



**RENO-TAHOE AIRPORT AUTHORITY
COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 15, 2020
5:30 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Chair Richard Jay called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Roll was called.

Committee Members Present

Chair Richard Jay
Vice Chair Jenifer Rose
Jennifer Baker
Chris Barrett
Kristine Brown
Gus Freitag
Mimi Fujii-Strickler
Michael Knox
Tim Lukas
Darrin Maddox
Eric Stovall
Sharon Spangler
Kalie Work

Committee Members Absent

Steve Jackson
Rick Murdock
Lisa Ruggerio
Taylor Russo
Azzi Shirazi
Jason Smith
Jaime Tibaduiza

Also Present

Brian Kulpin
Annie Turner
Joel Blancaflor
Art Jimenez
Charlene Bybee

Committee Members and staff conducted introductions.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 27, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

On motion by Jenifer Rose, seconded by Sharon Spangler, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes of the August 27, 2020 meeting.

4. NEW BUSINESS – UPDATE ON KEY ISSUES FACING THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY

- a. Unveiling VALE... Voluntary Airport Low Emissions Grant for RNO Clean Technology Project

Todd Welty, Environmental Program Manager, provided the Committee with a presentation regarding the VALE grant to benefit RNO's Clean Technology Project.

VALE improves airport air quality and provides air quality credits for future airport development. Established in 2004, VALE also helps airport sponsors meet their state-related air quality responsibilities

under the Clean Air Act. Through VALE, airport sponsors can use Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funds and Passenger Facility Charges (PFCs) to finance low emission vehicles, refueling and recharging stations, gate electrification, and other improvements.

As of September 2019, VALE grants have funded 113 projects at 53 airports. Mr. Welty stated that the estimated completion cost for the VALE program is \$1,239,000. The program is fully funded by the FAA Airport Improvement Program (AIP) and the Voluntary Airport Low-Emissions (VALE) Grant. This grant does not compete with any other grants RNO has received from the FAA. Construction will begin November 2020 and should be completed by February 2021.

b. Safe Travels...TSA at RNO

Chris Stack, Transportation Security Administration Assistant Federal Security Director, spoke to the Committee about the TSA at RNO.

Mr. Stack stated the TSA team at RNO consists of over 150 team members, six as Security Managers. Officers are mandated to wear masks along with face shields for their safety and others. So far, TSA has not had any COVID related incidents at RNO. Currently, 70% of the workforce operates the security checkpoint and 30% operates the check baggage station. Training is rigorous and ongoing, as standard operating procedures change often based on local and global threats.

Pre-COVID, TSA had processed 50,000 outbound passengers per week, approximately 8,000 per day. Currently, TSA is processing approximately 21,000 passengers per week.

Mr. Stack emphasized the TSA is committed to providing a safe travel experience, along with great customer service.

5. GENERAL COMMITTEE COMMENTS, QUESTIONS & ITEMS FOR FUTURE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Brian Kulpin, RTAA Chief Marketing and Public Affairs Officer, briefly spoke about future air service at RNO and the recent addition of flights to Burbank on JSX and Palm Springs and LAX on Alaska. A great snow season will help increase inventory in the RNO market, as airlines during COVID are looking to add service in leisure destinations.

Chair Jay asked the Committee if January 21, 2021 is a convenient date for the next meeting. There were no objections.

6. UPDATE FROM PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Charlene Bybee, Sparks City Councilmember, encouraged the Committee to visit Victorian Square in downtown Sparks. She mentioned Engine 8 is a great place for live entertainment and quality food. The City of Sparks has installed a new piece of art in front of the movie theater. They're also looking forward to new internal appointments. Ed Lawson is the new Mayor of Sparks. The new Sparks Police Chief is Chris Crawforth and the new Assistant City Manager is Alyson McCormick. Councilmember Bybee mentioned she is the new Mayor Pro Tempore. Ed Lawson's City Council seat (Ward 2) has been

appointed to Diane VanderWell. The City of Sparks is doing relatively well with Cares Act funding. The funding has been used for community assistance and COVID costs.

Kalie Work, Washoe County Recorder, announced the County is optimistic in regards to the budget. Cares Act funding has helped. The County will be filling two open positions, Chief of Alternative Sentencing and NCIO. Washoe County, City of Sparks and City of Reno are also looking for a temporary winter shelter for 200 homeless men. Ms. Work encouraged the Committee to get out and vote.

Art Jimenez, RSCVA's Executive Director of Tourism and Sales, stated that the RSCVA has selected a new CEO. Charles Harris will be moving to our area from Anaheim, CA and will join the team November 16, 2020. The RSCVA will also be moving offices at their current location. The Reno Chamber of Commerce will be sharing some of the new offices, as well. RSCVA will continue to promote COVID-19 messaging in regards to outdoor activities. Their latest ads will contain fall imagery. Mr. Jimenez reported that the occupancy levels for local properties are 62%. Room tax is higher than budgeted, but still less than last year. Early this summer, Reno was voted by Hotwire as one of the "Top 5 Small Town Favorites - Best Quickie Getaways."

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Jay adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m.