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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

AIRPORT SUBTOPIC

Draft Meeting Minutes

June 13, 2007 6pm-8pm

Boone Electric Cooperative

1413 Rangeline

Columbia Missouri

Panelists: Bill Boston, Kathy Frerking, Don Laird, Tom Sadowski, Greg Steinhoff, and Bill Watkins

Subtopic Group Members present: Barbara Davis, Carol Denninghoff, Byron Hill (moderator) and Mike Naughton

Guests: Kathy Caldwell, Mark Caldwell, George Carney, Larry Colgin, John Dean, Diane Drainer, Bob Drainer, Mark Duncan, John Ellis, Larry Foster, Tim Freeman, Rod Gelatt, Bob Gerding, Barbara Hoppe, B. J. Hunter, Chris Janku, Marianne Jones, Tom Mendenhall, Bob Merriman, Tom Payne, Ken Pearson, Ed Robb, Bob Roper, David Rothman, Rick Shanker, Karl Skala, Marsha Smith, Vickie Toalson, Llona Weiss and Randy Wright

Support Staff: Joyce Gelina

I. Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting

This was the first meeting of the Airport Subtopic Group; no previous minutes.

II. Key Meeting Discussion Topics

The need for an airport in Columbia Missouri, as well as the interest in expanding and improving it and its services, has been established for some time. The questions discussed were what approach to take and what resources are available to accomplish this.

Those who have expressed interest in this project include: citizens of Columbia, Jefferson City and Lake Ozarks; travel agencies—for their customers; and other businesses—for their employees and associates.

The following possibilities were discussed: turn it into a regional airport (commitment and support are needed); expand and research other services the airport can provide in addition to passenger flights (air cargo and general aviation--flying lessons, air taxi service, private jets); improve passenger and business air travel (secure more destinations, flights, times and improve reliability); research ticket guarantees; work together as a team/partners (i.e. the State of Missouri, the university, the business community); and review the report prepared by SCORE.

What is needed in order for this to happen: commitments—from the airline and those who will support it financially; resources and buy-ins--bigger players than the city; marketing; information on what is required from the airline in order for it to come to Columbia; leadership; and identify the partners. Steinhoff stated that the state Department of Economic Development and the Missouri State Airport System Plan can help with the project if new economic activity can be documented.

Positive feedback was given by City Manager Bill Watkins. He felt that improvements can be made, but the plan should not be entirely with the city. Watkins stated that there is growing interest in the airport; but we need money, resources and partnerships. He added that the airport is currently not a winner, so people don't want to support it; the other option--giving up--is not acceptable. "This can be done if we obtain the commitments and work together. Our short-term goal is to keep Mesa alive; long-term objectives need to be set."

III. Motions and Votes

None.

IV. Actions to be Taken

The strategic plan that was prepared by SCORE in 2005 will be given to the Visioning Committee for review.