

AIRPORT AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 6, 2017 5:30 P.M.

2/6/2017 - Minutes

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Chuck Clegg, Dale Marks, Katherine Rogers - Chair, Eric Farewell, Ryan Michalkiewicz, Barbara Pelisek

Staff: Alex Vacha, Airport Manager; Jennifer Nanek, Assistant to the City Manager

A quorum was present.

2. Approval Of Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of November 7, 2016 and December 5, 2016 were reviewed. Eric Farewell made a motion to approve them. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

3. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

4. UPDATE BY CITY STAFF

Dale Marks asked about the status of Betty Hill and the skydiving Center's jump plane that is always parked near the building. Alex Vacha says he feels she deserves leeway as she is the biggest tenant and has a larger building being built soon. He suggested talking with the staff about it. Eric Farewell says she isn't paying for use of that space. Dale Marks said the location of the plane is not conducive to other planes coming in. Dale Marks suggested a motion to require that it be moved within a week. Eric Farewell suggested that its closeness can be a safety hazard. Barbara Pelisek asked if they were referring to the red plane. Several confirmed that was correct. Chuck Clegg suggested giving her a month instead of a week. Dale Marks amended his motion accordingly. Eric Farewell asked for the motion to be restated. Dale Marks said that the skydiving business be required to move both planes to the parking area away from building. Eric suggested that the wording be changed to allow for more grace to the Skydiving center. Barbara Pelisek stated that if one plane isn't being used then it doesn't need to be on the south side. Dale Marks asked why it's so far to the parking area. Eric Farewell explained that skydivers especially tandem skydivers carry a lot of weight to the plane so it would be difficult if they have to walk far. Dale Marks said that the airport should be a general aviation airport and not a skydiving airport. Alex Vacha recommended that they should be able to leave the primary plane where it is and move the secondary plane.

Chuck Clegg said that he withdraws his second of the motion in favor of Eric's approach.

The motion died for lack of a second.

Eric Farewell made a motion that the Skydiving Center be requested, at Alex's discretion, to not allow long-term storage of two air craft on the transient parking ramp but they would be allowed to keep one airplane there semi permanently and/or allow it to be used for loading and unloading plus standard operations. Basically allowing transient aircraft to have easier access and to present a better view of the airport for those coming to the airport within 30 days. Barbara Pelisek clarified that they wouldn't be on the south side ever. Eric Farewell agreed that they should not be on the south side. Basically clear the south side within 30 days.

In short form, Eric Farewell moved that the airport manager confers with the Florida Skydiving Center to

have them clear the south side of the transient parking area to be used for transient parking and that the City charge proper rent for tie-down fees for any aircraft at the airport. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Dale Marks asked what this means, if she can keep her plane there all the time. Eric explained that its up to Alex but it is fair for her to keep the plane there, within walking distance, as its utilized every day. The business will shut down if the distance is to far and the city will lose revenue. The revenues and economic benefits of the skydiving business were discussed. The tie down fees were discussed. Alex Vacha said we collected \$107. Eric Farewell said it was similar to other area airports.

4.I. Old Business

4.I.i. Airport Updates - Alex Vacha

Alex Vacha shared a slideshow of some of the activities out at the airport. He reported that he has done several presentations to Leadership Lake Wales, Candlelight Academy, and to Breakfast Rotary. He showed a picture of the new sign on the building for the Lake Wales Municipal Airport.

Alex reported on the campground takeover, some trees removed, a campground host was identified, and welcome packet created. He also now can accept credit card payments.

Barbara Pelisek asked what the capacity limit is. Alex said there is 28 sites for RVS but no known limits on tents.

Alex Vacha reported on efforts regarding dumpsters, there are many requirements for them. The fencing needs to be completed. Ryan Michalkiewicz asked why the location for the dumpster was picked. Alex explained why he picked the location and why others wouldn't work. Ryan specified it was the one at the airport not the campground. Alex said it needed to be on the road. Eric Farewell said it the noise and smell will conflict with their simulator which may need to be moved at some point.

There is now a Shell logo sign by the fuel.

The Civil Air Patrol effort is still ongoing. The meetings are 6:30 p.m. at American Legion.

Alex reported that the Taxiway Alpha & Taxiway Bravo are being surveyed, the design will be done this year and construction next year. Taxiway Brovo will be full length parallel to 17-35 and Taxiway alpha will be rehabbed.

The fuel system was calabrated and he will put a new sticker on it. The Quality Control inspection was done, testing done, the report listed some things that needed to be done. Alex explained that he is working on addressing them. A question was asked about finding foreign matter in the fuel. Alex Vacha says yes sometimes usually from the top of the tank. The fuel system needs work as it is old and needs to be replaced in the future.

Runway extension 6-24 construction will begin at the end of March. Eric Farewell asked if there is a shutdown date. Alex said during the summer the whole runway will be closed 12 days, but we don't know when yet exactly.

Eric Farewell reported on Wings over Winter event, it went well. There was good attendance and good response. They want to include ranchers more next year to be sure they know what is going on. There was good press on the event. He hopes to grow the event next year and host other events in the future. More space and time may be needed.

Dale Marks asked if there has been any progress on a sign on HWY 60. Eric Farewell recalled that an idea was suggested a few months back to speak to the businesses on 60 to lease space to

install a sign.

Alex Vacha reported that they completed the inspection of hangars. It went well they took pictures of jetskis, motor cycles, lawnmowers etc. They reviewed the items provided forms for exemptions for items. The fire department must review them. Three out of 5 have been returned. One hangar had just vehicles in it so they were moved out and another tenant is being moved in. That one person is looking to build another building for their business. He will do inspections once a year. Another tenant was beyond exemption and was given til the end of the month to get their stuff out. He will terminate the lease if need be.

Commissioner Perez suggested being more strict and operating as a business and that the City Commission should be updated more regularly on what all is going on. Eric commented that he could attend commission meetings more often. Alex Vacha says he tries to work with the tenants while getting concerns resolved soon.

Barbara Pelisek said that while painting helps the fence is unattractive. Alex Vacha said he plans to put in new landscaping to improve the appearance out there.

Commissioner Perez asked Alex to be sure to let the Commission know what budgetary items he needs ahead of time.

4.II. New Business

5. FBO REPORT

Alex Vacha reviewed the FBO report which is attached to these minutes.

Barbara Pelisek asked if everyone in the trailer park is in compliance. Alex Vacha said that those that have submitted paperwork are all in compliance. Out of 24 out there about 18 have gotten their information in. As soon as paperwork is complete the tenants will come in and sign and make payments here at City Hall. He will be out of the money part of the process.

Dale Marks asked about fuel situation. Would it be wise to lease out the pumps and let someone else sell the fuel? Alex Vacha said he could look into that.

6. BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

Barbara Pelisek thanked everyone for allowing her to join the board. She said that the airport is Lake Wales' best kept secrets. Everyone there is very friendly. She feels that safety is a number one issue and that Alex is going at the right speed for getting things done at the Airport.

Eric Farewell reported that Alex Vacha can get strict when necessary and being too nice isn't a worry.

Mr. Farewell reported on the Wings over Winter even, that it went well and thanked those who came out.

Mr. Farewell asked for assistance in removing a tree from the airport that is a safety hazard. Alex said that he would work on that.

Regarding the campground, Mr. Farewell recommended setting aside some spots for those staying short term for training or special events.

Mr. Farewell said he would like some improved or a larger sign for the airport out on HWY 60. He would also like to offer to repaint Lake Wales on the taxiway as soon as a color is decided on.

Mr. Farewell requested that the taxiways and ramp has a lot of gravel and it is a danger. He suggested the street sweeper or that the gravel gets cleaned.

Mr. Farewell declared that he is interested in expanding his lease and leasing one of the forthcoming new hangars. He would like to start an aero club to encourage more aviation at the airport.

Mr. Farewell reported that he has contacted someone to help set up an areobatic box at the airport.

He reported on a promotional shoot done at the Lakeland Airport and encouraged the board to support any efforts to promote the airport.

Eric Farewell thanked Chuck Clegg and Ryan Michalkiewicz for coming out a few weeks to try out and observe the paramotors. Ryan commended Eric and his company for their safety efforts and professionalism. Chuck agreed and said he is now a supporter of the paramotors.

Eric further commented that he is excited about the future of the airport.

Commissioner Perez asked how the new maintenance person, Brook, was working out. Both Alex and Eric confirmed that Brook was doing a good job. Commissioner Perez suggested additional staff may be useful in the future.

There was a discussion of a need for more maintenance at the airport and a flight school.

Dale Marks asked about drones. Use of drones and rules regarding drones and safety were discussed.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned. Next meeting is March 6, 2017.

Chair

ATTEST

Commission Secretary