



**SCOTTSDALE AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMISSION
PUBLIC MEETING
Scottsdale Airport Aviation Business Center
Stearman/Thunderbird Meeting Room
15000 N. Airport Drive, Second Floor
Scottsdale, Arizona
Wednesday, February 18, 2026**

PRESENT: Peter Mier
Craig Bennett
Thomas Kube, Vice-Chair (via telephone)
Peter Lenton
David Mecartney

ABSENT: April Beauboeuf, Chair
John Spalj

STAFF: Rick Wielebski, Aviation Director
Richard Formo, Assistant Aviation Director
Matthew Johnson, Director of Airport Operations & Maintenance
Kelli Kuester, Aviation Planning and Outreach Coordinator

GUESTS: Dimitri Z. Haniotis, Fly Whiskey Tango, LLC
Clara Cannon, Fly Whiskey Tango, LLC
Jeff Peters, Pure Aviation, LLC
Benjamin Hancock, Pure Aviation, LLC

Commissioner Mier assumed the gavel as Acting Chair.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

A formal roll call confirmed the presence of Commissioners as noted above.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Acting Chair Mier led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AVIATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Aviation Director Rick Wielebski spoke about the Waste Management Open and the Arabian Horse Show, both of which brought about increased aircraft activity at the airport. Regarding a request for information about lawsuits stemming from an accident last year, he was unable to comment due to the ongoing nature of the litigation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no response to the call for public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting: January 21, 2026

VICE-CHAIR KUBE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 21, 2026, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER LENTON SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED 5/0 WITH VICE-CHAIR KUBE AND COMMISSIONERS BENNETT, LENTON, MECARTNEY, AND MIER VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS 1-9

- 1. Discussion and Possible Action regarding application for Airport Aeronautical Business Permit for Fly Whiskey Tango, LLC to conduct Flight Training services at Scottsdale Airport.**

Assistant Aviation Director Richard Formo noted that Fly Whiskey Tango was co-located at Jet Aviation. Dimitri Haniotis with Fly Whiskey Tango discussed his immigration to the United States and his professional history as a pilot and developer. He spoke about training Clara Cannon on a simulator and her attempt to get her pilot's license, including going through 14 instructors. He felt there should be a better process for flight students. He said there would be no financial issue with this business permit request.

In response to Commissioner questions, he indicated he would be located at Jet Aviation's Hangar 1. Ms. Cannon added that they have office space which acts as a supportive learning environment, and the business will focus on women in aviation. She described the organization as a flight school with a heart. Mr. Haniotis discussed the three types of planes he purchased for the business. Ms. Cannon indicated that they are using a Cessna 172 for training. All three planes, Mr. Haniotis, continued, were sent to Florida for rehabilitation and repainting, and they are each ready to go. He noted he did not plan to operate this business for profit but to make a difference.

Ms. Cannon stated that every aircraft could accommodate four students and they have three flight instructors. The company is a total startup, and doors are expected to open once the three planes arrive at the airport in mid-March. Mr. Haniotis said he only wanted to provide a service with a few planes. He did not expect to see significant growth, particularly because he was unsure whether this airport could handle more planes. Because he did well as a developer, he does not need the school to succeed financially, and he stated he has no three-year plan for the business.

Ms. Cannon noted the flight school will only allow people with private pilot certifications or above, as they were more serious about aviation in general. She discussed some of the instructors she

planned to utilize, saying that Fly Whiskey Tango wanted to provide a livable wage and a great environment for its instructors. She believed that other flight schools took advantage of students' hours, so many students would be happy to change to Fly Whiskey Tango.

VICE-CHAIR KUBE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION FOR AIRPORT AERONAUTICAL BUSINESS PERMIT FOR FLY WHISKEY TANGO, LLC, TO CONDUCT FLIGHT TRAINING SERVICES AT SCOTTSDALE AIRPORT. COMMISSIONER BENNETT SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED 5/0 WITH VICE-CHAIR KUBE AND COMMISSIONERS BENNETT, LENTON, MECARTNEY, AND MIER VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.

2. Discussion and Possible Action regarding application for Airport Aeronautical Business Permit for Pure Aviation, LLC to conduct Mobile Aircraft Washing services at Scottsdale Airport.

Benjamin Hancock with Pure Aviation said he saw an opportunity for aircraft washing that was better than a car wash business. Responding to Commissioner questions, Assistant Aviation Director Richard Formo indicated that the applicant submitted the application on August 15, 2025. Regarding that delay, Aviation Director Rick Wielebski mentioned that the packets can sometimes take a while to put together, from a couple of weeks to several months.

In response to Commissioner Mecartney's question, Mr. Hancock explained that he and Mr. Peters participated in a five-day training course in airplane detailing and window restoration, among other things. Commissioner Mecartney expressed concern about improper plane washing, noting that a poor job on his plane in the past caused him to have an emergency landing for safety reasons. He expressed concern about the length of training the owners underwent and emphasized the liability that plane washing companies have. Acting Chair Mier inquired about the certificate of insurance (COI). Mr. Formo responded that staff always ensures that all COIs are up to date before bringing information before the Commission. A brief discussion ensued about how to handle cleaning planes that had large cracks.

Mr. Wielebski said the Commission's responsibility was to ensure that the permit application met all the needs of a business permit application. Staff believed that it did. He discussed the program used by the airport to track permits and lease agreements and ensure that all insurance requirements were met. That program warns staff when COIs were approaching their expiration dates. Acting Chair Mier felt there was a fine line between what staff does and what the Commission does, and in cases like this where it has taken many months to come before the Commission, it could be helpful to hear from staff that they rereviewed all the relevant information and were prepared to move forward. Mr. Wielebski listed some of the documents required by staff to be provided for a business application. As long as businesses meet the requirements in the applications, he stated, the airport, as a public use airport, must let them in; there is no cap on services. Mr. Hancock said he believed he had still been getting insurance information together when he completed the paperwork in August.

Responding to additional questions, Mr. Hancock said his company preferred dry washing over wet washing because water can ruin mechanical parts. Despite their history washing cars, he assured the Commission that they are taking this business very seriously, obtaining proper certifications. He described the training and certification he and Mr. Peters received, offering to show a photo of his certificate. He acknowledged that the certification was the company's certification, but the company who gave it to him is expanding regionally.

Commissioner Mecartney expressed concern that Pure Aviation was unqualified to do the work, saying many other applicants had certifications from NetJets or FlexJet. He suggested the company get more experience in small aircraft and then expand. He said detailers had a responsibility to point out flaws to plane owners. A brief discussion ensued regarding how to proceed with this application.

COMMISSIONER MIER MADE A MOTION TO SUSPEND ACTION ON THIS ITEM PENDING FURTHER STAFF REVIEW. COMMISSIONER MECARTNEY SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED 5/0 WITH VICE-CHAIR KUBE AND COMMISSIONERS BENNETT, LENTON, MECARTNEY, AND MIER VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.

3. Discussion and Input regarding Airport and Airpark Aeronautical Business Permit Additions, Cancellations and Revocations

Assistant Aviation Director Richard Formo noted the airport/airpark tenant list was included in the agenda packet. Though both companies discussed earlier in the meeting appeared on the list, staff would amend it to reflect the suspension of the Pure Aviation approval. There had been no changes to the Airpark over the last month, he noted.

4. Discussion and Input regarding Public Outreach Programs and Planning Projects

Aviation Planning & Outreach Coordinator Kelli Kuester reviewed the highlighted portions of the staff report for this item. She thanked everyone who followed the voluntary curfew hours, which has resulted in the need to send out significantly fewer letters. She noted the bulk of her efforts will now shift to publicizing the Master Plan Open House event.

5. Discussion and Input regarding Monthly Operations Report

Matthew Johnson, Director of Airport Operations & Maintenance, reviewed the Operations Report included in the agenda packet, highlighting statistics about based aircraft, operations, alerts, incidents, enforcement actions, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and airport operations. Regarding the decrease in activity during this year's Barrett-Jackson Auction as compared to last year's, he observed that more planes dropped people off and left as opposed to staying. However, there was an increase in aircraft for the first day of the Waste Management Open. He pointed out that he did not receive updated Business Jet Report numbers, but he hoped to have an update on it in next month's update.

Commissioner Mecartney said the reduction in airplanes staying overnight should result in an increase in takeoffs and landings. Mr. Johnson replied that IFR flight statistics were holding firm, which were the airport's business travel clientele. Aviation Planning & Outreach Coordinator Kelli Kuester added that there was much less flight school activity this time of year as well.

6. Discussion and Input regarding the Proposed Aviation Enterprise Fund Five-Year Financial Plan

This item was removed from the agenda.

7. Discussion and Input regarding Monthly Financial Report for December 2025

Assistant Aviation Director Richard Formo discussed changes that had been made to the layout of the report itself. He reviewed December's Monthly Financial Report, noting that the Accounts Receivable Aging section was removed from the report, though the aging status was healthy as of the end of the year. He reviewed statistics related to the operating budget, the Aviation Cash Fund balance, the monthly revenue and expenditure comparison, the FY 2025/26 year-to-date totals, and fuel flowage numbers. He did not have any concerns about the overall financial look for the year. He attributed the drop in aviation gas to a reduction in both touch-and-go's and training school traffic.

Acting Chair Mier expressed appreciation for the changes made to the report and encouraged staff to continue to make the information easier to digest. Commissioner Mecartney added his appreciation for the clarity of the financial year-over-year gallon chart included in the report.

8. Discussion and Input regarding the Administrative Report from the Aviation Director, or designee, regarding the status of pending aviation-related items

Aviation Director Rick Wielebski said nothing was on the list of items to present to the City Council because the list was cleaned at the start of the calendar year. He remarked that he had no updates for the Commission on the projects that were planned to go to other boards or commissions.

9. Discussion and Possible Action to modify the Airport Advisory Commission Meeting Schedule and Commission Item Calendar

Aviation Director Rick Wielebski pointed out that the budget presentation scheduled for this meeting was continued until next month's meeting so updated financial information could be included.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Acting Chair Mier called for a motion to adjourn at 6:01 p.m.

COMMISSIONER BENNETT MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER LENTON SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED 5/0 WITH VICE-CHAIR KUBE AND COMMISSIONERS BENNETT, LENTON, MECARTNEY, AND MIER VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.

SUBMITTED BY:

eScribers, LLC