

AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD AIRSHOW WORKSHOP
Fremont County Airport
January 7, 2016
5:00 pm

Members Present: John Marietta, Chairman; Rich LeDoux; Bruce Claremont; Jack Slagle; Jim Woolworth

Members Absent: Tom Schielf, Leonard Mino

Others Present: Tom Van Acker; Gail Claremont; John McDermott; Hans Miesler

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Chairman John Marietta. Chairman Marietta welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance.

Purpose:

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss whether an Airshow would be held in 2016 and, if so, what the organizational and leadership structure for the event would be.

Discussion:

- Our 2015 Airshow was considered a big success with a lot of favorable feedback from the community. A few oversights during the airshow resulted from poor organizational communication but were considered minor and correctable thru post show advertising and better communication in future events.
- Our affiliation with Florence Pioneer Days seemed to work well. The shuttle carried many people between our two events. The Florence Chamber expressed a desire to continue the joint events in coming years.
- Expenses for our 2015 Airshow amounted to \$21,000 for performers, merchandise, posters, programs, etc. Costs were nearly offset by sponsor pledges, gate donations, beverage and merchandise sales, 50/50 ticket sales and the auction.
- \$9000 has been pledged by sponsors for a 2016 Airshow.
- Past volunteers for most of the airshow planning activities are not available this year. John Marietta cannot chair the event due to his workload constraints but will support new organizers and volunteer to work at the airshow. Jim Woolworth will not be planning and organizing the event but will support any new leaders/planners and volunteer the day of the event.
- Chairman Marietta raised the question “Should we attempt an Airshow in 2016 or change to a biennial event and wait to 2017?” If a 2016 event is pursued, a chairman and several functional leaders are required to organize and plan the event. That effort needs to start very soon (No later than the 1st of February). The question was then asked “Who would be willing to do that?” There were no volunteers immediately apparent for these positions.
- A lengthy discussion followed with the following points made by members:
 - An Airshow on September 17th of 2016 would face increased competition from the Durango Airshow and Reno Air Races on the same date.
 - While our airshow in recent years has gotten progressively bigger with more content, it was suggested that we may want to scale back the event next year to contain both the cost and the effort of producing it. We may want to use local talent instead of paying for high dollar performers. We could consider falling back to a ½ day event. We may want to consider dropping the Airshow Program and discontinuing the Hospitality area for sponsors and performers. We may want to sponsor an IAC (International Aerobatic

- Club) aerobatic competition instead of an Airshow. It was acknowledged that these actions could have an adverse impact on sponsorships and community expectations.
- Members questioned what our objective was in producing an airshow. “What value does it bring to the community?” If it brings value, who will lead it?
 - In view of our advertising oversight at the Airshow, it was suggested that we post sponsor banners prominently at the airport in the near future to recognize our sponsors.
 - The meeting concluded with a request for members to consider the options discussed in this meeting. If no volunteers for 2016 airshow chairmanship and leadership positions emerge by the end of January, this year’s event will be deferred to 2017.

There being no further subjects for discussion, Chairman John Marietta adjourned the meeting at 6:15 pm.

Minutes taken by Jim Woolworth