

TRIANGLE NORTH EXECUTIVE AIRPORT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Tuesday, June 12, 2018

Minutes

The Triangle North Executive Airport Advisory Council was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman John Allers on June 12, 2018, in the conference room of the Triangle North Executive Airport.

In attendance were Commissioners: John Allers, Phillip Stover, Shelley Dickerson, David Bunn, Michael Schriver and Herman Dickens. Also, in attendance were Angela Harris (County Manager), Chuck Murray (Interim Finance Director), Pete Tomlinson (Davis, Sturges & Tomlinson), Jack Avent (Pilot), Michael O'Kelley (Airport Tenant), Pam Fowler (Hangar 77, LLC), Lin Oakley (Hangar 77, LLC), Jim Farthing (Michael Baker Engineering), Dale Massey (Airport Employee), Todd Huvad (Aircraft Merchants, LLC), Dario Laverde (DAS Aviation), Adam Laverde (Dario's son) and Ernesto Ibbott (Triangle North Executive Airport Pilots Association). Absent from the meeting: Commissioner Taylor Bartholomew and Bo Carson (Interim Airport Manager)

Chairman Allers said if there are no objections, he'd like to add an agenda item (#5) after public comments, for a closed session to consult with the attorney.

The second agenda item was review and approval of minutes from the May 8, 2018 meeting. Commissioner Stover motioned that the minutes be approved as read, with Commissioner Bunn seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

The third item on the agenda was discussion of proposed gift to the airport. Commissioner Stover introduced Jack Avent, who is a premier airplane model maker, as you can see by some of the displays on the table. Commissioner Stover also passed around some photos of all the models. Mr. Avent said he is 78 years old now and he wants to find a resting place for his two display cases, with a little over 100 planes in them. Commissioner Stover said he would like to propose that the cases be placed in the entrance way of the terminal building, and he would like to form a small committee to raise the money for a plaque in the honor of Mr. Merritt and donated by Jack Avent. Commissioner Stover made the motion that we accept this gift from Mr. Avent, and proceed to raise the money for a plaque in Steve Merritt's honor. Commissioner Dickerson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

The fifth item on the agenda was a closed session. Chairman Allers said the Advisory Council will now consider entering into a closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) in order for the Advisory

Council to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged.

Commissioner Dickens made the motion to enter into closed session, which was seconded by Commissioner Bunn. The motion passed unanimously.

Following the closed session, Commissioner Dickens made the motion to enter back into open session, which was seconded by Commissioner Stover. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Allers announced that no action was taken during closed session.

The sixth item on the agenda was airport update by Chairman Allers. Chairman Allers said Bo Carson is at the annual conference of the NC Economic Development Association, so he couldn't be in attendance. He asked that Chairman Allers make the following report in his absence:

- Gate access proxy card updates continue to come in for access by vehicle. Deadline for current proxy card holders to update their cards is June 30th. If information and a copy of a valid driver's license is not updated, cards will be temporarily deactivated until such information and documents are provided. Once updated, access will be valid till June 30, 2019 as updates will occur every year.
- Gate at the northern section has been secured further to prohibit access to that section.
- Conversation has begun with four interested parties regarding activity at the airport.
- Hangar 77 is in the process of establishing their footprint for their new hanger. Property pins have been established.
- Mr. Burns has ended his monthly contract with Triangle North Executive Airport, as he has sold his plane.
- Jet fuel prices continue to rise, and will be reassessed after the next load, regarding any price increases. Jet fuel remains at \$4.69 and Avgas is at \$5.09.
- Updated Rules and Regulation Guidelines draft will soon be submitted for consideration and review for TNEA. This will update the previous one approved in 1993, as well as presented to the former Commission in 2010.
- A fire inspection was conducted last week. Information will be provided to tenants regarding changes requested.
- TNEA hosted and provided the program content for the Bunn Breakfast Business Group, with over 25 interested attendees. Reception was positive by the group, that included the FFA from Bunn High, Mayor Strawbridge and town council members.
- Attended a meeting hosted by RDU's Michael Landguth, with other general aviation airport staff, Jim Farthing and other EDC members. Information was shared by RDU in their Vision 2040 plan. Currently, no money is set aside for GA activity for the foreseeable future, as concentration is on their infrastructure needs and a future runway for more international locations to include China in

the next 7 years. Landguth expressed his support to assist where possible in promoting TNEA and other regional airports. He sees huge potential growth for us in the future.

- As a FYI, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners approved the upcoming FY 2018-19 budget to include TNEA's budget. The new county budget includes a property tax adjustment to 80.5 cents per \$100 assessed.
- Steve Merritt's daughter Sarah, is gathering stories/testimonies of her father for a book tribute she is putting together to highlight his life. She has asked Mr. Carson to reach out to the TNEA community and offer the opportunity to provide stories or highlight certain things that made Steve's life special with each of you. If you wish to share any stories, please send to Sarah at sarahmerrittryan@gmail.com
- Lastly, I would like to welcome County Commissioner Michael Schriver to the Advisory Council. He will be serving until a replacement is appointed for Tom Bregger, who moved out of the county.

Jim Farthing said the meeting with Michael Landguth was very interesting. Franklin County was represented, as well as Henderson, Sanford, and Johnston. Basically, Mr. Landguth said that they want to get rid of general aviation aircraft and keep the corporate ones there. The problem is none of those airports that were there have any room to accept anybody, and the other unfortunate part is nobody down the street that may have an issue with that, would even care. He's sure they will get an earful, and it's an interesting conundrum. There will be a lot of people who want to get out of RDU, so all those airports surrounding Wake County will be the beneficiaries – if they can continue to accept – and therein lies the problem. Mr. Farthing said that Mr. Landguth also said they are not going to allow the current FBOs to expand, which is going to limit their growth. This also may mean that they may need more room to expand their facilities, so there's an opportunity to possibly get an FBO here (maybe). Commissioner Stover asked is the Division of Aviation in favor of this – removal of GA out of RDU? Mr. Farthing said he was sure they would support anything, but it's just a matter of funding, of course. There's a lot of things that would have to take place – land, permits, etc. It's not something that's going to happen overnight. Todd Huvad said it's not going to happen in our lifetime. They've been trying to do that for the last 30 years that he's aware of and the federal prohibitions against access will make it difficult. There's still a lot of well-to-do people who want to use RDU and want to have access to it and are invested in it. He doesn't think you'll see the kinds of folks over there now, that are operating in the hangars, be shoved out.

Angela Harris said in reference to the fire inspections that was mentioned earlier, she's asked the inspections department to inspect all the county facilities. They are on a rotation, but she wanted to speed that up and have them all checked out. We are doing some disaster preparedness planning.

Chairman Allers said the next item was discussion about becoming an advisory council. If there aren't any objections, he'd like to strike that from the agenda.

In other business:

- Jim Farthing said he spoke with Ron McCullom, who is the current Project Manager for our region, and they are in fact going to take the master plan to the transportation board for approval in July. He also asked about the airfield lighting rehabilitation project, which is in the STIP. They are interested in going ahead and funding that, and taking that to the board in July, as well. Mr. Farthing said we would like to upgrade it to an LED system, and we will go ahead and start looking at that. Also, we will start looking at getting work authorizations together for the runway extension. Chairman Allers said we are at the max here for tie-downs and t-hangars. Mr. Farthing said he has not heard anything regarding the sewer connection. At the last meeting we had they were going to look and see how much money we had left over. Once we get the airport off the septic system and on to the commercial system, maybe we can look at building more t-hangars. Angela Harris said we have early indications that we will be able to do that, but we will need to get some final numbers first. Mr. Farthing said the asphalt at the fuel farm is breaking up badly and the tanks are showing age, as well. Commissioner Stover said he'd like to revisit the self-serve fuel topic. We've had some concerns about accessing fuel at night, and I think some of our customers are starting to need that. Mr. Merritt was always opposed to it and said it wasn't a money maker, but maybe we aren't looking at the bigger picture. We may not make enough money on the direct fuel sales, but we will be servicing our customers. It's very popular at other airfields. He really feels if we are going to do anything at the fuel farm, we should look at self-serve. Angela Harris said she agrees. The payback for that was looked at years ago, and as a matter of fact, we had an internal discussion on that topic last week. Commissioner Dickens said Wilmington did it for a while, but it didn't work out. Chairman Allers said Oxford-Henderson did it and it didn't work. Commissioner Stover said you can't compare us to Oxford-Henderson though. Dale Massey asked to comment. Mr. Massey said there's one other thing you aren't looking at besides just extending hours for the convenience of the customers. If a truck breaks down, we are out of business. He put in a 1,000-gallon tank for Avgas at Sanford and filled it up with the truck. It cost \$25,000 to build, so it's nothing you can set on the ramp. You don't get many that will pump their own jet fuel, but if you put in a 2,000-gallon tank as a backup, then some of the helicopters like from Chapel Hill (Air Methods), who has been coming in, would benefit from it. Their run is from Duke back over to Nash County and it's too short for them to make. They were asking about setting up some discounts here, but there's the problem of after hours. Chairman Allers said he thinks it's something we can revisit at some point. Pam Fowler commented that Harnett County and Goldsboro are successful at having self-serve.
- The next meeting will be July 10th at 5:30 p.m.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.