

Aviation Council of Alabama, Inc.  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday December 16, 2009  
Montgomery, Alabama

Present

Fred Sington  
Ray Miller  
Buzz Sawyer  
Wayne Cameron  
Rick Tucker  
Bill Hutto  
Phil Perry  
Kent Kelly  
Art Morris  
Stephanie Blankenship

Absent

Roosevelt Lewis  
Russ Kilgore  
Menzo Driskell  
Terry Capps

President Fred Sington called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

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

The Treasurer's report was presented by Stephanie Blankenship. A motion was made by Rick Tucker and seconded by Ray Miller to approve the report as submitted. The motion carried.

**Old Business**

**Legislative Committee Report**

No official report this month. Fred Sington reported that Michelle Tims, Senator Sessions assistant, may be in attendance at the workshop in February and that Bryan Townsend has been confirmed as a speaker at the annual conference.

**By-Laws Committee Report**

Fred Sington reported that the general membership meeting will be on February 10<sup>th</sup> to vote on the changes to the By-Laws.

**Aviation Directory Report**

Stephanie Blankenship described various items that will go into the directory. Fred Sington and Rick Tucker indicated that they did not think that a map of the house and senate districts would be necessary and feared it would be out of date when the districts are redrawn. Bill Hutto said that we need to decide how long we should go between updates. Stephanie Blankenship reported that she is looking at binding options to make it easily updateable. Rick Tucker said that it would be nice to have information on airports in relation to particular districts and that this information could be placed with the airport listing. Fred Sington remarked that a bound directory would look much better than a loose leaf or notebook. Buzz Sawyer wanted to know if ASOS and AWAS information

should be included. The general consensus was that this would be a good idea. Rick Tucker suggested that the following should be on the directory distribution list: members, airports, ADO, Governor, Lt. Governor, and legislators. Kent Kelly suggested a two year span between updates. Stephanie Blankenship said that she would put a mock directory together for review.

#### Statewide Aviation Impact Forum

Fred Sington reported that he has met with various state and industry representatives regarding the proposed forum. The goal is to counteract negative publicity and to promote aviation in the state. The Aviation Council should take the lead role in this endeavor. Mr. Sington further reported that the kick off initiative will be at the annual conference. There was a general discussion of subjects to include in the program. Mr. Sington said that we should take some of the presentations that are developed up to Washington to promote aviation with our federal legislators. Stephanie Blankenship reported that the videos that will be used to demonstrate the impact that the aviation/aerospace industry has on the state. A general discussion followed concerning other ideas that may be incorporated into the forum.

#### New Business

There was a general discussion concerning the trip to Washington, DC which is tentatively set for March 24 and 25. The focus of the meeting in Washington will be on broad aviation issues in Alabama. An informal poll was taken of those who plan to travel to Washington. The list currently consists of the following: Stephanie Blankenship, Fred Sington, Ray Miller, Rick Tucker, Bill Hutto, Phil Perry, and Art Morris. Rick Tucker made a motion that the ACA is to pay the expenses of the executive director that are incurred on the Washington trip. The motion was seconded by Ray Miller. After a brief discussion the motion was unanimously approved.

#### ACA Website

Stephanie Blankenship gave the board a preview of the preliminary version of the updated website.

#### ALDOT

There was no report from ALDOT this month.

#### President's Report

President Sington reported that he had nothing further to report that had not already been reported.

#### Executive Director's Report

Stephanie Blankenship reported that the council is taking on a lot of initiatives this year. The first item of discussion was the Workshop/Legislative Reception in February. Ms. Blankenship presented a rough agenda for the workshop. Rick Tucker suggested that FAA issues and the Aviation Council's federal agenda should be presented. There was also a discussion of the invitations that will be sent out for the legislative reception. Ms.

Blankenship reported that there will be a Conference Committee meeting on January 13 in Montgomery and that we are still seeking a sponsor for the Tuesday night dinner. A general discussion began concerning the registration fees for the conference. Ray Miller said that we may want to consider ways to scale down the conference in future years to make it affordable for smaller airports. Stephanie Blankenship said that the board needs to consider that small airports can not afford high registration fees. Ray Miller made a motion to raise the conference registration fee from \$150 to \$175. Bill Hutto seconded the motion. A general discussion followed concerning the pros and cons of raising the registration fee. Ray Miller offered to withdraw his motion if the board is opposed to an increase. After further discussion, Ray Miller made a motion to table his previous motion until the January meeting. The motion to table the previous motion was seconded by Bill Hutto. This motion passed unanimously.

Fred Sington said that the next ACA board meeting will be in Gadsden, Alabama on January 20<sup>th</sup>.

A general discussion of workshop sponsorships and reception sponsorship opportunities took place for several minutes.

Wayne Cameron reported that the Blue Angels will perform in Tuscaloosa on May 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> and that the Thunderbirds will return in 2011.

There being no further business, Kent Kelly made a motion to adjourn. Phil Perry seconded the motion which was subsequently passed at 12:00 pm.



---

Art Morris III  
Secretary