

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY MEETING

Monday, November 03, 2008

10:00 A.M.

Approved November 22, 2008

BOARD MEMBERS: Arnold Baker, Carl Cantrelle, Jr., Scott Cowen, Greg St. Etienne, Glenn Hayes, James Hudson, Daniel Schexnayder, Debbie Settoon, Daniel Songy

1. David Fos swore board members in and provided them with a copy of the Louisiana Code of Ethics.
2. Board Members introduced themselves (see attached list).
3. Board Members chose Chairman, Vice-chairman and Secretary, they are as follows:
 - Scott Cowen, Chairman
 - Jim Hudson, Vice-chairman
 - Debbie Settoon, Secretary
4. Mr. Cowen discussed the following goals for the first meeting:
 - a. Getting background from the legislature and Business Council to outline a mission: Weighing the pros and cons of transferring the New Orleans owned Louis Armstrong airport to the state's control or privatization
 - b. Developing an action plan
 - c. Delegating responsibilities to board subcommittees
 - d. Setting of future meetings
5. Jim Tucker, Louisiana Speaker of the House who sponsored the House bill 1272 creating the Authority, explained the purpose of the board is to look at options to develop the airport to its full economic potential. Such options could include transfer of the airport to the state for a fee or privatizing the airport. Mr. Tucker stated that the number one goal is a first class airport to serve Southeast Louisiana and better ways to utilize the airport for economic

development. Mr. Tucker thanked Jefferson Parish for providing support staff for the meeting.

6. Mr. Ron Forman with the Business Council spoke in support of this initiative, specifically:
 - His organization supports the Board -- their top priority
 - Will help with resources such as staff support
 - Feels this is a “Big” opportunity – most important board in the region
 - Concerned about the neighbors and neighborhoods near airport. Does not want to hurt neighborhoods
 - Stressed the need for public hearings
 - Stated a recent Baton Rouge study had concluded there is no need for a regional airport but would prefer to expand the New Orleans airport
 - Encourage us to invite Dan Packard, head of the Louis Armstrong Airport Operating Board to present us with their latest long-term plan to avoid duplicating any studies/effort
7. Mr. St. Etienne questioned if any board support services are provided, funding needs and expected time lines. He also mentioned our group has the responsibility for valuation of the property and noted that it can’t be an outright sale, since FAA rules only allow for transfer, not sale.
8. Debbie Settoon asked about general transit and light rail. Mr. Forman feels this would be a secondary concern.
9. Mr. Cowen stated the following two issues that needed to be addressed:
 - a. Funding of studies.
 - b. Asking the Business Council for staff support in preparing RFP’s for any studies needed
 - c. Developing a liaison with GNO Inc. and the Louisiana Dept of Economic Development
10. Mr. Forman stated that he feels funding should be available.
11. Mr. Cowen would like the Board to accomplish the following:
 - a. Draft a mission statement, including objectives, which should be one page emailed to all members. He will attempt a first draft and then

incorporate all comments from board members to be reviewed at the next meeting.

- b. The authority members agreed to assemble all previous economic studies of the Airport and decide which outside consultants to hire as advisors. Mr. Cowen will distribute.
 - c. Rebecca Conwell, in Mr. Cowen's office, will be responsible for setting and circulating meeting dates and all email addresses to Board Members.
 - d. Mr. Cowen would like the meetings to be held in the evenings (5:00pm – 7:00pm). Maybe some Saturdays. All Board Members agreed. The members agreed to hold the next meeting in St. Charles Parish and to alternate locations. Mr. Cowen would like the Board to meet every other week for the next three meetings.
 - e. The next meeting, Mr. Cowen will try to get Dan Packard to present the long range airport plans and LA Economic Development Secretary Stephen Moret. Mr. Moret is familiar with Midway Airport in Chicago which was recently privatized.
12. Mr. Cowen stated that the Board has until March 2009, the beginning of the next legislative session, to offer a recommendation. It is important to meet that deadline due to that session being the only scheduled 2009 session. In order to get studies done by February 2009, it will be necessary to send out Request for Proposals for any studies by December 2008.
13. There was discussion re the need for a FAA representative to attend the meetings, and it was noted that there was an attorney Brian Vincent who could aid the Board. There was doubt that a FAA representative would attend all meetings because they are located in D.C. According to Mr. Forman the FAA forbids the outright sale of an airport. Mr. Baker feels that someone from the Airport should attend future meetings.
14. The meeting was adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

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