

MINUTES

Leesburg Airport Advisory Commission May 8, 2024

Location: Leesburg Executive Airport Terminal – George Hammerly Conference Room

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

Commissioner(s) Absent: Lindsay Arrington

Others Present: Bruce Roberts, Board of Supervisors Representative
Bob Wertz, Loudoun County Commissioner of Revenue
Brian Williams, Loudoun County Commissioner of Revenue office
Scott Kuhn, Kuhn Jet Center
Dennis Boykin, tenant
John Gallagher, tenant
David Reilly, Air Traffic Manager
Scott Coffman, Airport Director

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

Approval of Minutes: April 17, 2024 minutes approved 7-0-1

Petitioners and Public Input: none.

Old Business:

- Instrument Approach to Runway 35: Mr. Gunnells said that suggested fix names had been sent to the FAA.
- Aircraft Noise: The Chairman provided a recap of the BOS decision regarding Village at Clear Springs. The Commission discussed signs at the runway ends depicting noise procedures in effect. The airport director agreed to install signs meeting FAA requirements and are installed outside of the runway safety area. KJC FBO discussed that they could include noise abatement information on their customer invoices.

Airport tenant Mr. Saxon inquired about the County's leasehold tax on hangars. He had concerns about how the tax was computed and that it wasn't fair because all t-hangars are grouped together, regardless of their monthly rental rate. The Chairman noted that Commissioner of Revenue expects to be at the May meeting to answer questions.

New Business:

- Upcoming Council Joint Meeting: The airport director updated that the joint meeting with Council is proposed to be moved to June 5th. The commissioners agreed on the suggested date. The meeting is to discuss airport development strategy and west-side land.

Reports:

- Airport Director – The airport director updated the monthly statistics and projects. The Tower Siting Study is progressing with a VR exercise (VISTA) scheduled for late summer. The south apron project will begin construction on June 10th and will be disruptive. A game plan of aircraft relocations is developed, and most aircraft can be accommodated on-airport in grass parking or other spaces. The taxiway to the south apron/T-hangars will close for 15 days and there is not space to accommodate those aircraft elsewhere on-airport if they wish to fly during work.
- FBO Comments – Scott Kuhn, with Kuhn Jet Center noted that an increasing number of IFR planes were not canceling flight plans afterhours. The FBO has used their cameras to verify landings but are concerned about the increasing trend.
- Airport Business Association Comments – Mr. Fisher said that he and other schools are concerned about questions from Town Council about restricting flight training and pricing schools out of leases. He anticipates outreach to Council in opposition to any movement in that direction. He also said that the schools have done a lot to mitigate noise and outreach. Mr. Zerbe also said that the airport should coordinate with Council on the noise message.
- Air Traffic Manager – Traffic continues to be busy with one day exceeding 700 operations. He was questioned about the movement of aircraft in the run-up blocks. IFR traffic is sometimes blocked by VFR, so VFR aircraft are requested to remain in the block until ready to depart.
- Committee Reports:
 - Operations: none
 - Land Use and Development: none.
- Commission Member Comments: Mr. Gunnells asked about a donated painting and the commissioners were in consensus to receive the painting for the terminal.
- Board of Supervisors Representative Report: none.
- Councilmanic Comments: Not present. The chairman is meeting with councilmember Cummings on Friday.
- Final Comments and Public Comments: Mr. Saxon noted that the UAvionix system was recently awarded an FAA contract. He hopes that the JYO tower can use the system here since radar is no longer available.

Next Meeting: Wednesday May 8th at 6:00 p.m.

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Adjournment: Mr. Forsythe adjourned the meeting at 7:06 p.m.