

AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
For January 18, 2022
Stinson Municipal Airport

MEMBERS PRESENT

1. Marco Barros
2. Ron Bright
3. Roger Dillard
4. Mark Fessler, Chairman
5. Pat Garrison
6. John Grisell
7. Marsha Hendler, Secretary
8. Earl Jackson, Jr., Vice Chairman
9. Deborah Omowale Jarmon
10. Rami Motawea
11. Ed Onwe
12. Diane Rath
13. Brent Salter
14. Amy Shaw
15. Matthew Starr

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

1. Charnelle Chin
2. Frank Cruz
3. Aurelina Prado

CITY STAFF

- Thomas Bartlett, Deputy Director
- Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager
- Nicole Fowles, Sr. Special Projects Manager/Board Liaison
- Katinka Howell, City Attorney

Chairman Mark Fessler called the meeting to order at 3:37 p.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was determined to be present. Mr. Fessler confirmed no public comments were received. The chairman asked if there were any changes to the posted minutes from the November 16, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Diane Rath motioned to approve the minutes as posted which was seconded by Commissioner Marsha Hendler.

Mr. Fessler welcomed everyone to the meeting, including the new Commission members who were appointed on December 2, 2021. To introduce the first agenda item, he shared that the Airport Advisory Commission (AAC) members were at-large appointment made by the City Council to advise the Aviation Director on transportation matters affecting the airport system. He noted that the commission was an advisory body and not a decision-making body. Although an advisory commission, the San Antonio City Charter requires all City Council-appointed boards or commissions to follow the Texas Open Meetings Act. Mr. Fessler noted that one important aspect of the Act was that any topics not listed on the agenda could not be discussed until it was posted on the next meeting's agenda. He underlined an important role of the commission: to educate and inform co-workers, family members, neighbors and community members on airport issues.

Each member briefly introduced themselves:

- Mark Fessler, chairman of the AAC (Aviation Industry): President and CEO of Million Air San Antonio, a fixed-based operator located at San Antonio International. 10 years on the AAC
- Earl Jackson, vice chairman of the AAC (Federal Aviation Administration): Retired Federal Aviation Administration Operations Manager at San Antonio International and Air Force veteran. 11 years on the AAC
- Diane Rath (Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG)): Executive Director of AACOG. Former Chair of state agency. Frequent business traveler. 7 years on the AAC
- Matthew Starr (Business Community): Multifamily developer. New to the AAC
- Amy Shaw (Community): Former Executive Director for Fiesta Commission and retired from USAA. New to the AAC
- Marsha Hendler (Business Community): CEO of Terra Fina Energy and retired from hospitality industry. 13 years on the AAC
- John Grisell (Ground Transportation): Premier black car (limousine service). Retired from restaurant industry. 3 years on the AAC
- Ed Onwe (Airport Business): General Manager and CEO for ST Engineering - VT San Antonio Aerospace, a maintenance repair and overhaul company located at San Antonio International Airport. 3 years on the AAC
- Deborah Omowale Jarmon (Community): Director and CEO for the San Antonio African American Community Archive and Museum. Former Federal Aviation Administration Air Traffic Controller. 6 years on the AAC
- Brent Salter (Travel and Tourism): Owner of walking tour company and Program Director for Baptist Health Foundation of San Antonio. New to the AAC
- Marco Barros (Travel and Tourism). Owner of tourism management firm and former CEO of San Antonio Tourism Council. 3 years on AAC (served before).
- Rami Motawea (Community): Growth Manager for R&J International Co. (which runs Dunkin Donuts at San Antonio International Airport and Luxor Mediterranean Cuisine). New to the AAC
- Pat Garrison (Community): Corporate aviation pilot, retired commercial pilot and Air Force veteran. Oak Park neighborhood resident. New to the AAC
- Roger Dillard (Community): Physics teacher and Flight to the North Pole with Valero Energy and United Airlines volunteer. Oak Park neighborhood resident. New to the AAC
- Ron Bright (Community): Small business owner of IT firm, including as a subcontractor to airport IT contracts. New to the AAC

Mr. Fessler introduced the second topic of meeting by asking the Commission members to raise topics or areas that they would like the other members to consider for accomplishing in 2022. Commissioner John Grisell opened the discussion with improving wayfinding and signage at the [San Antonio International] airport and relocating the assigned locations for black car limousine service. Commissioner Matthew Starr complimented the Guaranteed Preferred Parking Program but wanted to address how to encourage passengers to return their Smarte Carte to a defined location. Commissioner Marco Barros advocated for the Commission to support air service through education of co-workers, neighbors and others of the information shared at the Commission meetings. He also advocated the Commission help retain current routes and attract new routes, especially to Latin America and Europe. He also suggested the Commission to continue to encourage the airport to share progress on terminal projects/concessions, especially those projects tied to the Strategic Development Plan, with in-terminal and digital graphics. Commissioner Ron Bright said he would like the Commission to help the airport system in improving the cell phone lot,

ensuring the digital display is working and advocating for installing a second screen. Commissioner Deborah Omowale Jarmon noted that when she traveled, she often noted that only one location was open for coffee in Terminal A in the early hours. She also suggested the Commission help the airport system advocate on the federal, state and local level for more funding or other improvements as needed. Commissioner Rami Motawea said he would like the Commission to help attract new or more concessionaires through turning underutilized areas into new concession space. Mr. Fessler asked the Board Liaison to send the Strategic Development Presentation that was presented to City Council to the new members *[Editor's Note: the presentation was emailed on January 19, 2022 and can be viewed by the public on the City's website.]*

Ms. Omowale Jarmon raised the idea of the Commission members contacting federal legislators to advocate for funding for projects identified in the Strategic Development Plan. Assistant City Manager Jeff Coyle noted that the City was waiting for details on the grant programs funded in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill to be shared. He noted that the City will continue to communicate with the public on the types of opportunities under the Infrastructure Bill once the details have been finalized. In response to a question from Mr. Bright about the Strategic Development Plan and potential funding from the Infrastructure Bill, Deputy Director Thomas Bartlett informed the Commission that the Strategic Development Plan (or Airport Master Plan) was required by the Federal Aviation Administration every seven to 10 years and developed a plan for the future development of terminal facilities, airfield, roadway and parking. He shared that funding for the projects identified in the Strategic Development Plan, as with all projects at either airport, were funded through user fees, revenues generated at the airport and federal funds. He noted that three new gates were already under construction – one in Terminal A and two in Terminal B – to help the airport meet current passenger levels. Ms. Rath advocated to Mr. Coyle that the Infrastructure Bill/funding for the Strategic Development Plan be added to the agenda for SA to DC. Ms. Rath also noted that the Strategic Development Plan stressed the importance of incorporating a sense of place in future development projects. Mr. Bartlett also noted that the Design Principals which will guide all future projects at the airport system included a sense of place. *[Editor's Note: The Commission was briefed on this process at the January 19, 2021 meeting]*

Mr. Bartlett briefed the Commission members on the Director's Report including the launch of Jet Blue and Breeze over the past year. Mr. Bartlett noted that Breeze had pulled its service to Oklahoma City and Tulsa, but Southwest Airlines announced it would start service to Oklahoma City starting April 25, 2022. Mr. Bartlett said Jet Blue's service to Boston and JFK was strong. Mr. Bartlett gave a quick overview on the winter holiday travel operations which went well although there were flight cancellations nationwide due to weather and staffing issues. Mr. Bartlett said the design for the Whataburger location in Terminal A was on-track. He shared his efforts to start a COVID testing site at the airport for employees. The vaccine clinic which started in June 2021 was responsible for 18,919 shots through December 31, 2021. Mr. Bartlett also announced that the valet service had restarted on January 3, 2022. Mr. Bartlett shared that Routes Americas, an air service conference, would be in San Antonio for the first time in February. At this conference, airlines executives from domestic and international meet with airport air service representatives to discuss expanding current service or initiating new routes. There were no questions for this topic.

This meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.