



**RENO-TAHOE AIRPORT AUTHORITY  
COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE  
BRIEF OF MINUTES**

October 20, 2016

River Room in Baggage Claim

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jenifer Rose, Vice Chair  
Sandy Evans Hall  
Daniel Farahi  
Matt Harris  
Michael Knox  
Don Kornstein  
Rick LaMay  
Owen Roberts  
Sharon Spangler  
Jaime Tibaduiza  
Charlene Bybee  
Jennifer Cunningham  
Bob Lucey

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Marilyn Mora, CEO  
Dean Schultz, COO  
Brian Kulpin  
Trish Tucker  
Heidi Jared  
Mary Lee Mansfield

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT/EXCUSED:**

Jessica Sferrazza, Chair  
Bebe Adams  
Glenn Carano  
Carol Chaplin  
Patrick Flynn  
Karl Hutter  
Marc Johnson  
Jim Nadeau  
Thomas Petersen  
Art Sperber  
Aaron West  
Hillary Schieve

The Community Outreach Committee (COC) met on Thursday, October 20, 2016.

**1. Call to Order, Roll Call**

Co-Chair Jenifer Rose called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM.

Community Outreach Committee members were welcomed by Co-Chair Jenifer Rose. Roll call was taken and guests introduced.

**2. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from July 21, 2016**

Due to the fact there was not a quorum present, there was no action taken to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2016 meeting.

**4. New Business: Update on Key Issues Facing the Airport Authority**

a. Brief Discussion of Community Outreach Committee Appointments to the Master Plan Working Group.

Jamie McCluskie, Vice President of Planning, Engineering & Environmental Management, and Dan Bartholomew, Manager of Planning/Environmental, gave COC members an overview of the Airport Master Plan.

Mead & Hunt is the Master Plan Consultant hired for this project that will serve as a 20-year comprehensive guide for Airport development. The Master Plan is a 16-month process which begins October 27, 2016 and includes: an inventory of existing conditions and features; development of a short, medium, and long-term forecast; and analyzing the ability of existing facilities to meet forecast demands.

The Master Plan will be developed with extensive community outreach, including a Master Plan Working Group (MPWG). Three COC members are being sought to participate on the MPWG to provide input and ideas. In addition, the working group will include other stakeholders from: the airlines, cargo, NV Guard, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), general aviation, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), local government agencies and tourism entities. The first meeting of the MPWG is tentatively scheduled for November 17th, with a Public Information Meeting to follow.

Three appointments to the Master Plan Working Group from the COC will be made. Co-Chair Rose asked if any COC members would like to be included and various members indicated by raise of hand: Matt Harris, Sharon Spangler, Rick LaMay, Charlene Bybee, Daniel Farahi, Owen Roberts and Jaime Tibaduiza.

b. Reno-Tahoe Aviation Group: An Overview of General Aviation at Reno-Tahoe International Airport (RNO) presented by Jim Rundle, President of the Reno-Tahoe Aviation Group.

Jim Rundle, President of the Reno-Tahoe Aviation Group (RTAG), addressed the COC members and started by explaining that General Aviation, or GA, is basically any aircraft other than military or scheduled commercial aircraft. GA includes emergency medical flights, firefighting aircraft, and business jets, all of which are important to the region.

According to Mr. Rundle, most commercial airline pilots start as a GA pilot, in a small private aircraft, learning the characteristics of flying, and eventually achieving their commercial pilot rating. The United States is starting to see a shortage of commercial airline pilots, many of whom start in general aviation.

Mr. Rundle stated that at RNO, 50% of the flights are general aviation flights. Without GA at RNO, the airport classification could change, which could potentially change the status of the manned FAA control tower.

In 2015, RTAG held a get together with the FAA Control Tower employees, and one of the things brought up was that the FAA really appreciates the GA activity at RNO, which keeps the statistics up for the FAA. According to Mr. Rundle, there was a negative sentiment toward general aviation at RNO a few years back, and for that reason, RTAG (formally Reno-Tahoe Airport Association) was born. Today, there is a “new approach,” and Marily Mora, President/CEO, and the Board of Trustees have really improved relations between the Airport Authority and General Aviation, and the two parties now work as a team. Another positive is the meetings held by the Reno-Tahoe International Airport Users Committee. Today, flight operations can be discussed with the Airport Authority and any concerns of the GA community can be addressed at these meetings and resolved.

RTAG, working with the Airport Authority, has hosted a charity event called Operation Santa Claus for families from the Children’s Cabinet. At this annual event, families in need are treated to Christmas presents, a lunch, and a view of the airfield and aircraft, with presents delivered on a C-130 from Santa Claus. In addition, RTAG has established a scholarship to encourage aviation education. RTAG has presented an award to a member of the Airport Authority for their efforts to further the aviation community. RTAG is also active in furthering pilot education and recently held a class on weight turbulence training. Ongoing educational classes can serve as “credits” if and when there is a pilot infraction on the airfield, thereby increasing flight safety. This concluded Mr. Rundle’s presentation.

COC member Jaime Tibaduiza asked about flight scholarships that might be available for flight school. Mr. Rundle was not aware of a scholarship that could cover several thousand dollars’ worth of schooling. Dean Schulz, Executive Vice President/COO, mentioned the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), the AOPA National Business Association and Pathways to Aviation.

Co-Chair Rose moved the agenda to item 5.

- c. General Aviation (GA) Facilities Tour: COC Members will Board a Bus and Visit Dassault Aircraft Services and Atlantic Aviation. Members will Gain a Better Understanding of These Two Critical GA Facilities at RNO and Hear from Their Management Teams About the Importance of General Aviation in the Reno-Tahoe Region.

Due to the General Aviation tour, Co-Chair Rose proceeded with items 5 – 7 on the agenda before dismissing the Committee for the bus tour. Community Outreach Committee members and staff then boarded a bus and toured the Reno-Tahoe International Airport’s General Aviation facilities.

**5. General Committee Comments, Questions & Items for Future Committee Meetings**

COC member Rick LaMay inquired about an FAA Control Tower tour. Daniel Farahi asked for an update on any new RNO flights and which ones the community can help promote. This led to a discussion about the Airport Authority sending a regular email to the Committee members to update them on what is taking place including press conferences, events, and new air service.

**6. Update from Public Officials**

Bob Lucey attended the National Association of Counties National Conference and served on the Transportation Committee in Washington D.C. There was great discussion about commercial flight routes and general aviation. In addition, Commissioner Lucey is hearing lots of positive comments locally from his business associates regarding air service.

Councilwoman Charlene Bybee shared that Sparks recently hosted the National League of Cities and at that event, Mayor Geno Martini was recognized as Public Official of the Year. Downtown Sparks is thriving with new apartment houses filling up and new office space available. Councilwoman Bybee shared that the City of Sparks has two new council members starting soon, both of whom are millennials.

Reno Sparks Convention & Visitors Authority (RSCVA) representative Jennifer Cunningham had to leave the COC meeting early, but Co-Chair Rose advised that Ms. Cunningham said that the RSCVA's search for a new CEO has been narrowed down to two candidates and they should make a recommendation soon.

**7. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**8. Adjournment**

The formal meeting of the COC was adjourned at 6:05 p.m. and the general aviation tour followed.

JS/hj/cj