



**Governance Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 2, 2023**

Pursuant to notice duly given and posted, the Governance Committee meeting of the Syracuse Regional Airport Authority was called to order on Thursday, March 2, 2023 in the Syracuse Regional Airport Authority Board Room located in the Syracuse Hancock International Airport by SRAA Chair, Ms. Jo Anne Gagliano.

The meeting was called to order at 11:11 a.m. by SRAA Chair Gagliano.

Members Present

Ms. Jo Anne Gagliano
Mr. Michael Lazar
Mr. Thomas Fernandez
Mr. Nick Paro
Mr. Nathaniel Stevens
Vice Chair – open/TBD

Members Absent

Mr. Kenneth Kinsey

Also Present

Mr. Jason Terreri
Ms. Robin Watkins
Ms. Joanne Clancy
Mr. Jason Mehl

Review and approval of minutes from previous meeting:

SRAA Chair Gagliano reminded the committee that she would be chairing this meeting in the absence of having a Vice Chair yet, as the Vice Chair is typically the Chair of the Governance Committee. She asked the Committee to review the past committee minutes and waive the reading and adopt the minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Paro and seconded by Mr. Lazar and was unanimously approved to accept the minutes from the September 8, 2022, Governance Committee meeting.

New Business

SRAA Chair Gagliano welcomed new Governance committee member, Nathaniel Stevens. She explained that multiple policy reviews are required by the New York State Authorities Budget Office (ABO) and need to be reviewed yearly and their importance. Therefore, the Governance Committee reviewed the SRAA Governance Charter and discussed Enabling Legislation updates. Ms. Clancy let the committee know that the last changes to this charter occurred in 2020. No committee members had questions or suggested changes to the charter.

Director Terreri discussed changes to the Enabling Legislation. General Counsel Clark has been working diligently with The Hill East Group to advocate for two changes. One of the suggested edits is regarding civil service classifications of certain aviation positions. Director Terreri recently presented at a Transportation Committee meeting at a New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) conference regarding these challenges and has a unanimous resolution from NYSAC in support of our position. The New York Aviation Management Association (NYAMA) is supportive, Assemblyman Magnarelli and Senator Mannion are also supporting these efforts along with The Hill East Group to advance our airport concerns to the state, we are setting meetings with the Governor's office to explain these issues and have had meetings with the county and Assemblyman Magnarelli and Senator Mannion's teams on specific items and have their support. The second item is regarding the creation of a Commercial Subsidiary. This would give the airport control over certain functions and gives the airport the ability to drive control over programs to enhance the customer experience such as wheelchairs. The airlines currently contract these ground services out through the current model and as an example discussed, for wheelchair and passenger needs, they do not open their ticket counters until 2 hours or less prior to flights. These policies are impacting the SYR airport's reputation in the community and can have a negative impact on our passengers. If a Commercial Subsidiary was in place, the SRAA could staff local kiosks, local products vendors, have baggage service controls in place, etc. Chief Commercial Officer, Jason Mehl, stressed the importance of putting this subsidiary in place in the future to be cost effective and to enhance passenger experiences in a variety of ways. Director Terreri shared his experience with similar models at other airports that he has worked in. The subsidiary language in the Enabling Legislation was removed to allow for a speedy process during the approval for the new SRAA Police Force, but this legislative year the subsidiary language was added back. The Director and committee members further discussed additional codes language changes that will need to be updated as well over the next few years and codified in the Enabling Legislation. Regular meetings are being held on these topics. Director Terreri gave examples of airline deicing employees being paid very low wage rates which makes it difficult to recruit and retain those employees. Deicing could be an example of another function that could be taken over in the future and managed by the subsidiary to set more appropriate salaries for those types of key positions by utilizing a Commercial Subsidiary model. This would assist in cost sharing of services for operational efficiencies as well as boost customer service levels with our passengers. Director Terreri stated that the "ask" he has of the board members is to communicate and advocate these issues when out in the community and with our local representatives.

Chair Gagliano shared with the board the current 2023 standing committee participant list and reminded the committee of the Vice Chair vote on March 10th at the Regular Meeting of the Board. Candidates will be given the opportunity to share their experience with the Board prior to the ballot vote. Chair Gagliano stressed the importance of paying attention to any real or perceived conflicts of interest and that they must be disclosed on the Fiduciary Disclosure form which has been provided to board members to complete if there are any conflicts especially because the Vice Chair would serve as the Chair in her absence. Chair Gagliano went over the term dates of each board member and the rotating two-year seat was discussed. Chair Gagliano requested again that those who are interested should let her know and that they can distribute materials at the meeting should they wish to. Mr. Paro noted that the County Executive has historically appointed the Vice Chair role with the mayor having seven appointments including the Chair role.

Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

Adjournment

Having no other topics brought to the committee, a motion was made by Mr. Paro to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Ms. Galiano. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 p.m.