

TRIANGLE NORTH EXECUTIVE AIRPORT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Tuesday, November 10, 2020

Minutes

Due to the COVID-19 virus pandemic, the Triangle North Executive Airport Advisory Council met via an electronic meeting (Zoom) on November 10, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.

The public was not allowed to physically attend this meeting. However, the meeting was livestreamed on YouTube at <http://franklincounty.today>. Citizens were also able to view or listen to the meeting via Zoom.

In attendance were Council Members: John Allers, Frank Donahue, Herman Dickens, David Bunn and Steve Trubilla. Also, in attendance were Bo Carson (Airport Director), Greg VanderMolen (Michael Baker Engineering), Boyd Sturges (Davis, Sturges & Tomlinson), Kim Denton (County Manager), Joshua Lukes (Owner, Triangle Skydiving Center), Barry Thorpe (IT Technology Support Specialist) and Carey Johnson (Franklin Times). Absent from the meeting: Council Members Shelley Dickerson and Phillip Stover.

Chairman Allers welcomed Kim Denton and Boyd Sturges to the Advisory Council board.

The second agenda item was review and approval of minutes from the September 8, 2020 meeting. Council Member Trubilla motioned that the minutes be approved as read, with Council Member Dickens seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

The third item on the agenda was public comments. Joshua Lukes, Triangle Skydiving Center, 480 Airport Rd., Suite 200, Louisburg, NC. Mr. Lukes wanted to respond in reference to the comments made at the September 8th meeting. He wanted to clarify that he wasn't upset or agitated, and nothing could be farther from the truth. He's excited to see the airport and all the changes that are going on there. He has made comments about wanting to stay on the north end of the airport and that is from a simple logistics standpoint, of course. He wants to work through whatever needs to be worked through to make the airport more efficient, and that it fits in with the general aviation people, as well as the other businesses there.

The fourth item on the agenda was airport update given by Bo Carson. Mr. Carson said before he presented the update, he'd like to ask for a brief time of reflection for Mr. Rick Pahnke who passed away last month. Rick was a wonderful individual whose business and expertise helped TNEA flourish. His presence will surely be missed on the airfield. Please take a moment of silence in his honor.

COVID-19:

- 1 TNEA continues to be vigilant about monitoring for COVID for our aviation community. We are currently observing the Governor's Executive Order. The conference room is currently closed unless needed for emergency meetings, as well as the courtesy vehicles.

Operations:

1. Since our last meeting, the fuel prices at TNEA have shifted up based on our last load received. Currently our price for AvGas is \$4.35/gallon and jet fuel is at \$3.59/gallon.
2. TNEA has been addressing maintenance items on the airfield buildings and structures.
 - We have done several roof and window projects to address leaking in some areas. This includes roof repair and skylight replacement on Corporate Hangar A & B.
 - Spraying of trees/shrubs across Airport Road has been completed to maintain the 1000-foot clearance intact for the AWOS.
 - New carpet is being installed in Total Flight Solution's office space on the 2nd floor of the MX Hangar. Work should be completed this week.
 - New aprons for t-hangar building #2 have been constructed to include the storage units. This also includes Civil Air Patrol's storage unit on t-hangar building #1.
 - Upcoming projects include the large corporate hangar door locks on Corporate Hangars A-D and light replacements.
3. The AWOS has been serviced and approved by the FAA per their annual inspection last month.

Real Estate:

1. Regarding tie-down spots, TNEA continues to be close to capacity. One new addition includes: Eric Coombs. We did have one tenant to leave for the winter (Jim Davenport).
2. All t-hangar storage spaces continue to be full, with 76 potential tenants on the waiting list and it continues to grow. TNEA has renewed a t-hangar lease with Dale Burbank and a storage unit with Michael Colclough. In addition, we have signed a lease with Civil Air Patrol for their storage area in building #1 and Triangle Skydiving Center in building #3. Additionally, all t-hangar tenants have paid in full their aircraft taxes for 2019, as required by the lease.
3. We have one tenant Mr. John Lewis that will be exiting his t-hangar on November 30 after selling his aircraft. I am currently in the process of leasing that space.

4. At the Corporate Hangar area, we have renewed a lease with Triangle Skydiving Center for both Corporate Hangar A, as well as Total Flight Solutions for Corporate Hangar F. An Operating Agreement, for Triangle Aircraft Maintenance in the private hangar owned by Total Flight Solutions, has also been executed.

Marketing:

1. TNEA, in conjunction with Total Flight Solutions and Vance-Granville Community College, have completed the UAV Pilot Training 16-hour course and FAA Part 107 Exam Prep 25-hour course in 2020. There were three courses offered for the 16-hour course with 21 graduates, and the FAA Part 107 Exam Prep course has 7 signed up to take next week. Pilot classes will resume within the April 2021 time frame. We'll repeat the FAA Part 107 as we get demand or graduate more trained pilots.
2. Civil Air Patrol has started back meeting on Monday night outside of our terminal. They are adhering to all safety guidelines put forward by TNEA, as well as their squadron. CAP is also resuming their glider and flight operations with the same safety measures in place. Lastly, I was informed that a tweet that TNEA pushed out on our Twitter feed was picked up by national CAP and was their "tweet of the week".

Grant Updates

Master Layout Plan:

1. Expected completion of the MLP is 1st Qtr. 2021. I have had some discussions with individuals regarding the development plan that is portrayed in the lobby, as well as seeing the dirt move some on the airfield. I want to make sure everyone is aware that the MLP is a 20-year blueprint of how we want the Airport to develop in the future. This plan will be approved by state and federal agencies, that will assist the Airport in going after future funding for some of this infrastructure.

Airfield Lighting Grant:

1. Rifenburg has begun the runway light and sign rehabilitation project at TNEA. This project is supposed to last 180 days and should be finished in April 2021. They have started with the new electric vault, as well as running electrical conduit on the airfield. Runway closures started this past Sunday. The runway closure will be weekly, until this part of the project is completed, from 8 p.m. on Sunday night to 6 a.m. on Friday. We will work with tenants and transient customers if possible, to accommodate certain needs if known ahead of time. NOTAMs will be issued and broadcasted on TNEA's Facebook and Twitter accounts, as well as by email.

Airfield Pavement Rehabilitation:

1. Survey and geotechnical work have been completed on the airfield for this project by Wetherill Engineering and S&ME.

Bo Carson said Council Member Stover had asked a question at the last meeting about the possibility of getting solar panels at the airport. Mr. Carson said he is investigating this with Michael Baker Engineering. He says at first glance, it's going to be very difficult for a large based solar project at the airport. You have to do a glare study and make sure your current buildings have the correct weight capacity to handle solar panels on them. Also, we don't want to short-sell ourselves on land we could use for future growth, and not have it tied up in a solar farm. He's also working with Don Bowman at Wake Electric, and he'll be talking with him about this on Friday.

Mr. Carson said Council Member Stover has also asked about self-service fueling. We have plans for self-service fueling in the MLP, but right now, our infrastructure doesn't support it. However, we are looking at the possibility of this in the future, with this new construction grant. One of the items in this grant is to extend the apron to the south to allow for more tiedowns. As you know, the FAA looks at anything that needs to be fixed when you start making improvements to the airfield. Our taxiway is a little too close to the current runway, but once we start making changes, the FAA makes sure everything is corrected in that area. When this happens, we are going to lose one t-hangar across all our lines closer to the taxiway. So, that apron expansion in the future will help supplement those that we are losing and hopefully add on a few more. We are also looking in that general area to possibly put a self-service fuel station to match it up with the current construction grant we have ongoing. We will continue to look at this as a possibility, but it may be further down the road.

In other business:

- Chairman Allers said there has been some discussion of having the council meetings every other month instead of monthly. If we need to have a special called meeting, we will do so. The consensus of the council members was to schedule the meetings every other month.

At approximately 5:30 p.m., Council Member Dickens made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Donahue. The motion passed unanimously.