

Solano County Airport Land Use Commission



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COUNTY**

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Bruce DuClair
Vice-Chairman

DRAFT
MINUTES OF THE
SOLANO COUNTY AIRPORT LAND USE COMMISSION
MEETING OF JULY 13, 2017

The meeting of the Solano County Airport Land Use Commission was held in the Solano County Administration Center, Board of Supervisors Chambers (1st floor), 675 Texas Street, Fairfield, CA.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Baldwin, Vancil, Randall, Meyer and Chairman DuClair

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioners Cavanagh, Baumler and Sagun

OTHERS PRESENT: Jim Leland, Resource Management; Lee Axelrad and Lori Mazzella, County Counsel; Kristine Sowards, Resource Management

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chairman DuClair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as prepared.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of June 8, 2017 were approved as prepared.

Reports from Commissioners and/or Staff

There were no committee reports.

Items from the Public

There was no one from the public wishing to speak.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair as provided in the Bylaws.

A motion was made and seconded to nominate Commissioners DuClair and Randall as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Public hearing to consider the consistency of the County of Solano Middle Green Valley Specific Plan Amendments (ALUC-17-07) with the Travis Air Force Base Land Use Compatibility Plan. (Applicant: County of Solano)

Jim Leland provided a brief history of the plan and talked about the process and the plan amendments. He noted that the amendments were technical in nature. Mr. Leland said that there are no consistency issues and recommended the commission vote in favor of staff's recommendation.

Chairman DuClair opened the public hearing. Since there were no speakers either for or against this matter, the public hearing was closed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Meyer and seconded by Commissioner Baldwin to determine that the Project is consistent with the provisions of the Travis Air Force Base Land Use Compatibility Plan. The motion passed unanimously. (Resolution No. 17-07)

3. Update from staff regarding the progress of the Renewable Energy Working Group

Mr. Leland provided an update on the progress of the working group. He noted that the group has been looking at some issues with respect to whether or not there is a viable substitute for line-of-sight as a way of sighting wind turbines. The group is also looking at issues on how to treat a catastrophic failure of an already improved commercial wind turbine. Mr. Leland noted that the work is fairly technical so they have spent a fair amount of time working with the stakeholder appointee representing the wind industry and are working on wrapping that up. Mr. Leland believed staff would have a report for the commission at their August meeting.

4. Update from staff regarding a work plan for the study of potential regulations for Recreational Drones

Lee Axelrad spoke briefly about state legislation. He focused on several court cases, one relating to SB347 regarding reckless use of drones in flight; HB2390 recognizing local governmental authority and FAA jurisdiction; and SB1272 regarding recreational drone registration. Mr. Axelrad briefly described each case and its outcome.

Commissioner Meyer commented that this is a whole new frontier. She said it would seem to her that there would be a need for the FAA to move forward with regulations because technology is moving forward. She commended that even though in the cited court case the proponent was successful, the fact is there would be amendments and clarifications associated with it. She said recreational airplanes are one thing but what the talk is about is vastly different than the framework under which it was originally written.

Mr. Axelrad agreed stating that the FAA has a framework that was created with manned aircraft in mind. The division of labor between state and local and federal agencies is being sorted out with respect to manned aircraft because the whole system was created in an earlier era around an earlier version of technology and is now adjusting in parallel to the new technology. Mr. Axelrad said that the county has tried to think ahead and staff is going to bring before the commission a proposed work plan that enables the commission to think through these issues ahead of time.

Adjournment

Since there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.