

TRIANGLE NORTH EXECUTIVE AIRPORT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

Minutes

The Triangle North Executive Airport Advisory Council was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Vice Chairman Phillip Stover on May 8, 2018, in the conference room of the Triangle North Executive Airport.

In attendance were Commissioners: Phillip Stover, Shelley Dickerson, David Bunn and Taylor Bartholomew. Also, in attendance were Bo Carson (Interim Airport Manager), Pete Tomlinson (Davis, Sturges & Tomlinson), Jim Farthing (Michael Baker Engineering), Michael Schriver (County Commissioner), Ron Mayhew (Concerned Citizen-owns property near airport on M.C. Wilder Rd.), David Buchanan (Pilot-CaptiveAire Systems), Dale Massey (Airport Employee), Todd Huvad (Aircraft Merchants, LLC), Dario Laverde (DAS Aviation), Phil Greene (Total Flight Solutions), Al Mattress (Total Flight Solutions), Ernesto Ibbott (Triangle North Executive Airport Pilots Association) and Carey Johnson (Franklin Times). Absent from the meeting: Commissioners John Allers, Herman Dickens and Tom Bregger (has moved out of the county).

The second agenda item was review and approval of minutes from the March 13, 2018 meeting. Commissioner Bunn motioned that the minutes be approved as read, with Commissioner Dickerson seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

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

The fourth item on the agenda was airport update by Bo Carson. Mr. Carson said we will have a new tenant at the airport soon. Thanks to the unanimous approval of the County Commissioners, a 70x60 private hangar will be located in the south hangar area of the airfield. Hangar 77 LLC (Lin Oakley and Pam Fowler) have signed a lease with the county to build the hangar. Mr. Carson said he has also met with another party who is interested in constructing another 70x60 hangar beside the future Hangar 77 LLC hangar.

Mr. Carson said the cost of aviation fuel has continued to rise over the last few months, which has led us to raise the price of Avgas to \$5.09/gallon. Jet fuel remains at \$4.69. Cost analysis will continue to be tracked and adjustments will be made once a new load is purchased.

Mr. Carson said the airport staff has been working diligently on a master list for the county of all the aircraft, businesses and customers on the airfield. This will allow us to have an easily accessible list of all customers on the field. We've also been working to clean up areas around hangars and the airfield. Staff have been addressing concerns to the businesses, with the goal of having the area accessible in the future, and it seems to be well-received. This makes it easier and safer for us when we cut the grass, as well.

Mr. Carson said the “Bunn Business Breakfast Club” will be meeting at the airport for their monthly meeting on May 18th. Plans are to provide an overview of the airport and show them the airfield, in regards to the impact of the airport on the county and beyond. Also, the Franklin County 4H will be bringing out another group of high school students to learn about the airport and aviation career opportunities.

Mr. Carson said gate access protocols are being updated to include everyone on the airfield receiving a letter and a request to update their vehicle information that goes with their access cards. Plans are to have everyone with gate access cards to be documented. Ones that don't provide information will be temporarily deactivated until information is provided. We recently had someone gain access to the ramp and they did “donuts” on the pavement, and left black marks. Al Mattress said he and Dario (Laverde) were recently looking at the gate in the corporate area, and they noticed that it looks like someone may have removed a bolt from that gate and gained access that way. Mr. Carson said he will see that a chain is installed around the gate in question.

Hangar unit 14 has been sold to Chris Welsh. The hangar was formerly own by the late James Mink.

Ronnie Martin has been working very hard to keep the grass cut, but unfortunately, the tractor has broken down and is in the shop for repairs. We have gotten estimates and we are trying to get it repaired as soon as possible.

Mr. Carson said we have been working with the Research Triangle Regional Partnership on their annual State of the Region event, which is on May 30th. Some of their marketing includes TNEA as a destination for general aviation. Next week, there will be a meeting opportunity over lunch with Michael Landguth, RDU's President and Chief Executive Officer. He has agreed to meet over lunch with our regional airport leadership to discuss the future growth of RDU and how regional airports can benefit from this growth. I will send out an invite to the advisory council tomorrow and you can let me know if you'd like to attend.

Mr. Carson said thanks to the Maintenance Department, the terminal building has been thoroughly cleaned. We have other groups who use it after hours, and we expect them to keep the facility clean, as well.

We are in the process of updating airport rules and regulations guidelines to include the airfield, hangar, t-hangar and tie-down locations. Also, we are updating fire exit routes, HVAC systems and hangar/t-hangar utility layouts.

In other business:

- Vice Chairman Stover said he would like to revisit our decision to become an advisory council at the February meeting. He missed that meeting, but he's been doing some investigating of his own. At that meeting, the board went into a closed session, and when they returned to open session, it was announced that they would change from a commission to an advisory council. Vice Chairman Stover said he believes the airport board members were given misleading information by the county attorney, and he wanted to discuss the matter further. He has spoken with two attorneys that have

experience in these types of legal matters. One attorney said what should have been done was to contact the UNC School of Government. Vice Chairman Stover contacted them and was referred to Trey Allen, Asst. Professor of Public Law and Government. Mr. Allen said well, technically your attorney is correct when he said you can be sued for anything, but it practically almost never happens. The state provides 2-3 different immunities to this, and because of those immunities, if anyone were to sue us, it almost always gets thrown out of court. Most attorneys are not going to take a case such as this, because there's no money in it. The second attorney Vice Chairman Stover spoke with said most counties have liability insurance policies, which makes it almost impossible to sue a public official. Vice Chairman Stover said all of this had him asking why did this come up? Did anyone on this board ask about it? When we went through the litigation with the Cipolats, none of us were named in it, so why now? Vice Chairman Stover said he feels the county attorney owes further explanation on why he misled us. Pete Tomlinson said he didn't mislead anyone, and you were not at that meeting when this was first discussed. Because that was a closed session, I can't discuss what was said in that meeting. Todd Huvad said that his main problem with the decision was that it was done in such a cursory and quick manner, without any public discussion. The whole decision seemed rushed and didn't provide for anyone to give any input. Mr. Huvad said he was at that meeting, and the board came out of closed session, the motion was made and it was done. It just seems like the whole decision was rushed. Vice Chairman Stover said he would like to table this discussion until the next meeting (June 12th). Hopefully, we will have the full board here, because he would like to have an open and public debate on this.

- Bo Carson said he would not be able to attend the June 12th meeting because he would be at the North Carolina Economic Development Association's annual conference.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.