

Airport Advisory Committee Meeting
Captain Walter Francis Duke Regional Airport
February 27, 2006

Approved Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Ned Clarke, Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. Other members present were: Korey Smith, Erin Lesko, and Bill McNamara. Recognizing that there was a quorum, Mr. Clarke noted that the official business could be conducted.

Reminder: According to the Committee Bylaws, "during a period when any unfilled vacancy or vacancies exist on the Committee, the required quorum shall be reduced to one-half of the remaining members rounded to the next highest number." Mr. Erichsen also reminded the Committee of the provisions in the bylaws regarding unexcused absences of Committee members.

Others in attendance are reflected on the Sign-In Sheet.

II. MINUTES

Following review of the draft January minutes, a motion was made by Korey Smith and seconded by Bill McNamara to approve the January minutes as presented. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0. Mr. Erichsen advised that approved minutes continue to be posted on the County website.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Clarke recognized the new Committee member Mr. Walt Gillette was not present. Mr. Erichsen advised that the informational package prepared for Mr. Gillette had been picked up. Mr. Gillette may be reached at (301) 757-8538 if any of the Committee members would like to contact him.

Mr. Clarke noted the February 24, 2006 correspondence from Mr. Joe Mitchell in the Committees meeting package regarding draft House Bill 298. This particular bill, introduced on January 25, 2006, requires a contract for the sale of residential real property to contain a disclosure advising the buyer that the property may be located near a military installation that conducts flight operations, munitions testing, or military operations that may result in high noise levels. Mr. Erichsen advised that this disclosure was for military installations, but could be modified at a later date to include civilian airfields. Mr. Mitchell will provide a briefing at the next regularly scheduled meeting. The Committee can prepare additional language for submission to the Board of County Commissioners this Fall.

Mr. Clarke also noted the February 8, 2006 draft House Bill 894. It has been proposed that a Task Force be established to study general aviation issues in Maryland. The task force Chairman would be appointed by the Governor and report to the General Assembly. The seven member task force would examine several issues including: safety and security concerns of communities; monitoring requirements of flight schools; and land compatibility issues associated with general aviation airports. Mr. Ken Studt stated that the AOPA did not support HB 894 and also asked for copies of both House Bills discussed. Mr. Erichsen provided the copies to Mr. Studt for his use and distribution.

Mr. Clarke cited the recent e-mail request by Mr. Ricardo Travern to lease additional space in the County Blue hangar. Mr. Travern apparently requested approval for use of the enclosed area(s) at the rear of the hangar by March 1, 2006. Mr. Korey Smith advised that there was a meeting scheduled for tonight that he could present his proposal to the Committee as required under the approved Development Review Procedures. Mr. Travern was not present at the meeting. Mr. Clarke, Mr. Bildman, and Mr. Smith discussed their individual conversations with Mr. Travern and it was not clear whether he was requesting office space, storage space, whether he was performing renovations or not, how much space was being requested, or whether all current tenants on the airfield had been given an opportunity to rent the space. Mr. Erichsen advised that exclusive use of space which results in revenue to the County is not permitted by the FAA per the existing Grant Assurances. It was agreed that a formal written proposal needs to be submitted to the Airport Manager for review, with comments forwarded to the Advisory Committee. Mr. Erichsen advised that he had e-mailed the standard leases and exhibits to Mr. Travern for his use in preparing the respective lease. Mr. Bildman agreed to follow-up with Mr. Travern.

Mr. Clarke requested the Committee proceed with the formal nomination and election of new Committee officers. Mr. Korey Smith nominated Mr. Bill McNamara for Chairman, which was seconded by Erin Lesko. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Bill McNamara was asked if he would accept the Chairman position and he replied in the affirmative. Mr. Korey Smith publicly thanked Mr. Clarke for all his hard work, hands-on approach to the Chairman position, and for all the accomplishments during his tenure. Mr. Erichsen added, that this years Annual Report, submitted to the Board of County Commissioners, shows how much the Committee as a whole, under Mr. Clarke's leadership, has been able to get accomplished.

Mr. Bill McNamara nominated Stan Sweikar for Vice Chairman, which was seconded by Korey Smith. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Erichsen suggested that with Mr. Sweikar not present, that we wait to hear his formal acceptance before formalizing the change in the Vice Chairman position. The Committee agreed.

Mr. Clarke opened the floor to the public for open comment and discussion.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Jacque LaValle and Mr. Bob Hanson presented their subcommittee update on trying to coordinate a Wings and Wheels / Air Fair initiative this year. It had been previously suggested that the month of June could be utilized and coordinated with Mr. Sid Wood of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA). In short, the subcommittee reported that the planning and logistics for the event is an overwhelming task. They did not realized how complicated it would be. Between shuttle service, security measures, minimizing effects on existing businesses, porta-potty rental, staging / exhibit area coordination, and minimizing conflict with the County and Maryland calendars, it would probably be best to start the planning now for an event in an out year. One other item of consideration would be the event(s) timing with the airport expansion plans. We would not want to recommend and coordinate an event that would ultimately have to be cancelled by the temporary closure of the runway and taxiway, due to construction.

Mr. Ken Studt stated that a representative from the EAA was to be present tonight, but that he could present in their absence. At present, Saturday June 10th will be the scheduled Fly-In. Mr. Clarke requested Mr. Studt let the EAA know that it needs to be well coordinated with the Airport manger and Mr. Bildman as there is limited flex-space at the airport.

V. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION REPORTS

Mr. Erichsen advised that he would be posting the County standard lease agreements and the respective Board of County Commissioner approved resolutions on the County website for ease of reference. This would include the tie-down, hangar space, and terminal leases.

Mr. Erichsen provided the Committee with a copy of his February 22, 2006 correspondence to the Director of Land Use and Growth Management. He stated that this was a follow-up to concerns raised at prior Committee meetings regarding the lack of real estate firm disclosure to purchasers of property in the proximity of the airport, especially in the Wildwood area. Mr. Erichsen forwarded the both the above mentioned HB 298 and a graphical representation of the flight path / pattern of the County Airport for their distribution and use. Mr. Erichsen advised that the graphical representation is the same pattern shown on the volunteer Fly Quiet Program posted on the County website. Mr. Erichsen also stated that this was an attempt to provide a courtesy notification to developers or homeowners who require permits of their proximity to the local traffic pattern. Unfortunately, the sale of a house does not require action by the County that would trigger this type of disclosure by real estate agencies, which is the primary reason for drafting new legislation.

Mr. Erichsen discussed the February 2, 2006 memorandum to the Board of County Commissioners that was utilized during the recent operating and capital budget discussions. The memorandum was included in the Committees packages and included both the approved operating budget and revenue history from 1995 though 2005. It was noted how much is still being accomplished with volunteers, in-house staff, and through grant monies to supplement an annual operating budget that is now less than \$20,000.

Mr. Erichsen shared that the Public Meeting for the Environmental Assessment will be during either the April or May Airport Advisory Committee meeting. He will bring the draft notice to the next meeting once the Federal Aviation Administration concurs with the date. Mr. Ned Clarke asked how the meeting would be conducted and Mr. Erichsen advised that the meeting would be opened by the Committee Chairman and turned over to the consultant for the balance of the meeting. Once completed, the Chairman would formally close the meeting.

Mr. Erichsen advised that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) completed the annual inspection of the County AWOS on February 7, 2006. The results of the inspection were attached to the Committees informational package.

In response to the Committees request to have a parallel review of AirTec's January 23, 2006 proposal by the County Attorney, Mr. Erichsen provide the Committee with his February 7, 2006 memorandum to the County Attorney requesting same. In addition, Mr. Erichsen briefed the Committee on his February 27, 2006 written technical comments of AirTec's proposal. The review by the DPW&T / Airport Manager is consistent with the adopted Development Review Procedures. After discussing the individual comments at length, Erin Lesko motioned to concur with the Airport Manager's comments and recommended AirTec provide written responses. Korey Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0. Mr. Bildman agreed to provide a formal response. Mr. Erichsen advised the County Department of Economic and Community Development may also have some additional comments, which Mr. Bildman has agreed to address.

VI. FBO AND LEASEHOLDER REPORTS

Mr. Bildman provided an update of the new six unit T-hangar which should be completed by the end of July 2006. He further advised that there is only room for 1-two unit and 1-three unit hangar before his approved build-out is completed. Mr. Bildman also reported that there was one emergency landing which was diverted to Pax River. The cause of the emergency landing was an apparent open door on the aircraft.

VII. NEW/OLD BUSINESS

The next meeting will be held on March 27, 2006 at 6:00 p.m., at the County Airport in the Terminal Building Conference Room. The meetings are normally held on the 4th Monday of the month.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Having heard no additional comments, Mr. Smith recommended the meeting be adjourned, which was seconded by Mr. McNamara. Hearing no objections, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved,

George A. Erichsen, P.E.
Recording Secretary

Ned Clarke
Chairman