

County Council of Beaufort County  
Hilton Head Island Airport – [www.hiltonheadairport.com](http://www.hiltonheadairport.com)  
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## **AVIATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 17, 2008**

The print media was notified in accordance with the State Freedom of Information Act.

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Beaufort County Aviation Advisory Board was held at 1:30 PM on Thursday, January 17, 2008 at the Hilton Head Air Services Building. Chairman David Ames opened the meeting and noted that there was a quorum present.

Chairman David Ames called for any additions or amendments to the Agenda. Dick Warden requested that under New Business that the Airport Authority/Commission Study be withdrawn. John Curry requested that Airport Appreciation Day be added to his Committee reports. There were no objections.

**A motion was made and seconded to accept the December 20, 2007 meeting minutes. The minutes were accepted as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.**

Guests were introduced.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

David Ames-Chairman  
Pete Buchanan-Vice Chairman  
John Curry  
Anne Esposito  
Leonard Law  
Dan Lynch  
Jared Newman  
Dick Warden  
Councilman Ken Heitzke - Town of Hilton  
Head Liaison

### **ABSENT**

Councilman Rick Caporale - Beaufort  
County Liaison  
Ross Sanders  
Harvey Ewing

### **STAFF**

Paul Andres-Airport Director  
Joel Phillips - Beaufort Co. Airport Supv.  
Priscilla Stewart - Admin Assistant

### **GUESTS**

Councilman Stu Rodman  
Councilman Steve Baer  
Chris Eversmann – Wilbur Smith Associates  
Patty Blackmon - Resident  
Gene Sullivan - Resident  
Perry White – Resident  
Gary Gildner – Resident  
Tim Donnelly – Island Packet  
Fran White – Resident  
Mike Bennett – Signature Flight  
Scott Kaley – Pilot  
Nick Esposito – Resident  
Joe Croley – Resident  
Jim Fisher – Resident

### **HILTON HEAD ISLAND AIRPORT REPORT**

1. Tower Report: Paul Andres

- For the month of December 2007 there were 3,008 total flight operations of which 1,746 were conducted under IFR procedures.
2. Operations Report: Paul Andres for Chief Yeager
    - 36 general aviation flights after Tower closure during the month of December.
    - 124 commercial airlines flights after Tower closure also for the month of December.
    - There were 5 medivac flights during the month of December.
    - 1 aircraft incident. No injuries. The Airport was closed about an hour.
  3. Noise Complaints & Traffic Counters: No report. Will be updated at the next meeting.
  4. Projects: Paul Andres
    - Tree Obstructions.
      - Entering into Phase III (Final Phase) for the tree obstructions on the South End of the Airport. We are arranging a conference call next week with the Town staff to coordinate and complete that project.
      - Environmental Assessment on the North End. We are arranging a meeting on January 30<sup>TH</sup> between the stakeholders to address the process we are going to use to address the tree obstructions on the North End of the Airport.
      - Emergency Generator. We have received the bids. Those bids are being forwarded to Public Services Committee on January 31<sup>ST</sup> with a recommendation to award the contract.

## **BEAUFORT COUNTY AIRPORT REPORT**

1. Fuel Sales: Joel Phillips
  - For the month of December, sold a total of 4,400 gallons of AvGas and 4,900 gallons of Jet A fuel.
  - Down 1800 gallons in fuel sales compared to December 2006.
2. Projects: Paul Andres
  - Tree obstruction removal survey data has been plotted. In excess of 1,000 trees have been identified as problems both on and off airport property. There will be a property owner's meeting on January 23<sup>RD</sup> at 7:00PM at the Beaufort County Airport. We hope to obtain the easements needed to complete this project and get it out for bid in February.
  - Aircraft Hangars. Mosquito Control hangar is underway with Beaufort Construction.
  - Preliminary site plan has been delivered for the Executive Flight Training hangar. We will review this plan after the meeting today.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Finance: Dick Warden
  - Financial Accounts and reports are still getting refined for this year and adjusted for last FY, to where they can be disseminated with a known degree of accuracy. There was a large backlog of accounting work caused by the delay in hiring a replacement for Palmer Mitchell and other factors.
  - The Airport's finance assistant, Mary, is now able to connect as read-only with the County's Munis accounting system. Mary is finding out how to

reconcile differences between airport's actual numbers and the County data in a more efficient manner using Munis.

- The loss of \$114,000 hangar rentals on an annual basis at Hilton Head is obviously detrimental to the HXD budget this year and affecting the P&L. FAA is not pleased with this loss of revenue for the airport. Previous FAA grants were made with the expectation that the hangar revenues would go to the airport. Maintenance costs for these hangars are growing and there are not revenues to keep the hangars up. Will the County pay their maintenance?
- New contracts with the airlines at HXD are being signed to adjust for increased expenses for ARFF, TSA costs, and terminal operations to reach breakeven. TSA accounts are being reconciled with the past due accounts.
- Lady's Island primary income has been from fuel and hangar rentals. Fuel sales volume is significantly down this year
- We expect to have a supportable P&L net number for both airports next month.

**Paul Andres is to see Gary Kubic regarding the change in operating philosophy concerning the Directors authority in procurement procedures.**

2. Lady's Island Airport Facilities: Pete Buchanan – Pete Buchanan asked Paul Andres to move forward last month's Motion to get the Lady's Island Master Plan started.
3. Hilton Head Island Airport Facilities: Anne Esposito
  - Signature Aviation has ordered 6 chairs for the terminal. The rockers should be here in about 2 weeks.
  - All other items mentioned in her previous report are moving forward.
4. External Affairs: John Curry
  - Plan on participating in Business Expo next year.
  - Signature Flight to sponsor Airport Appreciation Day.

#### **COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Hilton Head: Don Baldwin absent. No report.
- Lady's Island: No meeting and there is nothing to report.

**HILTON HEAD ISLAND CRC ISSUE UPDATE** – No new updates regarding flight patterns.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Aviation Advisory Board Vacancy: Has not been resolved.
- The noise abatement brochures have been printed. The brochures have been distributed to both commercial airlines and general aviation.
- Paul Andres and Dave Ames are providing feed back to State Aeronautics on the noise abatement informational signs.
- Airport Feasibility Study – Last month voted to pursue a Master Plan. The three questions will be answered within the Master Plan. Ken Heitzke said

there is not a problem with either a study or a Master Plan, but who will perform the work.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- FY08 FAA Grant projects for both Airports. Handouts in packet.
- Agenda procedures. In the future information will be in packets ahead of the meeting. If an action item is needed then the Board has time and information to make a decision. Off agenda items can be brought up if it is an emergency or needs immediate attention. Procedurally, the Committee Chairs will bring the item to the Chairman. The Chairman will present the proposed agenda to the Director with backup material forwarded at the same time. Individual Board members may submit a topic to the Chairman for consideration. Next month Chairman Ames will have a motion and the Board will agree on a policy. The policy will be written by Chairman Ames and Dick Warden.

Councilman Stu Rodman - Public Services and Finance will have a meeting sometime in February to decide which items belong to Public Services and which should go to Finance.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1. Gary Gildner - Mr. Gildner stated that the conduct of the Aviation Advisory Board has not been in the best interest of the community or the citizens of this community.
2. Scott Kaley - Mr. Kaley feels that the disconnect between the Board and the community could be resolved with some consensus building.
3. Perry White - Mr. White is concerned that the Hilton Head Island Community Relations Committee (CRC) is no longer effective. Perhaps needs to be disbanded.
4. Nick Esposito – Mr. Esposito agrees with Mr. White that the CRC is no longer a sounding board for the community.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM.

## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

Aviation Advisory Board: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 21, 2008 at 1:30 PM at the Beaufort County Airport Conference Room.

Hilton Head Island Airport Community Relations Committee: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 7, 2008 at 4:30 PM at the Hilton Head Air Services Building.

Beaufort County Airport Community Relations Committee: The next meeting will be announced at a later date.

Good Afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Board.

First I would like to make it clear that although I am the secretary of the group, "Citizens to Protect the Hilton Head Island Airport", I am NOT speaking on behalf of the group. Most of the board of directors are out of town, and we have not prepared a statement for you.

However, I would like to speak as to the makeup of the group as I have observed, read its mission and goals.

The group has had over 100 folks that have participated both with time and financial considerations. One of your board members has remarked that our group is comprised of realtors and wealthy aircraft owners who are in need of a longer runway; that thought is totally off the map.

To my knowledge, no one that has participated with the group would benefit directly from a longer runway, nor does any participant have an interest in an aircraft that is larger than a twin needing less than a 3,500 foot runway. No single contributor has given a substantial financial contribution.

While there are many pilots that participate, the majority of participants are not pilots and simply folks that understand the need for a viable airport for the community.

The group's published mission is  
**To maintain safe, viable, efficient commercial air service for Hilton Head Island and neighboring communities.**

The group's goals are:

- **Increase public awareness of the airport.**
- **Promote the economic importance of the airport and growth thereof.**
- **Promote proper land planning for the airport and property around the airport for the benefit of the entire island.**
- **An Airport Master Plan Update which includes an understanding of runway length.**
- **Elect public officials that are willing to promote the airport and all that it offers to this community.**
- **Ensure continued efforts to enhance and promote the Good Neighbor policy, ie. Overflights and noise abatement.**

Now some personal thoughts from myself, Gary Gildner

The conduct of this Board has not been in the best interest of this airport nor the citizens and community it serves.

According to the Beaufort County Ordinance:

The purpose of the aviation board shall be to assist the county council in providing public aviation facilities and services and to promote aviation as a means of broadening the economic base of the county.

The Ordinance further outlines the Powers and duties of the aviation board as:

(1) Promote aviation-related actions and advocate public understanding of the economic value to the community and serve as liaison to related community organizations in furthering aviation growth in the community.

(2) Recommend aviation service and facilities goals for the county.

And with assistance from the airport director, recommend to Council the following items:

(3) preparing and updating airport master plans and recommend to the council the adoption of completed plans and amendments.

(4) actions necessary to maintain adequate growth space, airspace clear zones and noise buffers around county airports.

(5) annual funding priorities for airport construction, maintenance and operations to be considered in preparing the county budget.

(6) matters concerning planning and construction of new airport facilities.

(7) rules and regulations for each county airport which promote operating safety, security of private equipment and fair allocation of county aviation resources.

(8) Maintain continuing and coordinated contact with the Federal Aviation Administration, the state aeronautics commission and other appropriate agencies and solicit their support in achieving county aviation goals

(9) Monitor the performance of fixed based operations and other commercial entities operating

on county airports and advise the airports director of required corrective action to enforce performance standards.

(10) Recommend rates and charges for the use of airport facilities by commercial entities for services rendered.

**Somewhere along the line, County Council adopted a clear outline of what is needed for the operation of a viable Airport, and the process for this board to follow to fulfill the intent of the ordinance.**

**I urge you to put your silly political games aside and get to work on making the Hilton Head Island Airport an airport that this community deserves and can be proud of.**

**Clearly some of you board members are operating contrary to the above charge, and not in the interest of the community. If that is you, a letter of resignation would be appreciated.**

**Gary Gildner 1/17/08**