

Special Meeting of the Watsonville Airport Advisory Committee

Watsonville Aviation Education Center

60 Aviation Way, Watsonville, California

Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2024

1:15 PM

1. ROLL CALL

Thomas Dienwiebel (Representing Watsonville Pilot's Association), Glen Ceresa (Representing Airport Area County Residents), Dave Guerrieri, Vice Chair (Representing on field Aviation Business Community), Theresa Byers (Representing Monterey Bay Ninety-Nines), Scott Randolph, Chairperson (EAA #119),

Absent: Mercedes Eulitt (Representing Airport Area City Residents) and Larry Lease (Non-Aviation Business Community)

Staff members present: Airport Director, Rayvon Williams

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Lead by Glen Ceresa

2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Discussion regarding Runway 9-27

4. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS – None presented or submitted.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – No report

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

7. NEW BUSINESS

Opening remarks by Chair, Scott Randolph. Confirms Runway Nine-Two-Seven (9-27), the crosswind runway, as sole agenda item for this Special Meeting. Randolph states this Special meeting, per Bylaws, was called by the WAAC Chair to provide an open forum for discussion by the WAAC and interested parties. Randolph states it is his understanding that the upcoming City Council meeting (March 19th) will include a presentation regarding the disposition of the Crosswind Runway.

Comments by Dave Guerrieri regarding the WPA Letter as a good communication. Guerrieri reads the letter for the benefit of those in attendance who have not seen nor read the correspondence.

Discussion of WPA letter by WAAC and audience, specifically the length of the letter, reference to the "we as pilots" verbiage, if the City Council, City management will even read the letter.

Randolph agrees the WPA letter is noteworthy and suggests WAAC discuss endorsing the WPA letter. After some discussion Dienwiebel moved that the WAAC endorses the WPA letter. Motion seconded by Guerrieri. Motion is as follows:

"The Watsonville Aviation Advisory Committee (WAAC) move the endorse the WPA letter regarding Runway 9-27. Endorsement allows WPA to add the WAAC logo to the WPA letter."

The motion passes 5 – 0.

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Randolph opens floor for general discussion. Dienwiebel shares that members of the WAAC and WPA met with the City Manager and that meeting was productive. Additionally, Ceresa and Byers confirm the February 10th Saturday workshop provided Council Members insight that up to this point were not known by Council.

Pertinent questions from audience:

(1) Why the action to shorten Runway 9-27 beyond 870 feet? Ceresa states the reason is the City's desire for additional housing. Airport Director Williams states the Threshold relocation also addresses FAA identified Safety concern.

(2) Why can't the 870 be brought back for consideration? Airport Director Williams states the Council's direction did not include revisiting the 870 foot Threshold relocation option.

(3) Byers inquires what can the WAAC do to make a concentrated effort to ensure the City Council truly understands the value of the crosswind runway and the airport?

(4) WPA President (Ryan Ramirez) notes, based on discussions held during the February 10th Saturday workshop, there is ample reason to believe some members of the City Council may not fully understand what was presented during the October 24 2023, Council meeting. Airport Director Williams states the October presentation was thoroughly explained and the Council made clear the requested follow-up action.

(5) Orry Korb states his understanding is City Planning's effort for housing at the expense of runway 9-27 and the WAAC should be further investigated.

Continued discussion on how to approach the City Council relative to the March 19th meeting.

Multiple perspectives shared consisting of: (1) how to approach the City Council, (2) content of approach, (3) fact that Council members may not clearly understand the value and viability of the airport and specifically the impact of shortening the crosswind runway.

Move to request meeting with City Manager as stated below. Moved by Ceresa, seconded by Dienwiebel.

"Whereas the Watsonville City Council has previously approved the Watsonville Airport Master Plan and Airport Layout Plan updates, which include the FAA approved threshold relocation of 870 feet, the WAAC recommends the 870 foot reduction as the preferred option for health and welfare of the community and requests a meeting with the City Manager prior to the March 19, 2024 City Council meeting."

The motion passes 5 – 0.

8. ADJOURNMENT – at 2:24PM

Motion to adjourn initiated by Dienwiebel and Seconded by Ceresa. Motion passed.

The next Committee meeting will be held on April 24, 2024