

Aviation Council of Alabama, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday March 17, 2010
Huntsville, Alabama

Present

Fred Sington
Ray Miller
Buzz Sawyer
Wayne Cameron
Rick Tucker
Russ Kilgore
Bill Hutto
Phil Perry
Menzo Driskell
Terry Capps
Art Morris
Stephanie Blankenship

Absent

Roosevelt Lewis
Kent Kelly

Also present were: Dr. John Eagerton, Klein Jeffcoat, Kevin Vandenberg, and Al Jimmerson.

President Fred Sington called the meeting to order at 10:08 am.

Ray Miller made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by Russ Kilgore. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Terry Capps. A motion was made by Ray Miller and seconded by Russ Kilgore to approve the report as submitted. The motion carried.

Old Business

Legislative Committee Report

Fred Sington commented on the meeting last month and how well the reception was received.

By-Laws Committee Report

Al Jimmerson reported that now that the membership has adopted the amended By-Laws, the next step is to update the articles of Incorporation. The process will be similar to that used to amend the By-laws. First Board action will be required to start the process, notification of the membership, a decision to adopt a specific name for the organization (should it contain "The" or Inc.), the name of the registered agent, the location of the office, and the amount of detail to include are some of the things that will have to be done. Most of the details have been covered in the By-Laws.

Fred Sington said that the By-Laws Committee will meet with Al Jimmerson to work out the details.

Mr. Jimmerson also reminded the board that the Aviation Council is a 501.6c corporation and that because of that, the board will need to adopt certain policies concerning document retention and destruction and a policy on conflicts of interest.

Rick Tucker brought up a question for the accountant: should we continue using Form 990EZ or use a more detailed form?

Fred Sington said that the Committee will meet and make a decision.

Aviation Directory Report

Stephanie Blankenship provided a three page handout which included information on production and printing costs.

Ray Miller expressed some concern over the cost of the directory and wanted to know if the printing of the directory could wait until next year.

Fred Sington said that first it is important to have a directory for political influence in Montgomery and secondly it is a good tool for the membership.

Russ Kilgore was concerned about the ease of updating the information.

Wayne Cameron said that having a directory will show people that the organization is serious.

Ray Miller suggested that each airport pledge a certain amount to sponsor the directory in order to ease the strain on the Council's budget.

Bill Hutto also wanted to know if we could postpone the printing of the directories until the next fiscal year.

Wayne Cameron made a motion to print the directories. Ray Miller provided a second for the motion. After a brief discussion the motion passed.

Washington DC Trip

Rick Tucker provided a schedule of events and agenda for the trip. Eight people are signed up to go. There was some discussion of specific items to communicate to the legislative delegation. John Eagerton said that TSA is currently surveying general aviation airports on a voluntary basis to try and determine what security efforts are being made at the GA level. Rick Tucker said that we want to communicate to the Congress to support funding for GA airports to comply with whatever is required by TSA. Bill Hutto and Russ Kilgore will meet with Rick Tucker after the meeting to develop some talking points and background information for the trip.

ACA Website

Stephanie Blankenship reported that the website is up and running and looks good.

Airspace Safety Act

Al Jimmerson reported that the Act has been printed and codified but it has some substantive defects and the bill will need to be amended to fix these issues. As an example, he said that AT&T is building 75 new towers in the state that could potentially conflict with airports. Mr. Jimmerson suggested that all the changes in language in the bill that are acceptable to both Alabama Power and the cell companies should be retained. Dr. John Eagerton reported that there is no definition of an airport obstruction and that there is not one in Part 77 except for 2,000 foot towers. It is important to get a definition of an airport hazard. Dr. Eagerton suggested going back to the original definition in the

bill. Dr. Eagerton said that a second problem with the current legislation is that an adjoining landowner can make an airport pay for changes that the landowner makes. The third problem with the bill is that it contains a reverse severability clause, that is, if one part of the legislation is determined to be unconstitutional or unenforceable, then the entire bill is voided. Al Jimmerson suggested putting the proposed changes in a handout. There was a general discussion of possible political strategies to get the bill amended. Ray Miller made a motion to defer the effort to get the changes to the legislation next legislative session. Terry Capps provided a second. The motion passed. Rick Tucker suggested that the work on the proposed changes should be done now in order to be ready for the next legislative session.

ALDOT Report

Dr. John Eagerton provided an update on general aviation security issues. The Aeronautics Bureau is doing its first rates and charges survey in the state using the Wisconsin survey as a model. The Bureau will have a breakout session at the conference to explain the results. Dr. Eagerton also reported that a bill has appeared in the legislature to remove funding from airports to provide more for roads, bridges and short line railroads. Dr. Eagerton suggested that it would be a good idea for the ACA to develop some strategic alliances with the road builders and associations so that a united front can be presented to legislators.

Executive Director's Report

Stephanie Blankenship suggested that the board not participate in the League of Municipalities Conference due to the limited benefit compared to the cost. After a general discussion, it was decided that ACA would not participate in this year's League Conference.

Ms. Blankenship wanted to know if the board desired to combine the ACA Tuesday night banquet with the Alabama Aviation Hall of Fame Ceremony. Menzo Driskell made a motion to extend to the Aviation Hall of Fame Board an invitation to combine the presentation with the ACA Banquet. Ray Miller provided a second to the motion. After a general discussion, a vote was taken and the motion passed.

Rick Tucker said that he is a member of the ACRP Board and that any of the report writers can be tapped as a speaker for the conference.

Russ Kilgore made a motion to authorize Stephanie Blankenship to obtain a credit card in the Aviation Council's name with a credit limit not to exceed \$5,000 and no ATM privileges. Ray Miller provided a second for the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Phil Perry made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussion the Executive Director's compensation. Menzo Driskell seconded the motion. The motion passed and the board went into executive session at 12:05.

At 12:15 the board reconvened in a regular session.

Rick Tucker made a motion to raise the Executive Director's compensation from its present level up to \$20,000 annualized compensation to begin immediately and to form a financial expansion committee for the purpose of securing additional revenue for the ACA and to continue to review the Executive Director's compensation. The committee

is to report back no later than the July meeting. Russ Kilgore provided a second for the motion. The motion passed.

Fred Sington then appointed Rick Tucker, Bill Hutto, Art Morris, Russ Kilgore and himself to serve on the newly created Financial Expansion Committee.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 17th in Montgomery.

There being no further business to come before the board the meeting adjourned at 12:18.



Art Morris III
Secretary