I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman, Bob McKenzie, called the meeting to order at 7:26 p.m. Roll call confirmed the following present: Directors, Cloud, Katz, Kearns, Kolssak, Lang and Pace.

Absent: None

Also in Attendance: Jamie Abbott – Executive Director
Scott Campbell – Chief Financial Officer
Vicki Mayr - Recording Secretary
Tom Lester – Airport Attorney

II. Airport Master Plan Workshop Discussion

Chairman McKenzie introduced Mr. Charlie Priester. Mr. Priester thanked the audience members for their comments and asked that they continue to bring him their questions. He stated that if there is a question he cannot answer, he will work to get the answer or say that he does not know the answer. Mr. Priester stated there is no hidden agenda. The airport is doing a study in order to create a plan. The purpose of the plan it to keep the airport self-sufficient and best serve its users and the communities.

Mr. Priester went on to explain the Master Plan, which could take 4 to 5 years to complete. Phase 1 is to determine what will benefit the airport and the surrounding communities. There is an FAA Advisory Circular, which will be available to view on our website, which provides details on how to create a Master Plan. Included in the advisory circular is the necessity for public involvement, environmental considerations, alternatives and financial feasibility.

Mr. Priester addressed the report brought up by Mr. Allan Englehardt during the previous meeting. That report was a snapshot in time. The FAA stated that there was an issue that must be studied further if the airport planned to proceed.

Mr. Priester opened up the discussion for board members questions. Director Pace had no comment. Director Cloud pointed out that the page of the advisory circular containing the most relevant information is page 5. The circular number is 150-5070-6B and is available on the FAA’s website. In response to Director Lang’s question, anyone with questions can email Mr.
Priester at cpriester@chiexec.com. There are a lot of questions to be answered. Mr. Priester will be looking for those answers and getting them to the communities, as he gets them.

Director Katz addressed the attendees and spoke of Chicago Executive Airport’s importance to the economy of the region. It is the number one reliever to O’Hare, it brings business and businesses to the area because this airport is closest to Chicago. Additionally, Chicago Executive Airport is important to the general aviation community and it is where a large number of pilots learned to fly. The airport board wants the public to know who we are, what the airport’s history is and where we are going. In response to a question from an audience member, Director Katz stated that revenue comes from the sale of fuel, rental of facilities and property leases.

Director Kearns agrees that it is important to get the word on the airport’s importance to the communities out to the residents. He stated that we must meet the needs of the users in order for the airport to remain self-sufficient. He also talked about the jobs that are created by the airport and its importance to people doing business around the world. Director Kearns asked Mr. Priester about his initial meetings with the FAA and government officials. Mr. Priester replied that the responses have all been very positive and enthusiastic. Both communities are working in harmony and asking for facts in order to make the best decisions. Everyone wants to keep up with the needs of the airport users and continue to improve the safety of the airport.

Director Lang spoke about Industrial Lane and how the Village of Wheeling is trying to attract redevelopment and aviation related business. This would lead to more money for the Village of Wheeling. Director Lang responded to a question from the audience that economic development will benefit the tax base. Director Cloud responded to questions by stating that the airport has looked into landing fees and determined that it was not in the best interest of the airport. The airport makes most of its money with fuel flowage fees. The current study will help determine the best way to use airport land.

Chairman McKenzie asked the residents to understand that there is no set plan and to please allow the airport to complete the Master Plan Study. Chairman McKenzie offered to stay after the meeting to address additional questions.

III. Adjournment

A motion was made by Director Pace and seconded by Director Cloud to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved by a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Neal Katz
Secretary