

TRIANGLE NORTH EXECUTIVE AIRPORT COMMISSION

Tuesday, October 11, 2016

Minutes

The Triangle North Executive Airport Commission was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman John Allers on October 11, 2016 in the conference room of the Triangle North Executive Airport.

In attendance were Commissioners: John Allers, Phillip Stover, Guy Martin, and Taylor Bartholomew. Also, in attendance were Steve Merritt (Airport Manager), Matt Wright (Michael Baker Engineering), Jim Farthing (Michael Baker Engineering), Charles Fenske (Louisburg Boy Scout Troop), and Adam Van Stedum (Boy Scouts of America). Absent from the meeting: Commissioners Herman Dickens, David Bunn and Don Lancaster.

The second agenda item was review and approval of minutes from the August 9, 2016 meeting. Commissioner Martin motioned that the minutes be approved as read, with Commissioner Stover 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 a proposal to establish an explorer post at airport. Commissioner Stover introduced Charles Fenske, who has been a scout master for a number of years with the Louisburg Boy Scouts.

Mr. Fenske said an explorer post benefits young people because they can mentor or shadow others to see what different aviation fields are available to them. They get a chance to see how it feels and have a hands-on experience with aviation, to try it out and see if they like it, and also see what kind of field they want to go into. Aviation isn't just about being a pilot. It's also about engine repair, airport maintenance and/or supervision. The program is for both males and females and is usually made up of high school students. School counselors would screen the candidate first, guide them and then recommend the youth be a part of the explorer post. The post usually consists of the youth, advisor and three committee members – the chair and two at-large members. These could come within the airport facility or be a parent(s). This give them a chance for leadership, communication and citizenship skills.

Mr. Van Stedum said basically, exploring is a subcategory of the Boy Scouts. It was started for high school youth as a career shadowing program. It's best to start early, say at 14 years old, to see if this field is right for them or not. This is something they can put on a job application and/or a college application. It's a real world experience.

Mr. Van Stedum said if you could identify people who might lead or run the group. They only meet once a month, for an hour. They only meet when school is session, also. Mr. Fenske said they need an advisor – someone to watch and make sure they are doing things in the right order and what proper procedures are. Mr. Van Stedum said he would talk with the guidance counselors at the high schools to see who is interested.

Mr. Merritt said we could possibly cross recruit with some of the Civil Air Patrol members here.

Chairman Allers asked if there were any liability issues. Mr. Van Stedum said any participants are covered under the Boyscout troop's insurance.

Mr. Merritt said we could host it any night, except Monday nights, which is when the Civil Air Patrol meets.

Chairman Allers said you have the Commission's full support and please continue to pursue it.

The fifth item on the agenda was the airport operations update by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said the north gate is not working due to a lightning strike. Every time it's hit by lightning, it fries the circuit board. Mr. Merritt said fuel prices are steady and everything is running smoothly. Brett James (James Aeronautics) has been designated by Socata as a TBM aircraft repair station. Also, Mr. James is current on paying back what is in arrears for his account, as per the agreement.

Mr. Merritt said we are currently #3 on a list of 25 projects for CAMPO for funding from the NCDOT. The request under consideration is \$11,000,000 for construction of the runway extension of 1,000 feet. We will be notified in January about the funding. Mr. Merritt says he is very excited and optimistic we will get it.

Mr. Merritt said we have new interest in a three-unit hangar, which would be located next to Commissioner Stover's hangar. One of them is for someone who has a new TBM and doesn't want to be located in a hangar with anyone else.

Mr. Merritt said we are going to apply for additional discretionary funding to modify the industrial area project. Total Flight Solutions has decided they want a back door on their hangar. Our original plans didn't allow enough room for the backside ramp, so we are working on a change order to the existing contract.

Mr. Merritt said the skydiving center has slowed down on their interest in building a new skydiving center, because they are way behind on the number of jumps this year versus last year at this time.

The sixth item on the agenda was the budget update by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said there is about \$15,000 worth of fuel, which is not on this budget report, but our profitability is still good. We are going to have to spend some money on the John Deere tractor because it's leaking hydraulic fluid. Mr. Merritt said all the hangars are full. The airport's new employee, Dale Massey, has been here about three months and he's working out really well.

The seventh item on the agenda was application for discretionary funds to support industrial area development. This item was previously discussed under agenda item 5.

The eighth item on the agenda was update on taxiway construction for former Anne Gordon property. This item was previously discussed under agenda item 5.

In other business:

- The next Airport Commission meeting will be on December 13th at 5:30 p.m.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.