

MINUTES

Leesburg Airport Advisory Commission September 13, 2023

Location: Leesburg Executive Airport Terminal – George Hammerly Conference Room

Commissioners Present: Hugh Forsythe, Chairman
JC Silvey, Vice Chairman
Ryan Goeller
John Dolan
Jose Marrero
Lindsay Arrington
Timothy Baker
Tim Fisher, ABA Representative (remote)

Commissioner(s) Absent: None

Others Present: ProJet Aviation Representative
John Somiak, FAA Safety Team
Scott Kuhn, Kuhn Jet Center
Tom Saxon, tenant
Scott Coffman, Airport Director

Call to Order: The Meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 6:00 p.m. The Chairman introduced Timothy Baker as the newest member.

Approval of Minutes: August 9, 2023 minutes approved 6-0-1

Petitioners and Public Input: none

Old Business:

- Noise Abatement Update: The Chairman provided an update on the 2nd meeting with residents of Evergreen Meadows neighborhood. Bill English with Aviation Adventures attended the meeting as a representative of flight school. The control tower is doing much better prioritizing runway 17 and is directing some touch and go flights to right traffic when on runway 35. One of the residents noted that traffic overhead seemed reduced from earlier in the year. Residents reiterated their concern of leaded fuel used in piston aircraft. They felt that the piston aircraft were contributing to air pollution over the schools and residents.

Residents asked how the airport responds to the noise complaints. The airport director looks at all complaints to determine if abnormal operations were reported – such as aircraft flying unusual altitudes, off hours, helicopters, etc, that the airport can talk to the pilot and prevent a reoccurrence. Many of the complaint reports received from Evergreen Meadows residents are of repetitive touch-and-go's, which are normal operations for the airport, flown according to FAA rules. The airport logs these complaints as they are impacting the community, but the airport doesn't contact pilots conducting normal operations.

- Instrument Approach to Runway 35: The airport director revisited the interest in an approach to Runway 35. It is reported that Class D airspace is in development but may not be published until a permanent tower facility is constructed.
- Air Show: The airport director provided an update on the air show preparations.

New Business:

- Rental Hangar Use Requirements: The airport director noted that he would like to implement a checklist for hangar use that summarizes safety and storage requirements that exist in leases and fire codes. A checklist or policy would clarify requirements for tenant compliance and ease enforcement. Mr. Dolan stated that some items very clear safety regulations from fire code, but others are more subjective, such as storage of items, furniture, etc. that may be an airport preference. Ms. Arrington noted that enforcement is key. Mr. Saxon stated that he wanted the tenants to be have a voice on development of any new rules or restrictions. Mr. Somiak was concerned of propane storage in the hangars. The airport director noted that some aircraft owners use propane pre-heaters. The Chairman asked Mr. Dolan to work with staff on the development of a checklist/requirements.
- New-member handouts: The Chairman handed out several presentations including the annual report to Council from 2022 and the commission summary on West-side land development.

Reports:

- Airport Director – The airport director provided updates on the monthly report, projects, and noise complaints.
- FBO Comments – Scott Kuhn commented that there was trouble reaching tower frequency from the north end. The tower provider is working on improving radios in the mobile tower. The ProJet representative inquired about the access control system change over. The airport director updated that work is in progress and any issues are being addressed.
- Airport Business Association Comments – Mr. Fisher did not have any new information from the ABA.
- Chairman’s Report: No additional comments.
- Committee Reports:
 - Operations: no comments
 - Land Use and Development: Mr. Silvey appreciated the history of west side development put together by Mr. Boykin.
- Commission Member Comments: no additional comments
- Board of Supervisors Representative Report: Mr. Corcoran was not present.
- Councilmanic Comments: Councilmember Cummings was not present.
- Final Petitioners and Public Comments: Mr. Saxon commented that any hangar use changes should be shared and coordinated with tenants to ensure safety but not unreasonable reduce how a tenant can use the hangar facilities.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

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Adjournment: Mr. Forsythe adjourned the meeting at 6:46 p.m.