan replied that we did not but the airlines did.

-Barry asked if the mask requirements apply at the FBO. Dan said that they have different rules than the commercial terminal. TSA is not onsite so it is difficult to enforce.

c. Airport Development Timeline – Dan:

12 to 24 Months

- Airport Layout Plan – once all agreements are in place with the firm we will move into Data Collection and we will want to work with the FAA throughout the entire process. Howie asked about the criteria for choosing a consultant. Dan replied that they went through an extensive vetting process. Presentations were made and questions asked regarding staff/community collaboration. Meg asked who was involved in the selection committee and Dan named GR Fielding, Rich Englehart, an Operations Coordinator and Chris Davis. Valerie asked if they could know the name of the group but Dan said not until an agreement is made.
- Runway Rehabilitation – This year we will be closed for two weeks May 2 to May 16. Hopefully no closure next year. In 2024, we will have a substantial rehab.

2 to 7 Years

- We hope to finished with the ALP
- Terminal Design
- ATCT Design
- FBO Redevelopment – In Sept. 2023, the current agreement is up so we will begin soliciting for a new 30-year contract. They will spend 2 to 3 years in the current facility but will then be required to redevelop.
- Terminal Construction
- ATCT Construction (move Tower)

7 to 15+ Years

- FBO Construction (West side)
- Taxiway Shift
- Runway widening to 150ft (Currently 100ft)

After all is completed, we will be a full group 3 airport.

Board Questions:

-Jacque asked when we would start working on the RFP for the FBO. Dan answered that he is working on it now and it will come out the 2<sup>nd</sup> of this year and AAB will have input.

-Rick asked if there are any elements of this SLP that require FAA approval that might constrain the design and construction of the terminal. Dan replied no. The FAA is primarily concerned with safety; the terminal means less to them than the runway.

-Michael Will the Fuel Farm financing be the responsibility of the FBO – Dan replied yes. Also asked if the 2<sup>nd</sup> FBO is on the table. Dan said it is not necessarily on the table but the FAA cannot restrict if there is space available and it is safe to operate. We do not think we have that space.

-Valerie asked if we are comfortable that the FAA will allow the crossing of the runway. Jon replied that historically they have not been but now they are more open to it. We will learn more during the ALP process.

-Valerie asked if the County could fund the moving of the Tower. Dan answered that we do not know. Jon said he is sure the FAA will let us pay for it as long as that get to choose where it goes.

-Michael asked for a digital copy of the ALP. Dan said he would get it to him.

-Auden asked about rerouting Owl Creek and Dan replied that the County does not want to do that.

-Barry asked if that was a topic for the ASE Vision and Jacque said yes, and they did not want it moved.

d. Airport Hot Topics – Dan:

- Airline Ramp Delays – staffing issues – we can do nothing about it
- Airport Closure May 2 through May 15 - Runway rehab
- Airline Gates 1,6,and 8 Closure May 2 through June 2 to add concrete pads for the E175

Board Questions:

-Valerie asked what has to be done for the approval of the E175. Dan said it is a software upgrade to get more thrust out of the engine. We might see them this time next year. She also asked if the E175 is better than the CRJ and Dan said they are about the same. The E175 can fit only 7 more passengers. It is louder but cleaner. This is not a replacement aircraft for the CRJ.

-Howie asked if we would get any of the Build Back Better Net Funding. Dan explained that there are two different parts to Net Funding – Entitlement Funds Discretionary Funds.

We will automatically get 2.5 million a year for the next five years based on our enplanements. The FAA can give the Discretionary Funds to whomever they want. We will have to work to put us in line for some of that money. Jon added that we have to be completely sure that the FAA is in full agreement with our new ALP or it is very unlikely we would get any of those funds. It will definitely take compromise.

-Meg asked how they could learn more about the ALP. Dan said he would do a presentation for the AAB.

VIII. Next Meeting March 17, 2022 3:00PM to 5:00PM

Motion to Adjourn at 5:00PM