

# MINUTES

## Leesburg Airport Advisory Commission December 13, 2023

**Location:** Leesburg Executive Airport Terminal – George Hammerly Conference Room

**Commissioners Present:** Hugh Forsythe, Chairman  
JC Silvey, Vice Chairman  
Ryan Goeller  
John Dolan – remote participant  
Travis Gunnells  
Timothy Baker  
Tim Fisher, ABA Representative

**Commissioner(s) Absent:** Lindsay Arrington

**Others Present:** John Somiak, FAA Safety Team Rep  
Jon Rooney, Kuhn Jet Center  
Tom Saxon, hangar tenant  
John Gallagher, hangar tenant  
David Reilly, Air Traffic Manager  
Scott Coffman, Airport Director  
Mike Shields, Airport Operations Manager

**Call to Order:** The Meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 6:00 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** November 15, 2023 minutes approved 5-2

**Petitioners and Public Input:** none.

### Old Business:

- **Instrument Approach to Runway 35:** The airport director noted that tree clearing is a requirement for an instrument approach to 35, as depicted in the Airport Layout Plan. Mr. Goeller noted that there is commercial development occurring on some of the parcels and tree clearing may be less of an issue as the build-out occurs. It is to be determined by FAA what, and if any, type of approach (ie. precision/non-precision) can ultimately be accommodated given the airspace constraints.
- **Rental Hangar Use Requirements:** The airport director briefed that the fire marshal's office had conducted an inspection and highlighted common issues. The director also noted that a re-write of the airport rules, including fire and hangar regulations, is being drafted. There is potential for outside legal assistance to accomplish this goal if funding is available. Mr. Dolan reiterated that collaboration with airport users is an important part of the process. Safety rules, such as the fire code are mandatory requirements, but how our community looks at the airport is an important consideration in the rules development.
- **Noise Complaints:** The Chairman briefed on recent discussion with residents at Evergreen Meadows and that they are not satisfied with efforts to reduce noise. Leaded fuel use is a primary

concern of the residents. He recognized the efforts of the schools, and FAA Safety Team representative to brief pilots of the recommended practices. The tower personnel will operate and direct traffic in the safest manner possible, and noise abatement paths are not prioritized over safety. Mr. Galagher spoke that he recently had tried to follow highways but was instructed by the tower to turn sooner. The tower manager responded that there are a number of reasons why a controller may direct a turn, likely because of other traffic.

**New Business:**

- Commission Priorities: The airport director shared a draft written annual report that included commission priorities for discussion. The commissioners were in agreement that ATC Tower, West Side Planning, planning for unleaded fuel/electric aircraft, and lease/facility planning were top priorities. The airport Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is separate from the commission priorities but projects within the CIP are linked to the commission's overall goals.

**Reports:**

- Airport Director – The airport director provided updates on the monthly report, projects, and noise complaints. Reconstruction of the fire-damaged hangar building is underway with estimated completion by March. The main apron pavement rehab project is under grant and is expected to start in June 2024.
- FBO Comments – None.
- Airport Business Association Comments – None.
- Chairman's Report: The Chairman noted the importance of staying professional on issues such as community noise.
- Committee Reports:
  - Operations: Dave Reilly commented that the airport should build connector roads between aprons to reduce the number of fuel trucks traveling on the taxiway.
  - Land Use and Development: no comments.
- Commission Member Comments: no comments.
- Board of Supervisors Representative Report: Mr. Corcoran was not present.
- Councilmanic Comments: Councilmember Cummings was not present.
- Final Petitioners and Public Comments: John Somiak briefed on paragliding activity in western Loudoun County.

**Next Meeting:** January 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

**Location:** Leesburg Executive Airport Terminal – George Hammerly Conference Room.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Forsythe adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.