



**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Syracuse Regional Airport Authority**

Friday, May 17, 2024

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 17, 2024, at 11:14 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
Ms. Latoya Allen
Dr. Donna DeSiato – Teams
Mr. Tom Fernandez
Dr. Shiu-Kai Chin
Mr. Robert Simpson
Mr. Nathaniel Stevens
Mr. Michael Frame – Vice Chair
Mr. Michael Lazar
Mr. Damian Ulatowski

Members Absent:

Mr. Kenneth Kinsey

Also Present:

Mr. Aaron Harris
Ms. Robin Watkins
Mr. Jason Mehl
Ms. Joanne Clancy
Capt. Anthony Sobiech
Ms. Beth Cooper
Mr. Cliff Pelton
Ms. Debi Marshall
Mr. John Clark

Chair Gagliano started the SRAA Board meeting at 11:14 a.m.

Roll Call

As noted above all SRAA Board members were present in person or via Teams other than Mr. Kinsey.

Consent Agenda:

Chair Gagliano referenced the April meeting minutes in the consent agenda and asked for any changes or comments. Having no objections or comments regarding this resolution, Ms. Gagliano invited a motion. A motion was made by Mr. Frame, seconded by Mr. Chin, and the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

The resolution was adopted: 10 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain

Airport Updates:

Chair Gagliano noted that Director Terreri was out of the office. CFO Watkins led the meeting and gave a finance update and slides review from the Finance Committee held prior to this meeting in more detail.

Finance update – Results for the month of April continued to remain steady budget-wise for landed weights and continues to be ahead for enplanement numbers. Passenger activity remains higher than budgeted. Increased passenger activity has improved revenues for concessions and parking. Expenses are ahead approximately \$4M due to delayed construction activities. These activities will predominantly move into the next fiscal year's activities.

The departure of Southwest airlines was discussed and that although it is a loss for the airline to be leaving SYR, we have gained capacity from other airlines absorbing their markets to maintain that business and new airline Sun Country arrives June 6th. Southwest's organization realignment was the reason for the departure and in addition to leaving SYR and other recent airports they had added, they reduced service by 30% nationwide due to airplane availability. SYR remains a strong market, growing faster than the national average, with our seat availability improving year over year and has hit record levels. The growth is projected to continue, and Southwest may return at some point in the future. Dr. DeSiato shared a personal experience regarding delays in departing Jet Blue flights at SYR after landing. CFO Watkins stated that SRAA is working closely with the airline partners regarding performance expectations and will be included in the upcoming renewal of the Airline Use and Lease Agreement changes. Aircraft and staffing issues continue to impact performance for many airlines.

Executive Session

Vice Chair Frame invited a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to the financial and employment history of a particular persons or corporations. A motion was made by Mr. Stevens and seconded by Mr. Lazar. The Executive Session began at 11:30 a.m. and ended at 11:38 a.m. No action was taken.

New Business/Discussion:

CFO Watkins discussed next steps and summarized the conversations from the Finance Committee discussions held prior to the SRAA board meeting.

CFO Watkins explained to the group that the airport is looking at a 2% passenger increase year over year and that there are more seats in the market as it stands today, even after the departure of Southwest. This capacity does not include Micron and other companies expanding in the area. Revenue and expenses are holding steady with concessions and parking revenues up. There are multiple capital expense projects that need to be completed to rehabilitate the airport that cannot be put off any longer and will be one time

expenses. CFO Watkins stated that the updated budget numbers will be brought to the June 28th board meeting for review and vote. Facilities Director, Cliff Pelton, briefed the group on current and future project plans and challenges including project plan options and updates including the electrification needs at the airport that the SRAA is working through with National Grid.

Committee Reports

Chair Gagliano asked if there were any updates from the various committees. Mr. Lazar briefed the group on HR Committee updates and agenda items for the June 6th HR Committee meeting.

Adjournment

Having no other topics for discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Stevens and seconded by Dr. Chin, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

DRAFT