

MINUTES OF AIRPORT COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY – SEPTEMBER 8, 2022
FORT SMITH REGIONAL AIRPORT CONFERENCE ROOM

The special meeting of the Fort Smith Airport Commission was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Chairman Grimes presiding. Commissioners Hawkins, Pendergrass, Ridgley, and Voris were present. Also, present were Michael Griffin, airport director, Kathey Boze, administration director, and Tiffany Farmer, operations director.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Small Community Air Service Development Grant – The airport has received a grant offer from the Department of Transportation for a Small Community Air Service Grant. The grant provides funding for revenue guarantee, recruitment costs and associated marketing program to recruit, initiate and support this new air service between Fort Smith and Chicago or another hub airport in the Northeast United States. The goal is for American Airlines to add this service.

The total project cost is \$1,000,000. Grant funding will provide \$855,000. The City of Fort Smith and Fort Smith Chamber have pledged the required local community share, \$125,000. The airport will fund \$20,000. In addition to the project total, the airport will provide in-kind contributions up to \$145,650, which is waiving landing fees for the new service.

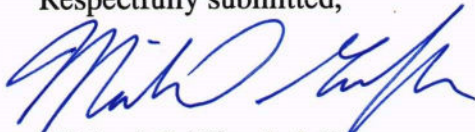
Staff stated receiving the grant is a great start but the new service is not guaranteed. American Airlines has provided a letter of support for the grant but has not committed to adding service. Typically, this is a two-year process but the hope is to gain the service sometime in 2023. American Airlines' 2022 schedule is already set. Industry wide pilot and equipment shortages will also play a factor.

A motion to accept the Department of Transportation Small Community Air Service Grant and authorize the airport director to execute it was made by Commissioner Hawkins and seconded by Commissioner Pendergrass. Voting Aye: Grimes, Hawkins, Pendergrass, Ridgley and Voris. Voting Nay: None. There was no further discussion and motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Commissioner Ridgley and second by Commissioner Voris, the meeting adjourned at 12:09 p.m. Voting aye: Grimes, Hawkins, Pendergrass, Ridgley, and Voris. Voting Nay: None and motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Griffin, A.A.E.
Airport Director