



County Council of Beaufort County
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AVIATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 12, 2007

A meeting of the Beaufort County Aviation Advisory Board was called to order at 1:30 PM on Thursday, July 12, 2007 at the Lady's Island Airport Conference Room. Chairman David Ames opened the meeting and noted that there was a quorum present. Guests were introduced and offered an agenda for the meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the June 14, 2007 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

MEMBERS PRESENT

David Ames-Chairman
Anne Esposito
John Curry
Harvey Ewing
Dan Lynch
Ross Sanders
Dick Warden

ABSENT

Pete Buchanan-Vice Chairman
Leonard Law
Jared Newman

STAFF

Eddie Bellamy-Interim Deputy Administrator
Paul Andres-Airport Director
Larry Yeager-Operations Chief
Joel Phillips-LIA Supervisor

GUESTS

Councilman Paul Summerville
Councilwoman Laura Von Harten
George Williams-Town of HHI
Ray McKay-Aeronautics Commissioner
Joe Croley-Resident
Al Rosenberg-Resident
Nick Esposito-Resident
Claude Dinkins-Resident
Bill Bedford-Resident
Perry White-Resident
Jim Fisher-Resident
Clark James-Resident
Charlie Reid-Resident

HILTON HEAD ISLAND AIRPORT REPORT

1. Tower Report: Paul Andres
For the month of June, there were 3,872 total operations of which 2,410 were conducted under IFR procedures.

2. Operations Report: Chief Yeager

There were three medivacs during the month of June and one inflight emergency due to an unsafe landing gear indication. The aircraft landed without incident.

3. Noise Complaints & Traffic Counters: Chief Yeager

There were 16 noise complaints mostly due to Mosquito Control and 38 after hours traffic counts during the month of June. Chief Yeager pointed out that some of the traffic counters are still in need of repair. There were 112 commercial airline after hours flights also this past month. Chief Yeager commented that he is going back to the first of the year to include all after hours flights in the monthly totals.

4. Projects: Paul Andres

- a. Tree Obstructions. The County and the Town of Hilton Head recently reached a compromise agreement regarding the tree obstructions on the south end of the airport. The agreement allows for the removal of all pine trees and then arborists will evaluate the remaining hardwood trees to determine which can be trimmed rather than removed. There will be a final QA phase to make sure all tree obstructions have been addressed. This project will go out for bid shortly with work to start in September. We still need to do an environmental assessment prior to addressing the tree problem on the North end of the airport.
- b. Aircraft Hangars. The proposed rental rates were discussed by the Finance Committee recently. An interim rate was approved, but everyone contacted on the waiting list indicated that the rate was too high. As a result, the rates will be reevaluated.
- c. Emergency Generator. The emergency generator project is currently under design with our consultants.
- d. FY-07 FAA Grants. The FAA is willing to fund the following projects; Airport Layout Plan Update, Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting Building Design, Remove Obstructions to Runway 3 Design, Remove Obstructions to Runway 21 Environmental Assessment, and Acquire Land for Development 1.76 Acres. When received, the FAA grant offer will be forwarded to County Council for acceptance.

BEAUFORT COUNTY AIRPORT REPORT

1. Fuel Sales: Joel Phillips

For the month of June, we sold 6,836 gallons of AvGas and 5,662 gallons of Jet A. Fuel prices are continuing to rise and the hot weather also is having a negative effect on fuel sales.

2. Projects: Paul Andres

- a. Tree Obstructions. Survey work remains underway to resurvey the trees on the south end of the airport to a 34:1 slope.
- b. Aircraft Hangars. The final design package has been given to the Engineering Department for bidding. The bid package contains alternates which hopefully will allow us to build a second hangar. The FAA has expressed a willingness to help fund some of the associated infrastructure.

- c. AWOS. The automated weather observation system is still expected to be installed within a couple of weeks and be fully operational in two months. The RCC hookup should go to the Air Station with switching to Savannah during times the Air Station is closed.
 - d. FY-07 FAA Grants. The FAA is willing to fund the following projects; Airport Master Plan Update and Remove Obstructions to Runway 7 Design. When received, the FAA grant offer will be forwarded to County Council for acceptance.
3. In response to a question regarding the status of Executive Flight Training's hangar proposal, it was pointed out that the decision regarding ground leases is still awaiting the financial consultant's report. Mr. Warden expressed his concerns regarding the continuing delays.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance: Dick Warden
The committee has not received any financial information for several months due to personnel vacancies. Due to the tardiness of the financial consultant's report, the Airports have lost over \$100,000.00 in revenues. In addition, airport opponents have now cost the FAA, County, and Airports well over \$400,000.00. He suggested that the AAB needs to take a more proactive stance against the airport opponents. Harvey Ewing commented that over the past six months there has been more positive than negative opinions regarding the airport. Mr. Curry reiterated that the AAB's role is to advise and then let the County officials make their decisions.
2. Lady's Island Airport Facilities: Pete Buchanan
Mr. Buchanan was not present and no report was given.
3. Hilton Head Island Airport Facilities: Anne Esposito
They have not had a committee meeting, but information regarding the hangar situation was provided to the Airport Director.
4. External Affairs: John Curry
An Airport Appreciation Day was held on Saturday, June 23, 2007 which was well attended with over 200 people. There were tours of the Control Tower, FBO, a USCG helicopter display, and refreshments were served. This event was very well received and should be done every year.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Hilton Head: Don Baldwin
Don Baldwin was not present, but has scheduled the next meeting for August 2nd at 4:30 PM.
2. Lady's Island: Dick Warden
Nothing has been scheduled and due to the Chairman's nonavailability, we may need to find another Chairman to conduct the meetings.

HILTON HEAD ISLAND CRC ISSUE UPDATES

1. Noise Complaints/Flight Patterns: Paul Andres
A meeting is scheduled next week with the FAA in Atlanta. Chairman Newton, Mayor Peeples, David Ames, Paul Andres, Jim Hamilton, and Mike O'Donnell all plan to attend.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Financial Review: Paul Andres
A draft of the consultant's report is expected any day. It will be reviewed by Mr. Kubic, Mr. Henrikson, and Paul Andres with comments provided back to the consultant in order to finalize the report.
2. Hilton Head Island Airport Disclosure Forms: Paul Andres
Paul Andres has prepared a draft proposal using the existing Hilton Head Island Airport Overlay District as the basis. It would require property owner's sign an acknowledgment form to be recorded with the deed that they understand their property lies within the Airport Overlay District. This proposal will be forwarded to the County's Land Management Committee for consideration at their next meeting. If approved, the proposal would go forward to full Council and ultimately the Town of Hilton Head for consideration. A question was asked regarding the status of the disclosure forms for the Lady's Island Airport. That requirement is now in place having received third and final reading approval by County Council. The Planning and Zoning Departments will be working with the realtors and developers to ensure compliance.
3. Aviation Advisory Board Vacancy: David Ames
We will be going into Executive Session at the end of this meeting to discuss this personnel matter.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Airport Authority/Commission: Davis Ames
Jared Newman is chairing an ad hoc committee. He wanted to emphasize that it's purely a fact finding mission and expects that it will take 3 – 4 months to complete.
2. Harvey Ewing wanted to officially commend Buz Boehm for his significant contributions toward better communication between the County and the Aviation Advisory Board during his tenure as Deputy Administrator for Public Services.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. George Williams: Commented that the recent noise study was necessary to document actual conditions, expressed concern about consideration of establishing an Airport Commission, was pleased that the Town and County had come to a reasonable solution regarding the trees, and pointed out that everything costs more on Hilton Head because the Town's LMO makes it that way.
2. Ray McKay: Stated that he had recently replaced Jim Hamilton as the 2nd District Aeronautics Commissioner. He is a lawyer and CPA by trade and offered to assist in any way with airport matters. He is also a pilot.

3. Joe Croley: Asked if any decision had been made regarding whether the hangar revenues would go to the Airport or to repay the GO Bond. He also stated that the Hilton Head Realtor's Association would like to be involved with any airport disclosure form.
4. Nick Esposito: Stated that he supports Dick Warden's position that the Aviation Advisory Board needs to present more facts and there needs to be less politics in order for the airport to be run properly.
5. Jim Fisher: Commented that some positive things have recently occurred, particularly the Island Packet Editorial video and the upcoming meeting with the FAA in Atlanta. He went on to ask if the FAA meeting was a fact finding session and if minutes would be provided. The more factual information that can be shared with the surrounding communities the better.
6. Perry White: Expressed concern that the media does not cover Aviation Advisory Board meetings when they're held at the Lady's Island Airport. He also stated that he was glad to hear that the committee to save the Hilton Head Airport was not connected to the Aviation Advisory Board.

The Aviation Advisory Board went into Executive Session at approximately 2:40 PM to discuss personnel matters.

The Aviation Advisory Board reconvened in Public Session at approximately 2:55 PM. A motion was made and seconded to have the Chairman appoint a four member committee to review the applicants for the vacant Board position and forward a nominee to the Chairman for recommendation to County Council. The motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 9, 2007 at 1:30 PM at the Hilton Head Air Service Building. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.