Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the MNAA General Aviation/Operations/Planning & Engineering and MPC Engineering & Planning Committees

Date: July 15, 2020
Place: Nashville International Airport Board Room / Electronic Meeting

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Committee Members Present: Bill Freeman, Chair; Nancy Sullivan, Vice Chair; and Amanda Farnsworth

Committee Members Absent: None

Others Present: Jocelyn Stevenson; Bobby Joslin; Christy Smith; Kevin Crumbo; Aubrey B. Harwell III, Board Chair; John Doerge; Doug Kreulen; Cindy Barnett; Lisa Lankford; and Angela Edwards

I. Call to Order

Chair Freeman called the General Aviation/Operations/Planning & Engineering (GAOPE) Committee meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., pursuant to Public Notice dated July 10, 2020.

II. Roll Call and Open Meetings Announcement

Ms. Angela Edwards, Staff Secretary, called roll of the members of the Joint Meeting of the MNAA General Aviation/Operations/Planning & Engineering and MPC Engineering & Planning Committees. All members were present, excluding Commissioner Farnsworth.

Ms. Edwards read the Open Meetings Act Announcement as follows:

The Joint Meeting of the MNAA General Aviation/Operations/Planning & Engineering and MPC Engineering & Planning Committees will be held in accordance with Executive Order No. 16, signed by Governor Bill Lee on March 20, 2020, as amended by Executive Order No. 34, signed by Governor Bill Lee on May 6, 2020, and as amended by Executive Order No. 51, signed by Governor Bill Lee on June 29, 2020, allowing a governing body to hold meetings by electronic or other means of communication without a quorum being physically present if the governing body determines that meeting by electronic means is necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19 or other related epidemics to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public and members of the governing body. All votes taken during this meeting will be by roll call vote.
Commissioner Farnsworth joined the meeting at 9:01 a.m.

III. Approval of Minutes

Chair Freeman made a motion to approve the Minutes of the June 4, 2020 GAOPE Committee meeting and the Minutes of the June 10, 2020 GAOPE Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sullivan. Ms. Edwards took a roll call vote and the motion carried by vote of 3 to 0.

IV. Chair's Report

Chair Freeman had no Chair's Report.

V. Items for Approval

None

VI. Information Items

A. AWOS Relocation at John C. Tune Airport (JWN)

Mr. Jeff Roach, AVP, Strategic Planning, briefed the Committee on this item. Mr. Roach explained that the Strategic Planning staff were asked to evaluate the relocation of the Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) at JWN. The discovery phase has been completed. During the discovery phase, staff reviewed Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Guidance, Tennessee Department of Corrections Planned Future Development for the western side of the airport, and coordinated with Regulatory Agencies including Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) Aeronautics, the owner of the AWOS.

FAA guidance comes through an Order which addresses siting criteria for an AWOS. The Order provides for 3 siting options. Mr. Roach discussed each option and presented graphics for each. Staff recommended Option 3 with a cost estimate of $620K and a 20-month completion time. Mr. Roach stated the next step would be to evaluate funding sources.

President Kreulen stated this was presented as an informational item and asked if anyone had any questions or objections to proceeding forward. President Kreulen stated it was his understanding that the Board wanted to move forward and continue exploring the relocation of the AWOS as it would allow for flexibility for future development.

Chair Freeman stated he thought the recommended option is the correct plan and opened the floor for any questions or discussions from the Board members in attendance.
Commissioner Sullivan inquired as to the funds that would need to be spent before obtaining final approval. Mr. Roach stated a Non-Rulemaking Study (NRS) would be prepared. Once the NRS is completed, staff would ask for approval from TDOT and FAA. Staff time would be required for the Study effort. President Kreulen stated it was worth the time to go through the NRS. The only cost to MNAA would be staff time and the $620K mentioned earlier was for actual relocation of the AWOS.

Commissioner Joslin inquired as to how long it would take the airport to re-coup the $620K by utilizing the land where the current AWOS is located for ground leases. President Kreulen stated staff would calculate that and get back to the Committee and Board. Commissioner Joslin stated MNAA would get its money back because the AWOS is sitting on prime real estate.

Commissioner Farnsworth inquired as to the funding on this project. President Kreulen stated MNAA would ask for FAA funding, TDOT Aeronautics funding, and could possibly use the equity fund. Ms. Marge Basrai, VP and Chief Financial Officer, would determine the funding needed to pay for the project.

Chair Freeman and the GAOPE Committee members supported the additional study, staff time to complete the study, and to work on the financing structure for the relocation of the AWOS.

Mr. Jeff Roach stated Aeroplex had completed their discovery phase for the JWN Redevelopment Plan. The stakeholder survey is about to be released. MNAA staff are working with Aeroplex to determine the peer airport list.

Commissioner Sullivan inquired as to the next deliverable date from Aeroplex. Mr. Roach stated it would be in September 2020. The GAOPE Committee will have two more updates before a final recommendation is presented to the Committee.

This item was presented for information purposes only with no action required.

VII. Adjourn

There being no further business before the GAOPE Committee, Chair Freeman adjourned the meeting at 9:17 a.m.