

**AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
FOR NOVEMBER 17, 2020
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

MEMBERS PRESENT

1. Marco Barros
2. Frank Cruz
3. Mark Fessler, Chairman
4. John Grisell
5. Marsha Hendler, Secretary
6. Earl Jackson, Jr., Vice Chairman
7. Maureen McCann
8. Deborah Omowale Jarmon
9. Ed Onwe
10. Valerie Peak
11. Aurelina Prado
12. Diane Rath

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

1. Vaugh Caudill
2. Charnelle Chin
3. Les Hobgood
4. Landon Phillips
5. Tripp Riedel

CITY STAFF

- Jesus H. Saenz, Jr. IAP, Director of Airports
- Nicole Fowles, Sr. Special Projects Manager/Board Liaison
- Brian Pratte, Chair Air Service Administrator
- Mark Triesh, City Attorney

Chairman Mark Fessler called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. A roll call was taken and confirmed a quorum was present on the videoconference. Mr. Fessler asked the Board Liaison if there were any Public Comments to share with the Commission. It was noted that no comments were received.

Mr. Fessler asked the Commission members if they had received the minutes from the September 15, 2020 teleconference meeting. No changes were noted and a motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded. The Commissioners voted to accept the approval of the minutes.

Aviation Department Director Jesus Saenz introduced Chief Air Service Development Officer Brian Pratte who briefed the Commission members on air service. Mr. Pratte noted that the passenger levels at the San Antonio International Airport (SAT) had been impacted by COVID19. His presentation showed that SAT has generally been above the national 7-day rolling average since the pandemic began but projecting the timeline for recovery is dependent on predictive modeling and includes regional collaboration and identifying new data sources. Mr. Pratte discussed several efforts underway with the City, Economic Development Foundation, Visit San Antonio and technical resources to mine data and develop new partnerships focused on the economic recovery of our region. He added that staff is still focused on working with current and prospective airlines on new markets, both domestic and international, and additional flights to current markets.

Mr. Fessler recognized individual commission members for questions and comments on the presentation:

- Do you know how the passenger levels are impacted by having the middle seat free?
 - We focus on sharing with the airlines the number of available seats that are full (not counting the middle seat which the airline is not selling). SAT has been showing the majority of its flights – more than 66% of the flights are full with no seats available that the airlines are selling). We are then sharing this information with the airlines, with other economic data provided by our partners, to say this is why you need to start using larger aircraft for SAT or adding more flights to this destination.
- I have seen several studies that you are much more likely to be hit by lightning than catch COVID on an airplane.
 - There have been four or five studies that support that airplanes, with the increased cleanings, mask policies, and other protocols, are not a source of potential infections.
- I would like to remind the Commission that it is our responsibility to communicate information on the safety measures followed by the airport, airlines and others. We need to ensure we are sharing information on the Xenex robot that cleans the gate hold areas, jet ways and public areas at the San Antonio International Airport.

Mr. Fessler asked the Commission members if they had any questions on the monthly reports. No questions were asked. Mr. Fessler asked for a voice vote to accept the reports and it passed with 12 Ayes and 0 Nays.

Mr. Saenz provided the Commissioners with the following announcements:

- Two new critical hires began this month including Chief Commercial Officer Jennifer Pysher and Budget and Administration Officer Michael Garnier. Both have extensive experience with airlines and will focus on increasing our aeronautical and non-aeronautical revenue.
- Mr. Saenz said he and Deputy Director Thomas Bartlett interviewed candidates for the Chief Development Officer the previous week and hoped to be able to announce the selected candidate soon.
- Thanksgiving travel is anticipated to be higher at 50% of our 2019 passenger travel compared to our current 35 to 45% of 2019 passenger levels that the San Antonio International Airport is current experiencing.

Before the meeting was adjourned, the Commissioners decided to cancel the December 15, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Marsha Hendler suggested Commissioners could coordinate with the Board Liaison to tour the airport to learn about the protocols that the Director has been briefing the Commission on.

This meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.