

**CITY OF NEWPORT
AIRLINE SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE
OCTOBER 7, 2009
MEETING NOTES**

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 P.M. In attendance were Patricia Patrick-Joling, Mark McConnell, Mike Schulz, Jim Voetberg, Penelope McCarthy, Dennis Reno, Ross Schultz, Peggy Hawker, Mark Watkins, and Walter Sherman.

The agenda was revised to include a discussion regarding the composition of the task force. It was reported that requests had been received to include a representative of the Port of Newport and SeaPort Air. After a brief discussion, it was agreed to recommend to the City Council that the staff be removed from the task force, and support the group administratively. It was agreed that the subsequent vacancies should be filled with a representative from the Port of Newport, a representative from the county, and a representative from the Chamber of Commerce board of directors.

A discussion ensued regarding task force goals. It was agreed that additional information would be required to establish goals. This information includes: an historical timeline; copies of the revenue guarantee agreement with SeaPort; statistics from other airports with unsubsidized commercial air service; a copy of the Mead Hunt study; marketing information from SeaPort; information on current flights; demographic information; and SeaPort's recommendation of a sustainable option.

It was agreed to hold meetings of this task force on the first and third Wednesday's of each month. The next meeting will be held on October 21, 2009, at 3:00 P.M.

A discussion ensued regarding the burn rate of the subsidy. It was agreed to request the raw data files from SeaPort.

A discussion ensued regarding credit card fees, and whether they are actually 3.6%.

Mark Watkins stated that the public perception is that SeaPort is taking advantage of the public monies.

Walter Sherman stated that one task force member should be familiar with airlines. He stated that it does not appear that there is an active defense of the Consortium's rights, and that the public believes that the city is ignoring parts of the contract. He asked whether the City Council is interested in generating sustainable air service into Newport. Schulz stated that he does not believe that the City Council does not want to see sustainable air service into Newport.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:32 P.M.