

## Board of County Commissioners Meeting of 2/7/08 Jim Herd's Public Comment on the Airport

Respectfully and reluctantly, I bring you a heavy burden and some unpleasant work.

### Control of our airport has been taken from you!

1. Huge Pinon Aero project is already past any public review
  - o no more opportunity to inspect or disapprove.
  - o 100 hangars, half are large enough for a 737.
  - o Increased land lease in 2006 – 20 more acres – virtual monopoly on prime space.
  - o 23 tenants announced – construction is imminent – it is happening
2. Master Plan – forecasts only 2 additional jets in the next 20 years.
  - o Ignores Pinon Aero massive project.
  - o Ignores Hutt Aviation attempt to buy all of Budge Brown's jet hangars.
3. Master Plan does not reflect the spirit of your Airport Resolution (May 2007) – read it and you decide.
4. Master Plan Update is ignoring most public input.
  - o Example quote from Outreach meeting written responses:  
Comment 61 – The loudest voice should be that of the resident owners of the airport.  
Response – "The loudest voices must be those of the sponsor (Mr. Braswell) and the FAA."
  - o AMPWG overwhelmingly populated with self-interest -  
only 1 of 14 seats represents the residents.

### County Staff work processes have been flawed.

1. Track record of serving growth and not serving local aviators – soaring, T hangars, .....
2. Style is always "propose and defend" – never seeking and responding to public will.  
e.g. Public Outreach – disingenuous.
3. Lip service is paid to overwhelmingly-negative input from the public – only 3 supportive comments out of 90. Yet no changes.
4. Refusal to include huge Pinon Aero project in Master Plan, thus misleading all of us, even the FAA.
5. Evasive response to public complaints.
6. Upgraded asphalt to handle more weight, then launched deeply erroneous studies to prove weight-bearing is up from 50,000 to 110,000 pounds.
7. Changes have come in subtle and seemingly-benign increments, but the momentum and outcome is unmistakable. A progressive and relentless shift away from serving local aviators and sports tourism and towards a Jet Port.

Commissioners, I know this is not your vision for our airport!

## **BOCC must take back control of our airport.**

You must get personally involved in the detail – now. There is no other way to regain control and serve your constituents.

1. Reaffirm the spirit of last year's Airport Resolution – and direct it be executed.
2. A new Resolution to reaffirm the residents' right to get the loudest voice at their airport.
3. Demand clarity on the weight capacity and then strict enforcement.
4. Direct County Staff and consultants to devise protection and preservation measures.
5. Stop all airport infrastructure projects now until the widespread controversy is resolved through a proper & fair Master Plan process.  
e.g. Stop the east side capital project funding being requested today.
6. Recast the entire Master Plan project:
  - o Remove the domination by special interests on the AMPWG
  - o Direct all known development projects to be included
  - o Implement the full intentions of your Airport Resolution last May
  - o Re-do the forecast, assumptions, goals, and screening factors – all heavily criticized
  - o Insist on a comprehensive environmental report – not cursory
  - o Respond to public opinion
7. Institute automatic Commissioner reviews of all major airport leases and development projects, & involve the Planning Commission.
8. No more "consent calendar" approvals for airport capital spending.
9. Sponsor a comprehensive new Airport Use Ordinance this year that will protect and preserve our airport.
10. Replace the AAC with an airport BOD – so you can get back to running the County.

Your action or inaction in the next few weeks will seal the fate of our airport for ever.  
Your personal legacy is at stake here.