

MINUTES

Beaufort County Airports Board

February 22, 2024 | 1:30 pm | Meeting called to order by Chairman Howard Ackerman

ATTENDANCE

Present: Howard Ackerman, Chris Butler, Anne Esposito, Mark Bailey, Nick Mesenburg, Thomas Sheahan, David Nelems, Rich Sells, and Jim Starnes

Absent: Leslie Adlam Flory and Brian Turrisi

County Staff: Jon Rembold, Airports Director; Stephen Parry, Deputy Airports Director; Eric Townsend, Airport Manager; and Rocio Rexrode, Administrative Specialist.

Public: Judy Elder, Talbert, Bright and Ellington, Inc.

AGENDA ADOPTION

Chris Butler made a motion to adopt the February 22, 2024, BCAB meeting agenda. Rich Sells seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rich Sells made a motion to approve the January 18, 2024, BCAB meeting minutes. Anne Esposito seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no Public Comments

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **DEPARTMENT UPDATE:**

New Staff: Jon Rembold welcomed a new ARW staff member, Aviation Line Service Tech, Robert Bass.

Robert is currently serving with the Army National Guard as a Combat Engineer and is looking to fly with the Navy in the future.

New Vehicles: Rembold informed that the Airport acquired a couple of new vehicles. An F-250 with toolboxes on the back for maintenance and an electric vehicle (EV). He said the EV is stationed at the ARFF, so the team doesn't have to drive around the enormous fire trucks.

Altitude Academy Donation: Rembold reported that the event was held at the ARW and was the formal \$1,500.00 check presentation to the organization. He said that Board Members Nick Mesenburg and Chris Butler attended the presentation and appreciate their participation.

DiSC Assessment and Workshop: Rembold informed that all County staff is taking the assessment and attending a workshop, and the Airport staff has completed both. He observed that the "D" category was dominant among the airport staff.

Chamber Leadership 2024 Class Airport Tour: Rembold mentioned that three leadership class members had an opportunity to tour the Tower and take a ride in one of the ARFF firetrucks. He added that some additional class members will be touring the airport next week.

Tenant Appreciation: Rembold commented that every tenant got donuts for Valentine's Day, and it was a nice way to show appreciation.

Terminal Improvement Project Updates: Rembold shared a video and before and after photos of the worksite. He stated that the next big step would be the removal of the canopies in front of the building in preparation for the passenger loading/unloading lanes. He observed that the canopies would come down one at a time to keep an entrance always open.

Airports' Business Update:

- **BIL Grant:** Rembold shared that the Airport was awarded a 5-million-dollar grant through the BIL ATP program.
- **SCAC Conference:** Rembold mentioned that they (Jon, Steve, and Eric) were able to meet with FAA staff to review and discuss all the current projects. Rembold said they participated in an airport staff-only roundtable. He expressed it was a great opportunity to exchange ideas and learn how other airports operate.
- **RBC Heritage Presented by Boeing:** Rembold informed that the Airport is a \$30K sponsor in the tournament and hopes to be a sustaining sponsor at that level. He said SCASD grant money is available for this year and next year. He stated it would be great local and national exposure for HXD. He mentioned the package includes airport branding on the golf course, a booth, and branding inside the terminal.
- **Hangar Inspections - HXD:** Rembold said the HXD hangars underwent detailed inspections. He informed that storage violations will be addressed. He mentioned that the inspections are done several times per year.
- **FAA Reauthorization:** Rembold stated that it is not finalized. He said 4 billion in AIP funding is available.
- **Air Service Data:** Rembold stated that the Consultants made a comparison between SAV and HXD's top 20 destinations, and the average fare in HXD is going down \$11.00 while the SAV fare has gone up \$20.00. He said the Consultant provided market share information, which helps with target advertising.
- **Billboard and New Commercial:** Rembold informed that a billboard was installed along Hwy 278 in Bluffton. He stated the billboard is paid for with SCASD funding. Rembold announced that the new first-class TV commercial will play on national television during the tournament - RBC Heritage Presented by Boeing.

- **April Meeting:** Rembold informed that due to the RBC Heritage Presented by Boeing, the April meeting will be held on the 25th, the 4th Thursday of the month.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS – ACTION ITEMS

1. HILTON HEAD ISLAND AIRPORT (HXD) - RECOMMENDATION TO APPLY FOR TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND ACCOMMODATIONS TAX GRANT FOR TOURISM MARKETING

Jim Starnes made a motion to approve a recommendation to apply for the Town of Hilton Head Island Accommodations Tax Grant for Tourism Marketing. Mark Bailey seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

2. RECOMMENDATION TO APPLY FOR COUNTY HOSPITALITY TAX GRANT FOR TOURISM MARKETING (HXD) AND INFRASTRUCTURE (ARW)

Jim Starnes made a motion to approve a recommendation to apply for the County Hospitality Tax Grant for Tourism Marketing (HXD) and Infrastructure (ARW). Nick Mesenburg seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

CHAIRMAN UPDATE

Howard Ackerman reminded Board members that a new Chairman must be elected at the April Board meeting. It was mentioned that term limits require a new Chairman to be elected after a maximum of two consecutive one-year terms. It was noted that this is Ackerman's 2nd year as Chairman; thus, another Board member must now fill the position, and the new Chair must be a Board member who occupies a seat from North of the Broad.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance Committee

Members: Howard Ackerman (Chair), Chris Butler, Tom Sheahan, and Brian Turrisi.

The Committee had nothing new to report this month. They will keep the board informed of any new developments.

2. Communications and Marketing Committee

Members: Anne Esposito (Chair), Howard Ackerman, and Leslie Adlam Flory.

The Committee had nothing new to report this month. They will keep the board informed of any new developments.

3. Passenger Service Committee

Members: Leslie Adlam Flory (Chair), David Nelems, Jim Starnes, and Tom Sheahan

The Committee had nothing new to report this month. They will keep the board informed of any new developments.

4. ARW Facilities Use and Improvement Committee

Members: Chris Butler (Chair), Mark Bailey, David Nelems, Jim Starnes, and Nick Mesenburg
The Committee had nothing new to report this month. They will keep the board informed of any new developments.

5. The HHI Airport Improvement Committee (HXD)

Members: Brian Turrisi (Chair), Howard Ackerman, Rich Sells, Chris Butler, and Anne Esposito
Howard Ackerman commented on the meeting that was held with the ExecAir tenants a few weeks ago. He said it was a well-attended, productive meeting. He recommended having similar meetings twice a year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no Public Comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion to adjourn the public portion of the meeting was made at 2:20 p.m. It passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING

March 21, 2024 | 1:30 pm

Town of Hilton Head Island, 1 Town Center Ct., Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. PURSUANT TO S.C. CODE SEC. 30-4-70(A)(2): RECEIPT OF LEGAL ADVICE WHERE THE ADVICE RELATES TO PENDING, THREATENED, OR POTENTIAL CLAIMS THAT ARE COVERED BY THE ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE (HILTON HEAD ISLAND AIRPORT)