

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Winslow Airport Commission held on March 17, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. in the Development Services Conference Room, 119 E First Street, Winslow, Arizona.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Lazzarini
Commissioner Coolidge
Commissioner Kenna
Commissioner Patton

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF

Tim Westover, Airport Manager
Cynthia Villalpando (Recording Secretary)

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lazzarini at 4:31 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the invocation was given by Chairman Kenna. Roll was called and all Commissioners were present.

Discussion and/or Action to Approve Minutes – December 16, 2024

Motion: Moved by Commissioner Patton, seconded by Commissioner Kenna, to approve the December 16, 2024 minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously with Chairman Lazzarini and Commissioners Coolidge, Kenna, and Patton voting yes.

Commission Consideration and Possible Action

A. Discussion and or action regarding the proposed Winslow Arts Council Art Plane Project

Winslow Arts Council Chairperson Monique Chavez and Vice Chair Lisa Sahmie provided an update on the Art Plane project. They noted that progress had been delayed due to difficulties in maintaining a quorum but confirmed that the Council is now fully operational. Meetings have been held with construction companies to discuss logistics, and a decision was made to proceed with AZE Construction.

The initial plan to tile the aircraft was reconsidered due to material limitations, and the Council will instead move forward with painting the plane. The project will incorporate a pottery-style design, similar to previous community art projects. Plans also include installing historical panels detailing the airport's history and adding seating areas with concrete benches, which will be donated by a Council member.

The proposed location for the Art Plane is within the fenced-in area near the entrance of the airport. The Council acknowledged the need for site preparation, including clearing debris and laying decorative rock for weed control. Concerns were raised regarding wind conditions and the need to properly anchor the plane to prevent movement. The Council confirmed that structural reinforcements, including concrete pillars, will be implemented.

The goal is to complete the project before the Annual Fly-In event in September 2025. Further discussions will be held with city staff and Committees to finalize details, including budget considerations and potential fundraising efforts.

STATUS REPORTS

A. Report by Wiseman Aviation Which May Include Current Airport Activities and Operational Matters

Mr. Orville Wiseman provided an update on operations, reporting that fuel sales have more than doubled compared to the previous year in January, with continued increases in February. He noted that despite recent precipitation, the region remains dry, prompting early preparations for fire season.

A major improvement was the installation of a commercial Starlink system, significantly enhancing internet connectivity at the airport. Mr. Wiseman emphasized the need for long-term fiber infrastructure and suggested seeking grant funding for future broadband expansion.

Additional updates included the rebranding of Wiseman Aviation, which will involve updated signage and branding elements. He also reported the acquisition of four new crew cars, including one designated for Winslow. Staffing efforts are ongoing to fill both line service and customer service positions.

Mr. Wiseman expressed appreciation for the ongoing maintenance efforts at the airport and encouraged continued collaboration.

B. Report by U.S. Forest Service

Mr. Enrique Pacheco, Tanker Base Manager, introduced Seth Estes, the new Assistant Tanker Base Manager, who started in late January. Hiring efforts continue, with three full-time positions now filled and two additional seasonal positions expected to be added.

Preparations for the 2025 fire season are underway, with expectations for an active season. Current regional operations include active bases in Alamogordo, Silver City, and Gateway. Winslow's base is scheduled to open on May 3, with at least one tanker anticipated to be stationed at the airport.

Mr. Pacheco welcomed the opportunity to coordinate with Wiseman Aviation to ensure operational readiness and proposed scheduling a meeting in late April to align new personnel and procedures.

C. Report by Airport Manager Which May Include Updates from City Regarding Airport

The Airport Manager provided a brief update, noting that pre-emergent herbicide was applied around the airport last month to address camel thorn growth. He thanked Wiseman Aviation for monitoring its effectiveness and indicated that ongoing maintenance efforts would continue.

D. Report by Airport Engineer Which May Include Airport Project Updates

The Airport Engineer provided updates on several ongoing and upcoming projects:

- **Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) Project:** The bid opening for the PAPI installation on Runway 11/29 is scheduled for the week of March 17.
- **Drainage and Apron Improvements:** Final steps are underway to secure FAA grants for the design phase of airport-wide drainage improvements and the reconstruction of the apron near Taxiway A.
- **Runway 11/29 Reconstruction:** The project has been transitioned from state to federal funding due to budget constraints. The project remains in the FAA funding queue, with design and phasing considerations in progress.
- **Drainage Study Completion:** The recently completed drainage study will inform future airport-wide drainage improvements.

The Airport Engineer noted that recent maintenance efforts appear to be reducing camel thorn growth and encouraged continued treatment.

Current Events and Announcements

The Commission did not have any new events or announcements to discuss at this time.

Adjournment

Motion: Moved by Commissioner Patton, seconded by Commissioner Coolidge, to adjourn at 5:10 p.m. Motion passed unanimously with Chairman Lazzarini and Commissioners Coolidge, Kenna, and Patton voting yes.

Chairman Lazzarini

ATTEST:

Cynthia Villalpando, Recording Secretary