

**ERIE REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
MEETING
Tuesday, January 28, 2020**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Erie Regional Airport Authority duly posted and advertised, held in the Conference Room in the main lobby of the Knox Law Firm, 120 West 10th Street, Erie, Pennsylvania.

Attendees:

Christopher Parker	Derek Martin	Keaton Regenor
David Hallman, Jr.	Michelle Magee	Sherece Regenor
Richard Wagner	James Pacansky	Maria Langer
Gregory Hayes	Jennifer Gornall	Grayson Patterson, North Coast Air
Patrick Cappabianca	Ian Bogle	J. Cauklin
Andrea Zdaniewski		Peter Burton
		Tony Logue
		Pat Bywater, Erie Times News
		Dennis Kudlak
		John Last
		Ed Kissell

*several attendees did not sign in as requested

Board President Christopher Parker opened the meeting at 12:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Approval of Agenda:

Mr. Parker asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Patrick Cappabianca moved to approve the agenda and Richard Wagner seconded. Approved by Yeas: Christopher Parker, Richard Wagner, Gregory Hayes, Patrick Cappabianca, David Hallman, Jr., and Andrea Zdaniewski.

Executive Director Comments

Derek Martin is traveling back from a conference and his flight was delayed to Erie. Mr. Parker stated that Mr. Martin will have an opportunity to speak later in the meeting.

Public Comments

Mr. Parker reminded public speakers to state his/her name clearly. Comments should be kept to 3 minutes or less. Comments should be just that...comments; not a question and answer or an opportunity to address/or refute the other public speakers.

Keaton Regenor spoke on behalf of his father Col. James Regenor. He read a quote from John Boyd- "to be or to do". The honorees on the airport display chose to do. They inspire. The display belongs in the airport.

Maria Langer's uncle Mario Filigenzi is honored on the wall. She stated that our city loved seeing something special in the airport. This display really means something. Ms.

Langer added that she does not like that the families were not consulted; she feels insulted.

Brian Shank stated that he is not here as a Councilman but as an Army vet and citizen. He thanked the two Board members who voted in support of the display staying in the airport. He added that he is very disappointed that public feedback was not considered in the decision to relocate the display.

Dennis Kudlak stated that the airport is an open door to the community. The previous Executive Director Chris Rodgers and the Board then (2008) decided that the wall would be permanent. Back then they realized what the Master Plan would dictate and planned for it by making the mural wall removable.

Tony Logue stated that he was on the Board back then and the Board was very proud of the Wall of Fame. He stated that the wall was to be permanent. He called for the Board to restore the wall; this is our town; be prideful!

Peter Burton of Burton Funeral Home stated that he knows something about heritage and is very confused by the outrage caused by displaying the portraits on a digital kiosk. It is tasteful and modern. The display was not removed; it is being displayed in a different manner. When you are running a business, you change or die. Mr. Martin had to put out a few fires not handled by his predecessor when he first got here which was seen as unfavorable by the public. Mr. Martin is trying to make the airport better and compliant. Mr. Burton stated he does not understand why people are only focusing on the display and personally attacking Mr. Martin. Travel ship is up; the portraits were not thrown away or destroyed; he just doesn't understand the mentality!

Jeff Caughlin is a citizen and airport user. The airport is not a museum. It is not the airport's responsibility to inspire or educate the public. A museum is a great place to visit and educational displays are great in museums. Mr. Caughlin thinks the kiosk is a great idea! The Airport's focus should be what are the goals, what are airport users looking for in an airport, and is the airport being fiscally responsible.

Mike Kuhn stated that his one regret is that he did not serve in uniform. He feels the removal of the display was disrespectful. He added that it is his understanding that \$40,000 of grant money was used for the display.

Sherece Regenor addressed Mr. Burton and asked him how he can think a PacMan machine is acceptable for the display. Mr. Parker and Ms. Gornall reminded Ms. Regenor that she cannot address other public speakers. Thinking they were asking her to stand, she stood and again addressed Mr. Burton. Ms. Regenor was told that she cannot address Mr. Burton or any other public speaker.

Mr. Parker thanked everyone for their comments.

Board Member Comments

Mr. Parker stated for the record that he would never do anything to disrespect veterans. He wears a gold star for a reason. Whether or not the wall goes back up or stays down, there needs to be a long term solution for the mural or portraits or both. He is proposing forming an Ad Hoc Committee per the bylaws for the purpose of exploring solutions for the display that are in the best interest of the airport and the business of the airport. Mr. Parker added that it is his expectation that the Committee conduct themselves civilly and respectfully at all times whether it be during meetings, on social media, or to the media. Mr. Parker appointed Board Members: David Hallman, Jr., Richard Wagner, and Gregory Hayes. Members of the public interested in being on the Committee should give their intent within the next 2 weeks.

Mr. Cappabianca said he feels Mr. Parker is being premature with forming an Ad Hoc Committee. Mr. Cappabianca stated that social media has been bad and very inappropriate, and he is very disappointed. Mr. Cappabianca shared a letter from Bob Kelley one of the living honorees on the wall. Mr. Cappabianca feels the display needs to be reinstated as soon as possible. He is willing to find a donor from the community for the biography display. Mr. Cappabianca said the kiosk is nice but not impressive. One of the honorees, Phil Cochran is his hero.

Mr. Hayes shares Mr. Cappabianca's sentiments. He comes from a long line of vets plus owns the flight school at the airport, so aviation history is important.

Mr. Wagner stated that even though he only has one year on the Board, he is very impressed with Derek's knowledge. Mr. Martin possesses institutionalized knowledge, but Erie is small thinkers. Erie has trouble thinking outside of the box. Mr. Wagner feels that the VA is not a good spot to honor vets. Aviators should be honored in an airport. Nurses and doctors should be honored at the VA Hospital. Mr. Wagner cautioned Mr. Martin to pay more attention to the community but at the same time feels the community cannot get in the way of improvement. The baggage area should be a shrine to the local aviators.

Ms. Zdaniewski asked if we have spoken to the advertiser currently in baggage claim to make sure we are not in breach of contract should the ad be removed. Mr. Martin confirmed that we have had favorable conversations with the advertiser.

Gregory Hayes made a motion to reinstate the mural and portraits in the baggage claim area with no railing reinstated at this time. The new Ad Hoc Committee pertaining to this matter will study the issues of permanent locale in the Airport Terminal of the display, reinstallation of the railing and other related issues and report back to the Board of the Authority for further action; Patrick Cappabianca seconded. Approved by Yeas: Christopher Parker, Richard Wagner, Gregory Hayes, Patrick Cappabianca, David Hallman, Jr., and Andrea Zdaniewski.

Executive Director Comments

Mr. Martin stated that media reports on the matter of the aviator's display have been one sided and filled with many mistruths. Social media has been very unfair, nasty, and has negatively affected my staff. Mr. Martin shared that the airport spent \$2 million on two Master Plans which are "road maps" for projects to be done. For anyone to say that he unilaterally did something is incorrect. Public meetings and Board review meetings were held to review the Master Plan. In other words, there was opportunity for public and Board input as the baggage claim wall was part of the Master Plan discussed at these meetings.

Patrick Cappabianca made a motion to adjourn and Gregory Hayes seconded. Approved by Yeas: Christopher Parker, Richard Wagner, Gregory Hayes, Patrick Cappabianca, David Hallman, Jr., and Andrea Zdaniewski.

Adjournment: 1:25 PM

Marybeth Smialek, Secretary