

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Syracuse Regional Airport Authority

Friday, May 19, 2023

Pursuant to the notice duly given and posted, the regular board meeting of the Syracuse Regional Airport Authority was called to order on Friday, May 19, 2023, at 11:08 a.m. in the Syracuse Regional Airport Authority Board Room located in the Syracuse Hancock International Airport by SRAA Board Chair Ms. Jo Anne Gagliano.

Members Present:

Ms. Jo Anne Gagliano – Chair
Dr. Shiu-Kai Chin
Dr. Donna DeSiato
Mr. Robert Simpson
Mr. Tom Fernandez – Via Teams/phone
Mr. Michael Frame – Via Teams
Mr. Kenneth Kinsey
Mr. Michael Lazar
Mr. Nathaniel Stevens (departed 12:05 p.m.)

Members Absent:

Mr. Nick Paro
Ms. Latoya Allen

Also Present:

Mr. H. Jason Terreri
Ms. Robin Watkins
Ms. Joanne Clancy
Mr. Jason Mehl
Chief Werbeck
Chief Chrissley
Mr. Daniel Zenk
Ms. Debi Marshall

Chair Gagliano started the SRAA Board meeting at 11:08 a.m.

Roll Call

As noted above all members were present in person or via phone other than Mr. Paro and Ms. Allen.

Consent Agenda:

Having no objections or comments regarding this resolution, Chair Gagliano invited a motion. A motion was made by Dr. Chin, seconded by Dr. DeSiato, and the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

The resolution was adopted: 8 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain

Airport Scorecard

Director Terreri shared information on the finance slides as of April 30, 2023. The numbers continue to increase especially on the passenger traffic side. There has been an increase in enplanements. Landing fees are down due to a lower number of flights, but also utilizing larger aircraft. Operations in April are 86% load-factor which is basically at capacity. Parking continues to do well because of the availability of the new lots. From an RPE perspective, that number is down due to not having enough concessions and offerings due to passenger numbers and the commercial department is doing a great job of bringing in new concessions and working with our tenants to improve offerings. CFC review, the rental car transactions are down, however the \$5 to \$7.50 CFC will be going into effect to assist with the upcoming Consolidated Rental Car facility planned for the future. Cost estimate for the landside program was higher than expected, more feedback and meetings are planned to review that and guidance on moving forward. The Federal Inspection Station (FIS) has a new Customs and Border Protection representative on the account and is asking to change the design of the FIS. Those design changes cannot be physically incorporated at this airport, and we are working towards resolution. The new Palladino Farms restaurant will open soon, replacing the Middle Ages concept on the Terminal B side. Grants have been submitted for various projects and the common use, Escape Lounge is near completion, scheduled to open in June. Mr. Mehl invited the board to visit the lounge. Pre-concessions are currently on hold and waiting on new contractor information. The badging office is delayed, awaiting congressional directed funding and eligibility issues. The Airline Use and Lease agreement meeting will be in 1Q24, (July, 2023) with a year and a half of negotiations planned and the 174th agreement and union negotiations are also ongoing. The next Master Plan Public Open house will be on July 13th from 4-6pm in the John Walsh Conference Room at the airport.

New Business/Discussion

Chair Gagliano discussed the Operating and Capitol Budget review. Dr. Chin, Chair of the Finance Committee let the group know that they conducted an in-depth review. Dr. Chin reminded the group of what was discussed at the spring retreat regarding the detailed review of the increase of revenue planning position needed for replacement of the garage.

CFO Watkins summarized the first draft of the SRAA budget. It is projected to go from a \$42M income to \$49M in increased income due to passenger demand, higher airlines rates, improvements in rates for transportation pick-ups, and other areas make up the difference in the projected increase. Expenses increase from \$35M to \$41.8 with the majority due to needed repairs, relocation of utilities due to the parking garage plan and the requirement to match grants. The Net increase result is \$7.6M of the \$8M target that the SRAA wanted, however final reviews will be conducted and will be brought to the June board with final numbers.

Resolution approving and authorizing the participation in the New York State and Local Retirement System Police and Fire Retirement System(PFRS) by the SRAA

HR Director Marshall briefed the group on the New York State Law requiring participation in the PFRS system. Any active police officer is mandated to be enrolled in this system. This is the basic plan required by law.

Having no further discussion regarding this resolution, a motion was made by Ms. Gagliano and seconded by Mr. Lazar.

The resolution was adopted: 8 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain

Legislative updates

Director Terreri stated that there was a good call with the Governor's office as well as the Commissioner of Civil Service to discuss the challenges surrounding the civil service rules currently in effect at the airport. Senator Mannion and Assemblyman Magnarelli were on the call and are assisting in this effort. HR Director Marshall has sent materials to Onondaga County and New York state regarding the backlog of these outstanding items and requests. The subsidiary language is still moving through the Senate and the House for the SYR Airport. A lot of effort has been put into educating the officials and the unions regarding what this commercially focused effort is trying to accomplish. Additionally, legislation is being put through regarding the Design-Build method for airport project delivery due to the timing perspective issues.

Executive Session

Chair Gagliano invited a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to potential litigation, and the employment history of a particular person or corporation.

Dr. DeSiato made a motion and Dr. Chin. seconded the motion. The Executive Session began at 11:28 a.m. and ended at 12:00 p.m.

Committee Reports

Chair Gagliano noted that minutes for the Audit Committee were included in their packet. There were no other committee related reports provided. Dr. DeSiato stated that it was a good preliminary meeting. CFO Watkins, her team, and the auditors do an excellent job. CFO Watkins state that more on-site auditing will be conducted and Chair Gagliano stated that the SRAA Board will have an opportunity to speak to them independently at the next board meeting.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Simpson and seconded by Mr. Lazar to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m.