



September 16, 2014

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Minutes for the Airport Advisory Meeting of September 15, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 6:55 p.m. at the Claremont Municipal Airport by Chief Rick Bergeron. Also in attendance were board members Joe Osgood, Dave Eno, Roger Hamel, Steve Keen and Dave Carton.

The minutes of the July 28, 2014 meeting were distributed and reviewed. Those minutes were accepted as written, by the board.

The airport manager advised the board that this special meeting was for the purpose of getting the boards input as to ways to increase the use of the facility as well as expanding the development of the site.

Dave Carton spoke about the limitations of the current operations that were used to generate revenue. He summarized that those were mostly limited to tie down rentals, hangar rentals, gasoline sales and land lease agreements.

Joe Osgood repeated the advantages of having some sort of café on the airport site to help bolster the numbers of public visits and to diversify the airports use.

Chief Bergeron inquired with the board as to a "Wings and Wheels" event. Dave Carton stated that these are commonly organized at airports, but was usually view as only promotional in nature.

Steve Keen commented that the airports master plan had sizeable tracts of land available for future hangar construction and that some effort could be made in seeking out companies in our area that could benefit from such expansion. Mr. Osgood added that the Planning and Development Office could be instrumental in seeking out persons of interest in this matter.

Mr. Keen identified that since car rental access is sometimes an issue that the airport could develop a closer relationship with a local rental company.

The airport manager suggested that aesthetics also could play an important part in future development and that the gravel outer lot is a serious impediment to the overall appearance and public access to the facility.

Steve Keen commented that other airport have also installed airport themed play spaces at their fields which also play a part in attracting visitors to the site.

Other members expanded on this idea by suggesting that the natural beauty of the site could be further utilized by including a picnic area or some other type of recreational space.

The meeting wound down with Mr. Carton and the group returning to the café idea as one of the best options for development and offered that community development should check into some type of partnership with an existing food service to enhance the likelihood of a successful plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.