



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.

I have. I love aviation. I used to go to LAX as a child and teenager and watch planes go by (actually, I still do). I have been to Hangar several times as well. I love the airport, both the sights and sounds, as a backdrop for good times and commerce.

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

I have spent some time with the Redlands Municipal Airport Business Plan.

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?

The airport could grow to do more of what some small airports do. For instance, do more flight lessons, and focus on branding so that more planes could be drawn to the airport, with a base line being the current number of aircraft. There could also be use of land close by for retail (perhaps companion businesses to Hangar 24) or other purposes that create more opportunity for airport traffic.

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?

See above. Additionally, the City should take steps to raise awareness of the airport and what it adds to the city. Just like Hangar 24, the increase of area businesses will alert more citizens to the beauty and utility of the airport and the surrounding area.



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

I certainly think it helps. As a city council, we should be relying on those that take care of the airport day to day to advise us on what makes sense for the airport. I would envision someone with a heart for aviation, based on which they acquired and honed the skills to manage in that space. While current revenues would preclude having a full time manager, this can be a goal for the future. I personally would be more comfortable with someone that had experience along that line. This assumes, however, that we are doing what is necessary to draw the right individuals with the passion and vision to move the airport along, and that we have sufficient revenue generation to make a full time manager a viable option.

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.

It is said that the Airport Advisory Board advises the City Council as to the administration, operation, and improvement of the airport. Assuming that board members are thoughtful, have the requisite experience and have done the work to make well-reasoned recommendations, they would be entitled to some weight. It is imperative though that I understand that the management of the airport and the AAB have like-minded goals. In other words, there should be some level of agreement about what the airport needs and a shared vision to make it more viable for the future.

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

Economic viability. The airport is a piece of property that is responsible for taking care of itself as an enterprise fund, but needs to be focused on to reach it's potential. Though it's not quite the same thing, I have been impressed by the work that was done to improve the situation at the cemetery here in town. Specifically, they were in the red, and they put smart folks (consultant, etc.) in place to think creatively about how to turn around its fortunes, with great success. Surely, with a place like the airport, something similar can be done.