

MINUTES

Leesburg Airport Advisory Commission May 10, 2023

Location: Leesburg Executive Airport Terminal – George Hammerly Conference Room

Commissioners Present: JC Silvey, Vice Chairman
Ryan Goeller
Jose Marrero
Malvina Lekli
Hugh Forsythe
Tim Fisher, ABA Representative

Commissioner(s) Absent: Lindsay Arrington
Tom Toth

Others Present: Mike Link, JYO ATCT
John Somiak, FAA Safety Team
Scott Kuhn, Kuhn Jet Center
Scott Coffman, Airport Director
Michael Shields, Airport Operations Manager

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

Approval of Minutes: Regular meeting minutes of April 12, 2023 were approved (6-0-1).

Petitioners and Public Input: none

New Business:

- a. Election of Officers: The commissioners elected Hugh Forsythe as Chairman (6-0-1).
- b. Noise Mitigation: The Airport Director provided information on a surge in aircraft noise complaints from the neighborhood of Evergreen Meadows and its HOA. Evergreen Meadows residents are concerned of repetitive overflights by flight training aircraft. Primarily the complaints involve aircraft conducting touch and go's on runway 35. The departures from runway 35 make left turns over the neighborhood, at climb power, causing excessive and non-stop noise. The residents are also concerned of lead air pollution from the 100LL fuel used by piston aircraft.

The Airport Director presented a draft Noise Abatement Guidelines document for discussion. The guidelines will request aircraft departing 35 to continue their climb straight ahead to the Bypass prior to making turns. Additionally, the guidelines include recommendations not to fly repetitive touch and go's between 10:00pm and 7:00am. Runway 17 is the calm wind runway as departures to the south reduce noise impacts on residential neighborhoods. Mr. Forsythe noted that he and Tim Fisher have asked to meet with the residents and HOA president. Mr. Somiak noted that the FAA Safety Team is hosting an online seminar and would work with the commissioners to include community-friendly flying techniques.

Old Business:

- Air Traffic Control Tower update: The Airport Director provided an update on the air traffic control tower. The mobile tower is anticipated to arrive the first week of June, with transition to the mobile tower targeted for June 15th. Meetings with the FAA have been positive and the town is working with the FAA on a formal MOU to solidify air traffic control staffing and funding going forward. The airport will ask Council to add an control tower facility to the Town's Capital Improvement Program.

Reports:

- Airport Director – The airport director provided updates on the monthly report. A significant number of residents from Evergreen Meadows are reporting increased noise. The airport staff will work on potential mitigations measures for discussion.
- FBO Comments – Scott with Kuhn Jet Center noted that the birds have been infesting aircraft cowlings.
- Airport Business Association Comments – Mr. Fisher did not have any comments from the ABA.
- Chairman's Report: Mr. Forsythe discussed communication preferences with the commission and will share email contacts.
- Committee Reports:
 - Operations: Mr. Forsythe suggested tabling discussion on keeping the Operations Committee in place until the following meeting.
 - Land Use and Development: Mr. Silvey noted that the Village at Clear Spring residential project under the flight pattern has support by the County Supervisors as it includes affordable dwelling units. Mr. Silvey also noted that data center sites within Leesburg are being considered.
- 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: none.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

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Adjournment: Mr. Silvey adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.