

HARRIS COUNTY AIRPORT COMMITTEE
September 12, 2019
10:00 AM

Members Present: Randy Dowling, Nancy McMichael, Jim Woods, Hugh Weaver, Lynda Dawson, Richard Malott (for Ronnie Pendergrass, Airport Manager). Members Absent: Becky Langston, Kim Tharp. Also in attendance: Katelyn Stallings (Pond & Co), Jim Trott (Mayor of Pine Mountain), Daniel Ferrone (Pine Mountain PD), Bill Tudor (Holt Consulting), Sonja Ceballos (Benesch Consulting), Lew Walker (GDOT).

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** In the absence of Mrs. Langston, Mr. Dowling called the meeting to order.
2. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of August 8, 2019, was made by Mrs. Dawson, seconded by Mr. Weaver, and passed unanimously.
3. **DISCUSSIONS**
 - A. **Profit/Loss and Value Statements.** Mr. Dowling said that the Profit & Loss statement will be distributed at next month's meeting, but the value statement of planes housed at the Airport has been provided.
 - B. **Capital Improvement Projects (CIP).** Mr. Dowling reviewed the CIP and discussion included that the justification study must be performed prior to the runway analysis, environmental assessment and other items; that another hanger should be included at some point (currently there is a waiting list of 14); that the expansion of the Terminal building for a pilot's lounge and conference room should be included; and that Mr. Weaver will update the CIP accordingly for the October meeting for the committee to review and make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners for approval in November.
 - C. **Hangars.** Mr. Malott said that more hangars are needed; that many people currently at the Columbus Airport are searching for another location due to increase in rent and lack of services; and that according to one plane owner, there are no hangars available from Columbus to Blue Ridge. Discussion included that it would be 10 or more years, depending on rental fee, to recoup costs of construction; that marketing the Airport is needed; that perhaps some type of ground lease would work; and that possibly a pole barn/shade hangar would work, but would not provide any security.
 - D. **Fuel.** Mr. Woods asked about the average fuel purchase per year per plane, and Mr. Malott said that's hard to determine as it would depend on usage by the pilot and the plane. He also said that they have another tenant that is an instructor, which makes two, so there will be more fuel purchases in connection with that.
 - E. **Marketing of Airport.** Mrs. Dawson said that during a recent speech, the Governor indicated that the State brings in \$30 billion a year in tourism revenue, and that the Airport needs to be marketed in order for us to realize even more tourism dollars being spent in the County. Discussion included partnering with Callaway Gardens to promote the Airport as an aviation destination or to have a special package for pilots or special events at the Gardens. Mr. Woods said that he will touch base with Tom Schaefer, with Callaway Gardens, about such packages.
 - F. **Miscellaneous Issues.** Mr. Malott said that the terminal could benefit from having an ice machine for use by pilots; that because someone must make a trip to purchase gas for the loaner cars and mowers and diesel for the fuel truck, the Airport would benefit from having a gas pump and a diesel pump near the fuel pump; that the wind sock needs to be replaced and the pole relocated or replaced as it is too close to the apron; that he is trying to build relationships with various flying clubs; that AirNav has the "not to exceed" fuel price wrong (he will work on getting it corrected); and that Enterprise will leave rental vehicles at the Airport for use by others.
 - G. **Perimeter Fencing, Phase II Project.** Mr. Weaver said that this project is about 65% complete.
 - H. **Perimeter Fencing, Phase II, Gate.** Mr. Weaver said that a gate will be included in the fence. Discussion included that the gate is to allow vehicles to enter the specific area.

I. **Open House, May 9, 2020.** Mrs. Dawson said she had confirmed the Army band, but is waiting to hear from the Silver Wings.

J. **Proposed Verizon Tower Location.** Mrs. Dawson said she was concerned about the proximity of the proposed Verizon tower to the Airport. (Following the meeting, it was determined that the proposed location is 5.4 air miles from the Airport.)

K. **Other**

(1) **Rails to Trails Project in Pine Mountain.** Mr. Trott asked about the flex line being installed in the trail, and Mr. Dowling said it was for Diverse Power fiber optics, not water.

(2) **Airport Consultants in Attendance.** Mr. Dowling said that consultants from Holt and Benesch are in attendance because the County is required to send our RFPs for airport consultants every five years, and the current agreement with Pond expires in June 2020.

(3) **Bridge on US 27 at Flat Shoals.** Mrs. Dawson said she attended a GDOT meeting recently regarding the replacement of a bridge on US 27 at Flat Shoals; that it is scheduled for 2022; that the detour will be from Interstate 185 to SR 18; and that it will take several months.

4. **NEXT MEETING.** The next meeting will be Thursday, October 10, 2019, at 10:00 AM.

5. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Dowling adjourned the meeting.

Prepared by: Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk

Minutes approved _____
by vote of _____ to _____.