

TRIANGLE NORTH EXECUTIVE AIRPORT COMMISSION

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Minutes

The Triangle North Executive Airport Commission was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman John Allers on January 10, 2012 in the conference room of the Triangle North Executive Airport.

In attendance were Commissioners: John Allers, Don Lancaster and Guy Martin. Also, in attendance were Steve Merritt (Airport Manager), Brigid Williams (The LPA Group), David Guin (Batton & Guin), Tom Bregger (Pilots Association), and Chuck Rinker (Pilots Association). Absent from the meeting were Commissioners Taylor Bartholomew, Herman Dickens, Phillip Stover and Shane Mitchell.

The second item on the agenda was deferred until the next meeting due to lack of a quorum.

The third agenda item 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 deferred until the next meeting due to lack of a quorum.

The fifth item on the agenda was an update on airport operations by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said sales in December were 89% above December last year, with the same gross margin percentage. The weather was a big factor in this, and our sales have continued to grow. Mr. Merritt said we have the first ever commitment from the NCDOT for discretionary State funding for land acquisition. All funding commitments are in place, and the County Commissioners approved the match for the purchase of Anne Gordon's property at their January 3rd meeting. We are losing one corporate hangar tenant and another tenant is replacing them. Jim Strathmeyer is moving to Florida, and Bernie Byers has a hangar at RDU. The new tenant, Brett James, is an aircraft mechanic specializing in Piper Malibu and Meridian aircraft. The new tenant will be bringing several based aircraft to us, also. Triangle Skydiving Center is going to build a deck, which will be a ground level deck, and not a two-story one. Construction should begin next week. The deck will be a place for people to congregate and will keep bystanders off the ramp. Mr. Merritt said we are still working with Rampart Aviation to provide contract jet fuel for them. They have audited our fuel farm and found it acceptable for their purposes.

The sixth item on the agenda was the budget update by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said at last month's meeting, Commissioner Mitchell questioned differences on the report the County Commissioners receive from Chuck Murray versus the report Mr. Merritt had presented to the Airport Commission. Mr. Merritt said the budget he presents is actual versus budget, and he discussed this with Mr. Murray and he said it was okay to report the budget this way. We have now cleaned up those encumbrances that were in question. We still show a profit, and we have never been positive this time of the year. Every month, except for January of last year, has shown an increase. We have 102 airplanes based here, with approximately 40% of those being

registered in Wake County. Mr. Merritt said Triangle Skydiving Center had 1,394 jumpers in December, and they had a record year.

Mr. Merritt said the balance of the airport's capital project fund, which includes revenues from ad valorem taxes, fuel sales, etc., was \$157,094.17 as of July 1, 2011. Expenses through December 30th were \$28,157.28. We received the County's required contribution of \$16,666 and a State reimbursement of \$28,940.98, which brought the current balance to \$174,543.87 as of December 31st. The required County match for the Gordon property purchase is \$105,264, which makes the available amount for appropriation \$69,279.87. The estimated balance of the Vision 100 funds for 2010 was \$117,250, and the balance for 2011 was \$150,000, less expenses of \$38,000, bringing the balance to \$229,250 for Vision 100 funds available.

The seventh item on the agenda was status of land acquisition by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said as stated previously, the County approved the match for purchasing the Gordon property, and Ronnie Goswick and David Guin are working on getting all the paperwork taken care of.

Mr. Merritt said we have a need for a large (48-foot wide) t-hangar to accommodate the Piper Malibu aircraft, and he asked Brigid Williams (The LPA Group) to draft a drawing of where the hangar(s) could be located. Mr. Merritt said this is a project that could possibly be done with an investor, and he knows of someone. We'd have little expense, except the possible relocation of utilities and some type of site prep. We would get revenue from fuel sales, ground rent and taxes on the airplanes and building. Mr. Merritt said he didn't feel we should take \$300,000 from the capital project fund to build the hangars, and he would continue conversations with the possible investor.

The eighth item on the agenda was airport events by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said there are three (3) events planned for the airport. The first event is a poker run, which is scheduled on February 11th. This event is sponsored by Total Flight Solutions, with all the proceeds being donated to the Jimmy V Foundation. The second event is scheduled for March 12th and it is the second time we've hosted this women's event, "You Can Fly, Too". Mr. Merritt said we are trying to get more women involved in aviation. The third event is scheduled for the end of March. We have some interest in having a helicopter WINGS day, which will be a safety day for helicopters.

The ninth item on the agenda was deferred until the next meeting due to lack of a quorum.

In other business:

- Tom Bregger said he would be attending future Airport Commission meetings on behalf of the Pilots Association, and pass on any comments, suggestions, etc.
- Chuck Rinker (Pilots Association) said the association does have a Facebook presence now. Also, the association provided the courtesy van and new flat screen TV at the airport. Mr. Rinker said he is the local representative for the AOPA (Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association), and we've had individuals from the NBAA (National Business Aviation Association) at the airport, and we feel there are a lot of marketing opportunities available here. He said he is letting the Commission know that they have a good resource with the Pilots Association, and if there is anything the Pilots Association can be of assistance with, please let them know. Commissioner Lancaster asked would there be another "High Flight" event. Mr. Rinker said Mike Colclough, who had been organizing the event in the past, was no longer at the airport, but we definitely want to have this event at the airport

again. Our general fund is down right now, but if we can get some funding support, we will have it again. Mr. Rinker also said they have had initial talks with the EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association) about the possibility of bringing a local EAA chapter here.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.