

TRIANGLE NORTH EXECUTIVE AIRPORT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Minutes

The Triangle North Executive Airport Advisory Council was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman John Allers on March 10, 2020, in the conference room of the Triangle North Executive Airport.

In attendance were Council Members: John Allers, Phillip Stover, Shelley Dickerson, Frank Donahue and Steve Trubilla. Also, in attendance were Bo Carson (Airport Manager), Angela Harris (County Manager), Jared Penny (Michael Baker Engineering), Pete Tomlinson (Davis, Sturges & Tomlinson) and Carey Johnson (Franklin Times). Absent from the meeting was Council Member Herman Dickens and David Bunn.

The second agenda item was review and approval of minutes from the February 11, 2020 meeting. Council Member Trubilla motioned that the minutes be approved as read, with Council Member Dickerson seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

The third item on the agenda was public comments. Chairman Allers called for comments from the public. There were no public comments at this time.

The fourth item on the agenda was airport update given by Bo Carson.

Operations:

1. TNEA received a new load of av gas over the past few weeks and has lowered its price to \$4.49/gallon. The price of jet fuel remains at \$4.29/gallon, but we expect a new load soon that will shift the price.
2. TNEA has been addressing maintenance items on the airfield buildings and structures.
 - New LED wall packs are being installed to the outside of the large corporate hangars where they were currently out. Also installing three front-facing lights on the white MX Hangar. These lights will bring out more safety and security to our tenants, businesses and their customers at night.
 - Also planning to fix the air vent fans in the MX Hangar as well as replacing a high-bay light that has extinguished with LED in a corporate hangar.
 - Corporate Hangars A-D received hangar door cable adjustments and replacements were needed.

- Corporate Hangar A-D received roof and gutter/downspout repair where needed due to overflow concerns. Addressed clogging and bird nest in the downspouts.

Real Estate:

1. Regarding tie-down spots, Mr. John Kent has sold his Mooney (considered a derelict airplane due to non-use over the years). The airplane is currently off the tie-downs.
2. No new movement in t-hangar real estate currently.

Marketing:

1. TNEA was invited to participate as one of five local airports in the region for an EAA Chapter 1047 Charity Poker Run. The airport will be one of their location sites for participants to collect the needed items for the event. I am working with a pilot and his wife in making sure we market TNEA while pilots fly in, so that we can show off our assets and diverse business community.

Master Layout Plan Public Meeting:

1. TNEA held its MLP task force meeting with over 25+ members. It was a great turn-out, with a lot of positive discussions and ideas created about the airport's future blueprint. This meeting's comments, as well as the public meeting comments, will be taken back and included in the Working Paper #2.
2. Later in the night, we had a public information meeting where the MLP and its alternatives were presented and displayed. With over 70 in attendance, the meeting was successful, and comments were made to the consultants to collect for their data. We also were fortunate to have the local Frostbites food truck at the meeting, as well.
3. For those that could not attend Thursday night, I will email you the presentation, as well as possible alternatives, for your comments.

Next step: Moving forward with comments and discussion to mesh into a new alternative plan for review.

Jared Penny said they are taking the comments and will review all of them. They will come together at the end of the month and start working on Working Paper #2 and hopefully, within six weeks, we will see another working paper, which includes a set of other alternatives and environmental considerations. Then, you'll see what comes out of all of this and I think you'll be pleased.

Mr. Penny said he also wanted to give an update on the airfield lighting. The lighting was bid out in September and we put in for a request for additional funds, and Mr. Carson did a lot of work to get local funds to match what was over. We got the grant set up, but the amendment to the original grant to add construction, has been held up at the DOT. We've talked to the contractor and they are fine with honoring their bid prices until this matter is taken care of.

Chairman Allers asked in reference to the sewer project, are we hooked in or about to be? Mr. Carson said we are currently hooked in at the buildings (Phase I). Phase II – we will be working with Public Utilities and Maintenance to close down the drain field and close in all manholes, which will allow us to expand the apron if we need to.

The fifth item on the agenda was sell of aviation and jet fuel for non-aviation purposes or into approved/non-approved outside containers. Council Member Trubilla said County Commissioner Harry Foy contacted him, and said he understands that someone came to the airport and inquired about getting fuel, and they were told the airport couldn't sell them fuel for non-aviation purposes. Commissioner Foy asked Council Member Trubilla to look into this. Council Member Trubilla said it's his understanding that much of this has to do with how taxes are assessed and safety. Council Member Stover said it's his understanding that the airport used to do this. Pete Tomlinson commented that Steve Merritt wanted to stop it. Council Member Trubilla said from what he's read, aviation fuel can be sold for airboats, but there have been other people who were wanting to put the fuel in race bikes, drag racing vehicles, etc. There are real issues and liability involved, but there is a policy that could be written because there are statutes that speak to it. Mr. Carson said yes, this was done in the past, but with no set rules or policy in place, he is not comfortable with it being done. He said the amount of income we are talking about is approximately \$300 a year. He said we do sell fuel to Aerial Solutions. They buy thousands of gallons of gas during the summer and they bring in their approved equipment for jet fuel. He's very comfortable with this, but what makes him nervous is someone coming in through the terminal, with a flammable container, and an accident happens, such as a spill, etc. If an accident does happen, the first thing NTSB is going to ask for is our fuel logs. Council Member Trubilla said maybe we should target an action date for it to be resolved and move towards that. Mr. Carson said right now, we don't do it and it has been suspended. This has been posted several places in the terminal, as well.

The sixth item on the agenda was discussion of retreat dates. Chairman Allers said Bo Carson had emailed him and said with the budget, etc., would it be possible to move the retreat date to June. After some discussion, Chairman Allers said our retreat date is planned for June 9th.

In other business:

- Council Member Trubilla said he'd like to discuss the issue of derelict aircraft. He said considerable time and work went into researching this, and he wants to give Mr. Carson credit because he was very supportive and helpful. As you know, this issue surfaced in August and a subcommittee (he and Council Member Donahue) was appointed to look into this. Council Member Donahue said he put together a draft of a proposed policy to address derelict aircraft, but there is no language addressing tie-downs and it only addresses hangars. He said he struggled to find the term "derelict", but he did find the term "non-operational", which is what they had used throughout the documents when referring to hangars. Council Member Trubilla says he has the paragraph from the FAA

regulations that defines it. Council Member Donahue says he doesn't think there's a problem taking the language that is used for the hangars and applying it to the tie-downs because the intent is that is where you store an aircraft. Whether it's inside or outside he thinks is irrelevant. The problem is the FAA doesn't say if you don't do this, then here's what will happen. Council Member Trubilla says he has developed a relationship with the operations director at RDU and he asked him would he be willing to come by the airport and give us some advice on this subject. He said he is willing to do this or someone on his staff could do this. Council Member Trubilla said he has spoken with three other general aviation airports and they all have this issue, but the only airport that has a comprehensive policy is RDU. Council Member Donahue said there is a delineation between abandoned and derelict planes. Unfortunately, what we are dealing with is derelict and people are paying their bills, so they have a right to the site they are using, unless we put a policy in place that says different. Council Member Trubilla referred to the "working paper" document he had passed out for the council's review. Chairman Allers asked where is the FAA statute in the document? Council Member Trubilla said it isn't stated in the document, but he had mentioned it at last month's meeting (705.183). Council Member Donahue said he had looked that number up online, but all that comes up is references to other states. Council Member Stover said Mr. Carson should draft the policy and then we would review it, and our recommendation would be carried to the County Commissioners, because they are the ones who make the final decision to put the policy in place. Council Member Donahue said if this is the case, he thinks we should shrink the timeframe we are giving the aircraft owners from six months to three months because it will take longer to get the policy in place. Mr. Carson will work with Council Members Donahue and Trubilla to come up with a draft. Council Member Trubilla said he recommends that we take RDU's policy (page 20) and use it to draft a policy for the airport.

- The next meeting will be on April 14, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

At approximately 6:30 p.m., Council Member Stover made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Donahue. The motion passed unanimously.