

MINUTES

Leesburg Airport Advisory Commission March 13, 2024

Location: Leesburg Executive Airport Terminal – George Hammerly Conference Room

Commissioners Present: Hugh Forsythe, Chairman
JC Silvey, Vice Chairman
John Dolan
Lindsay Arrington
Ryan Goeller
Travis Gunnells
Timothy Baker

Commissioner(s) Absent: Tim Fisher, ABA Representative

Others Present: Councilmember Zach Cummings, Councilmanic
Bruce Roberts, Board of Supervisors Representative
Kevin, ProJet Aviation
Jon Rooney, Kuhn Jet Center
John Somiak, FAAST Representative
Tom Saxon, tenant
Jim Thill, tenant
Bob Wertz, Loudoun County Commissioner of Revenue
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: February 14, 2024 minutes approved 7-0-1

Petitioners and Public Input: none.

Old Business:

- Instrument Approach to Runway 35: There was no update on the FAA development of this approach procedure.
- Aircraft Noise: The airport director updated on airport noise complaints received this month and potential mitigations. The airport is looking to add a file for download that identifies noise-sensitive neighborhoods on Foreflight – a commonly used mapping application.
- Leasehold Property Tax: Mr. Wertz provided an update on the County's assessment of leasehold interest in hangars and tie-downs. The commission asked what other localities are doing and it varied. Manassas and Stafford do not assess but Winchester's condo hangar association paid leasehold interest tax. T-hangars look to be assessed at \$63-\$100. The tenant who is under lease on January 1st is assessed the tax. A question about pro-rating tax if when the lease changes mid-year was asked, but the County only assesses whomever has occupancy on January 1st.

New Business:

- Airport Fee discussion: Councilmember Cummings discussed charging landing fees as a means to generate revenue for the control tower project and west side. Ms. Arrington noted that when she worked for an FBO, it was a significant selling point that Leesburg did not charge landing fees as Dulles does. The airport director noted that he anticipates the tower project to receive FAA and Virginia Department of Aviation (DOAV) grant funds – which typically cover 98% of the project costs (90% FAA + 8% DOAV).
- Tower Radar Display update: Mr. Somiak provided an update on a conference call held with FAA regarding the re-installation of STARS radar at the airport tower cab. The likelihood of the FAA reinstalling STARS at JYO is very low as the FAA may put this equipment elsewhere. The Airport Director noted that a demonstration of a Situational Awareness Display to the FAA was conducted and there is a potential for that system to be deployed at airports including JYO.
- Virginia Legislative Update: The airport director updated the commission on some of the successful and failed aviation legislation at the state session. HB 467 will ban localities from requiring disclosures during home sales. This hurts the airport which requires disclosure statements about aircraft noise during sales within the AIOD. HB 446 passed and provides a legal process for the removal of derelict aircraft. The state was not able to provide funding for the air traffic control tower rental.

Reports:

- Airport Director – The airport director updated that Council is scheduling a joint meeting with the Commission to discuss development of the west-side and landing fees.
- FBO Comments – Kevin with ProJet announced that ProJet's Aviation Education and Career Expo had won an award from the Loudoun chamber. Mr. Rooney with Kuhn Jet Center noted gravel was needed at the fuel farm.
- Airport Business Association Comments – Not present.
- Air Traffic Manager – Mr. Reilly updated that the tower was getting FAA mission support communications installed shortly. Traffic has exceeded 500 a day during peak times.
- Committee Reports:
 - Operations: none
 - Land Use and Development: none.
- Commission Member Comments: Ms. Arrington agreed that a joint meeting with Council to discuss the west-side would be good. Mr. Gunnells thanked John Somiak for participating on the call with FAA regarding STARS. The Chairman encouraged members to engage with the Board of Supervisors regarding the Village at Clear Springs application.
- Board of Supervisors Representative Report: Mr. Bruce Roberts would coordinate with the BOS regarding input about Village at Clear Springs.
- Councilmanic Comments: none.
- Final Comments and Public Comments: none.

Next Meeting: Wednesday April 10th at 6:00 p.m.

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Adjournment: Mr. Forsythe adjourned the meeting at 7:21 p.m.