



Chapter of California Pilots Association
1745 Sessums Dr. Ste. 1
Redlands CA. 92374-1907

Redlands City Council Candidate Questions-Submitted by the Redlands Airport Association

1. Have you ever been to Redlands airport for travel, to pick up visitors or to attend an event? Please share a little about your experience at the airport.

Not yet. I hope to take a tour soon. I have driven past it quite a few times to try and understand the area in which the airport is located and its surroundings.

2. Have you ever reviewed any of the planning documents about the airport? Please share what you have reviewed.

I reviewed the Redlands Municipal Airport Business Plan created in 2016.

3. Some small businesses that have opened or contemplated opening at the airport have complained the City of Redlands is not “business friendly”. Recent airport fee schedules being considered by city staff include new “Environmental Impact” fees for businesses at the airport. These include a new annual \$150 Maintenance Operation Environmental fee and a \$200 Fueling Operation Environmental fee. These fees are in addition to existing San Bernardino County Business taxes, Redlands Business Licenses fees, and Redlands Fire Department Inspection fees. Revenue generated at the airport cannot be used elsewhere in the city by law. Even though the airport generates enough revenue to pay its own expenses, additional revenue could be used to improve airport facilities and maintenance. What are your ideas to increase airport revenue while encouraging a “business friendly” climate at the airport?

Generating revenue:

- 1) Remove additional or unnecessary fees that place a burden on the businesses
- 2) Enhance flight training through partnership opportunities
- 3) Offer self-serve fuel to bring increase fuel price competition
- 4) Offer more services for planes
- 5) Create a unique dining experience
- 6) Offer mobile tours in conjunction with the local brewery
- 7) Improve community engagement through more events
- 8) Apply for and acquire relevant grants
- 9) Shuttles to-and-from motels/downtown/orange groves (tourism)

Utilizing the revenue to make investments:

- 1) Upgrading facilities
- 2) Security measures



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4. The City of Redlands does not have an active economic development program involving the airport. Hangar development that facilitates basing more aircraft, attracting airport businesses such as a restaurant and new fueling facilities could significantly increase airport revenue. What is your plan, if any, to develop the airport?

The development of the airport will require expertise in management and aviation. The city must work in conjunction with the AAB to identify somebody who has a vested interest in our city and its airport and who has experience or a skillset to help us with this. While we can provide ideas, a manager would be able to incorporate these ideas (and provide his/her own) into a viable game plan. I foresee that the development of the airport will require a combination of investments in the facilities, a branding strategy, and the implementation of revenue generating ideas soon and in a coordinated manner.

5. Do you think aviation or airport management experience is necessary to supervise/manage municipal airport operations?

Absolutely! As stated above, it would also be nice to find somebody who has a vested interest in Redlands and can help incorporate a "Redlands theme" throughout the development.

6. The City of Redlands has an Airport Advisory Board (AAB) which acts in an advisory role to the Redlands City Council. Please share your thoughts on why they have this advisory role and how their recommendations will impact you as a future councilmember.

City Councilmembers cannot have expertise in every area of the city. Advisory boards help the council by providing guidance and direction in their respective matters. The airport is an asset to the city and I believe the intention of creating the board was to have a go-to group of experts who could provide necessary recommendations to help the airport (and therefore, the city) prosper. As with all recommendations, I would expect myself and other council members to consider them in the context of all the information. I would also expect there to be back and forth communication between the council and the board to understand what decisions are being made, why they are being made, and what recommendations cannot be incorporated and why.

7. In *your* opinion, what is currently the most pressing issue at the airport?

I believe the most pressing issue is the housing development that may create restrictions on the flight path as well as noise complaints. This speaks to the disconnect between airport land use compatibility and the planning that occurred. The development is already in place, however, and we will have to anticipate the problems that may arise and work to prevent future problems. If we think of the positives, residential development can help bring in more people and therefore more revenue can be generated with some bright ideas and proper planning.