

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
CITY OF ARCADIA
TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2011
5:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The workshop session was called to order at approximately 5:00 PM with the following members and staff present:

Arcadia City Council

Mayor Robert Heine

Councilmember Roosevelt Johnson

Deputy Mayor Keith Keene

Councilmember Martha Craven

Arcadia City Staff

City Administrator Lawrence Miller

Assistant City Administrator Judi Jankosky

City Recorder Dana Williams

Councilmember Johnson gave the invocation which was followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by all.

1. UPDATE ON AVIATION DAY

The Mayor opened the meeting with comments of high regard for the activities associated with Aviation Day on Saturday, March 19th. He talked about the impressiveness of the event and that "if you missed it, you missed something." He then turned the meeting over to the Assistant City Administrator.

Ms. Jankosky, through a PowerPoint presentation, discussed the goals of Aviation Day which were to promote civitas through a sense of community awareness and involvement; and to create a positive view of the airport. Her slides showed the various types of planes, helicopters, and rides offered throughout the day, the crowd mingling amongst the displays, and a skydiving exhibition. The Assistant City Administrator stated that through planning the event, she had hoped for a "couple of hundred" guests but in actuality, crowd estimations were between 1,500 and 2,000; and that over 500 people were served breakfast and lunch.

The Assistant City Administrator also distributed a letter received from a Commander in the Civil Air Patrol thanking the event organizers for their role in welcoming, training, and mentoring the cadets in aircraft marshalling techniques.

2. INTRODUCTION OF SKYDIVE ARCADIA

Mr. Lance Litton, of *Skydive Arcadia*, provided an introduction to his company and an outline of his business plan to bring this company to the Arcadia Airport. In response to

questions posed by the audience, Council and Administrator, Mr. Litton explained the following points about his company:

- His grandparents opened the business in 1974 and he took it over in 2003
- The company averages about 1,000 jumps per summer
- Each client must be 18 years of age and sign a release of liability (a copy of which was distributed to the Council and has been forwarded to the City Attorney for review)
- A 3rd party liability insurance is provided through the U.S. Parachute Association
- This will be a full time, year-round activity
- *Skydive Arcadia* owns three Cessna 182 airplanes and will employ 1-3 pilots and 1-2 instructors
- They adhere to all FAA flight regulations, Part 91, and the USPA basic safety regulations (BSR's) with commercially rated pilots and a requirement to carry a reserve chute, repacked every 120 days by an FAA rated rigger.
- The operation will not require a specified airspace reservation, although they do file a Notice to Airmen.
- There is no anticipated change in traffic patterns at the airport
- *Skydive Arcadia* has a 100% safety record
- Their only locations are the one in Maryland and the one proposed for Arcadia.

The Deputy Mayor asked how this business would effect airport operations, saying he would not want this to interfere with other potential opportunities at the airport. The Assistant City Administrator responded that skydiving is an FAA recognized activity and aligns well with other aviation businesses and operations. She then requested and received consensus of the Council to permit *Skydiving Arcadia* to move forward with their plans to open a location at the Arcadia Airport.

3. DISCUSSION ON AIRPORT PROJECTS AND PRIORITIES

Ms. Lisa Waters and Mr. Mike Moon of Hanson Professional Services gave a presentation to include the potential economic impacts of the Airport, FAA and FDOT funding opportunities and currently eligible projects.

In discussion of the economic impacts, Ms. Waters stated many Florida employers rely on aviation to support their activities and help improve their business efficiency. According to an FDOT study, the use of air transportation increases the efficiency of Florida businesses by an estimated \$94.5 billion annually; and recreational/sport aviation generates economic impacts benefiting the entire community.

The next slides documented FDOT case studies and the potential economic impact comparisons for three general aviation airports. Referring to the comparisons as outlined below, Ms. Waters explained that salaries and such were to be considered as direct impacts, with purchases such as fuel and supplies as indirect impacts, and the multiplier impacts things like rental cars, hotels, and restaurants.

Airport	Direct Impact	Indirect Impact	Multiplier Impact	Total Employment	Total Payroll	Total Economic Activity
Arcadia	\$79,300	\$105,800	\$154,700	3	\$67,800	\$339,800
Wauchula	\$458,000	\$407,500	\$733,100	22	\$531,400	\$1,598,600
Zephyrhills	\$12,599,200	\$2,071,300	\$11,105,300	224	\$6,846,600	\$25,775,800

Mr. Moon then stated the federal government had created an Aviation Trust Fund to develop a nationwide system of public-use airports adequate to meet current projected growth of civil aviation, which is funded through aviation taxes such as fuel, passenger tickets, freights, etc. He talked about the FAA funding opportunities to include the Joint Automated Capital Improvement Program (JACIP), a joint venture between the FAA and FDOT, and which incorporates future project funding up to \$150,000/yr bankable for three years with construction expected to begin within 2 years. Mr. Moon then addressed sponsor responsibilities and certifications/assurances as covered on his slides. For the FDOT funding opportunities, he again addressed the JACIP and funding cycle with appropriations from the aviation fuel tax into the State transportation trust fund and airport improvement program.

Moving to the current eligible projects, Mr. Moon first talked about security fencing and automated gates which provide security for both users and tenants and has an FDOT committed funding source through June 30, 2012 with a 0% match by the local airport. The second priority project was the runway/taxiway/ramp pavement dressing conditioner and marking which extends the pavement life, thereby promoting safety. This project is committed for funding in FY-13 with an 80% FDOT source and 20% local match. The final project discussed was the Airport Master Plan with the intent to foster adoption of a flexible approach that devotes resources to critical issues related to safety and economic enhancement. Mr. Moon described the plan as a comprehensive study of airport existing facilities and potential future demands; and to include the elements of community involvement, an inventory of existing environmental conditions, aviation forecasts, facility requirements, alternatives evaluation, and layout, financial and implementation plans. He went on to say these plans are further divided by short term (immediate to 5 yrs.), mid-term (5-10 yrs.) and long term (10-20 yrs.). The estimated cost for the Master Plan is \$350,000 with the FAA providing 95% (\$322,500), and FDOT and the local match of 2.5% each (\$8,750). Funding for this will be sought in 2013.

4. QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Mr. Moon next took questions from the Council and audience. Councilmember Craven didn't have any questions, although she expressed enthusiasm to move the airport projects forward. The Deputy Mayor felt the same and was pleased to learn the return on investment of such a small amount could generate such a large amount of grant funding. Mr. Gary Frierson, asked what steps would need to be taken to get the projects implemented. Mr. Moon responded the Assistant City Administrator has already started working with the FDOT with the next step would be to get the grant and present it to Council for acceptance. Councilmember Johnson asked if thoughts of the Master Plan had already begun, to which Mr. Moon answered the funding cycle doesn't begin until October 2012. Mrs. Craven asked if revenue coming into the airport was supposed to be reinvested into the airport to which Mr. Moon answered it was. Mr. Clinton Burton questioned previous funding for and of the

airport. The City Administrator clarified he had looked into the costs associated with the airport such as mowing, maintenance, a past environmental issue, etc. , and that all monies generated at the airport had not been used for other purposes but had been properly spent.

The City Administrator also thanked the Assistant Administrator, the Airport Advisory Committee and Hanson representatives for all their hard work and success of Aviation Day; and expounding on the Deputy Mayor's sentiments, added that forward thinking can have a rippling effect.

Having no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 PM, although the representatives from Hanson volunteered to stay around after the meeting should anyone have additional questions.

APPROVED THIS 5th DAY OF APRIL 2011.

By:



Robert W. Heine, Mayor

ATTEST:



Dana L.S. Williams, CMC, City Recorder