

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COTTONWOOD AIRPORT COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA, HELD **NOVEMBER 5, 2014** AT THE COTTONWOOD COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 826 N MAIN STREET, COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA.

Chairman Moeny called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken as follows:

Commission Members Present

Jim Moeny, Chairman
Bill Tinnin, Vice Chairman
Bill Wade, Commission Member
Ron Krumm, Commission Member

Staff Members Present

Morgan Scott, Development Services Operations Manager
Kelly Jobe, Administrative Assistant-Airport & Public Works

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Chairman Moeny led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made to approve minutes for August 6, 2014 meeting. All approved.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

Brief Summary of events is presented by- Morgan Scott, Development Services Operations Manager

Wall of Honor - Chairman Moeny & Morgan are in discussion at this time.

GPS/IFR Approach - We need to get the AWOS operational then certified.

AWOS - System is down again. Winds, humidity and visibility are non-existent. We have been in contact with Bellford to return and repair the system.

Minimum Operating Procedures - FAA is requesting this be implemented ASAP.

Helicopter Operations – Meeting was held with Guardian Air, Sedona Air Tours was invited to the meeting but did not attend. Cottonwood P-52 has \$80,000 in Federal money to be implemented on a helicopter operation project.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on FAA Lease Inspection - The City of Cottonwood has hired an attorney specializing in this field. He has responded to the FAA with a letter that is attached to the Agenda packet.

Card Reader Update - Staff has drafted a letter to advise card holders that there will be a change in the operations of the gate cards. We will be setting a date in the 1st quarter of 2015 to exchange cards & issuing refunds through our finance dept for those who turn in their cards that do not fall in the guidelines to have a new card issued to them.

NEW BUSINESS

Renewal of skydive Lease & possibility to lease month to month –

Staff stated that the 10 year lease will expire on December 31, 2014 and recommends the commission makes a motion to not recommend to city council the renewal of the lease for Red Rock Skydiving due to insurance requirements not being met by tenant and the number of incidents in which Cottonwood Police Department have responded to. Staff recommends to turn it into a month to month and test the market to see what other businesses'/companies would be interested

Sharon Priggee – co owner of Red Rock Skydiving, came to the table and stated that the city had a copy of the insurance requirements. She stated her company purchases over \$30,000 a month in fuel from the airport and they have a wonderful reputation on trip advisor.com. Sharon stated the issues that included police reports were spanned out over the last 4 years that were not all issues with her company. She stated that her husband tends to handle situations in a very passionate manor when it comes to the safety of his people. She stated they have had issues with Han gliders and they have met with them to correct the situation. To her understanding, the issues have been resolved. Sharon mentioned that they bring a lot of business to the Cottonwood restaurants and stores and to not renew the lease would put their workers out of jobs.

Randy Buell – stated he has been hangliding in Cottonwood since 1982. He has had three instances with Karl Priggee and his wife has had one. Randy stated on one of the instances, Karl ran out while he was trying to land and yelling that he couldn't land there. The second instance he stated that Karl had actually damaged his equipment (approx. \$488.00) while he was trying to land. The third instance, he stated Karl had locked the landing site gate and he had to call the police to let him out. Randy stated he has video of Karl harassing his wife telling her it was a city ordinance code violation for her to be parked at the location she was to pick up her husband. He has not seen restitution for his aircraft and does not see that he is a safety conscious individual. He recommends the lease not be renewed.

Commission member Bill Wade asked the reason Karl did not want him to land, he stated that Karl just didn't want him on the property.

Al Gradijin – stated that he was part of the five year lease with this company when it started. He disagreed with the price of the lease. He stated at the first air fest Cottonwood had, he had asked Priggee's to be a part of it, Karl said "no", then stated that he was never asked. Al stated Jim Moeny and himself wet together the following year and asked him once again to take part, free of charge for a booth or whatever he wanted, Karl told them "no". Al stated that we have had five years to look at Red Rock Skydiving and he recommends they do not renew the lease.

Mike Kirkus – stated he had a plane at Cottonwood but had moved it because he did not like the way the airport was run by the city. The city decided to get rid of Bob Luna that had hangar B for whatever reason and now they can't get an FBO in there with a year free rent. He stated the same thing could happen to the skydive operation.

Sharon Priggee - stated they were not part of the air fests because they requested free fuel and was denied. She stated that the hangliders are supposed to give way to all other aircraft, to include tandem jumpers, she stated she had not heard any complaints about financial damage.

Commission member Krum – stated the lease is signed by Karl, and how is Sharon part of the contract if he is the one that signed the lease, Sharon responded by stating she is 51% owner and Karl is 49% owner.

Commission member Wade asked the amount of the lease – Morgan responded \$125.00 a month for the bare ground, the building, utilities and all improvements were brought in and paid for by RR Skydiving.

Nick Soltario – stated he has been a pilot with Red Rock Skydiving since January. He stated that the Priggee’s are a wonderful company to work for and they are very safety oriented.

Motion was made to not recommend the renewal of the lease for Red Rock Skydiving, LLC.
3 approved except Bill Wade.

Commission to select 2 members to sit on selection committee

Motion was made to select Jim Moeny and Bill Wade.
All approved.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made, meeting adjourned.

Approved