



Bentonville Municipal Airport
Advisory Board Meeting
Thursday, March 3, 2022 @ 3:00 pm
305 SW "A" Street, Bentonville, AR
([& VIA ZOOM WEBINAR](#))

MINUTES

Call to Order, Welcome & Pledge of Allegiance – Dr. Richard Ham, Chairman

Dr. Ham was absent today due to the ill health of his father. Mike Frost, Vice Chairman, opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed all who attended. ***It should be noted that the internet was down for this meeting and some attendees had issues gaining online access.*** Board members who attended in person were: Mike Frost, Lisa Kelley, and Mark Slaughter. Dennis Cherry attended via Zoom. Others in attendance were Dennis Birge, Chad Cox, Bonnie Bridges, and Chris Maestri and Ginny Lantz from Garver.

Old Business:

1. Approval of Minutes from February 3, 2022

Mike Frost asked for comments or questions regarding the February minutes and there were none. Mark Slaughter made a motion that the minutes be accepted. Lisa Kelley seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

2. Robin Fields and "Maverick"

A. Updates on Geese Control and Progress of Maverick

Robin Fields and Maverick appeared at the meeting today. Robin said that everything was going well and joked that Maverick (3 years old) was a little wound up today. He said they have been pretty busy as of late. This morning they chased off about 20 birds early in the wetlands area. Starling have been prevalent, as well as blackbirds.

3. Updates and Discussions

A. Hangar Access for Public Use – Sub-Committee Members

Lisa Kelley gave an update on the Sub-Committee meeting. She said that she thought it was a productive meeting. They talked some specifics, but the big thing is that the City is going to work on getting the dirt moved and are getting closer. Chris Maestri is moving forward and talking with Debbie Griffin about some the specifics, engineering, submitting applications for the ADA grants, and such. Ms. Kelley said that we need to figure out if we have a private donor,

what is the best way of handling it so they get a tax deduction for any funds that they may want to contribute. She has sent an email to Karilea Magee, the Mayor's Assistant, regarding some possible dates about setting up a meeting with the Mayor, Jake, Bonnie and Chris. They want to get everyone on the same page about moving forward. She said that everything is moving in the right direction and hopes to have information ready so the Board can have a discussion at our April meeting. It was said that we need to submit for the grants by the end of May.

Bonnie Bridges said that Debbie Griffin has put an item on the upcoming city council agenda to pay Garver the money for the re-bid to cover paving and utilities. Then we can move forward with that.

B. Dirt Removal – Debbie Griffin

Dennis Birge was standing in for Debbie Griffin today. There is no update on the timeline for moving the dirt just yet. Bonnie Bridges said there were a few items going before city council regarding Phillips Park this coming meeting. Dennis Birge said that the idea was to move the dirt all at once for storage and cost efficiency. Ms. Griffin has received six (6) Statement of Interest forms so far. She will get copies of those to the Board members. She is also working with Chris on the five (5) year CIP, and she gave a big “shout out” to Chris for the runway being finished. The lengthening part of the runway is now open and that is very good news.

4. Chad Cox Discussion Items:

A. Airport Updates

Chad Cox appeared with his updates from the field. He gave thanks to Dennis Birge for all the help the City gave them with the snow removal during the recent winter storm we had. He mentioned that there had been a gentleman that had been very persistent about getting on the apron to take pictures. He informed Robin Fields about this. Robin is an ex-police officer and can help us keep an eye on things at the field. Chad said it is not in anyone's best interest to have people that don't have business beyond the gate and fence just hanging out at the airport.

Fuel numbers for February 2021 was 11,989 gallons, and this year in February they sold just a little less than 13,822 gallons. Will Gunselman asked Mr. Cox to mention a concern of replacing 100 low lead fuel. All piston aircraft still run leaded fuel. They have been trying to replace that for decades and that it seems to be more of a reality these days. There could be a potential of us needing three (3) storage tanks instead of the two that we have. He believes it is on our CIP with a fuel farm in the future. The restaurant, Louise, has been closed this week due to a flooring repair. Mr. Cox said that he has received many emails about the infrastructure bill and the grant monies that are for airports. He feels that when that money is available, we should be opportunistic about taking advantage of it to get hangars built or extending taxiways, etc.

Mark Slaughter told Mr. Cox that he has not been receiving the monthly newsletter. Mr. Cox obtained Mr. Slaughter's email address again, as well as that of Lisa Kelley and Dennis Cherry,

who had not received the newsletter either. Mr. Cox said he will make sure that they get on that list.

New Business:

1. Engineering and Construction Updates, *Chris Maestri - Garver Engineers*

Chris Maestri from Garver appeared before the Board today.

East Taxiway Extension

This project has been on the schedule for a while now. They are working on preparing the base material for paving the long parallel section. They have paved the connector sections at Bravo 1 and Bravo 2, and they helped to enable the opening of the Runway Extension. There were some markings that had to be done by the SE Taxiway crew. They came out and cleaned up the area, removed the displacement, and opened up the new 600' length in coordination with C.R. Crawford, who is the contractor for the Runway Extension. The big news for this week is that we now have 5,053 feet of usable runway pavement. He presented some pictures of the runway for the Board to view. They will continue to work with the FAA to make sure they have everything they need to appropriately document that extension in their systems. They will have to update some of their forms. They still have some clean-up work to do on the extension, around the runway, and around the SE Taxiway project and then they will start looking at pre-finals and final inspections with the city to get this closed out.

Pedestrian Tunnel

Chris said there has been no change. They are still negotiating the contract with Nabholz.

Game Composites Expansion

They are looking at the end of June on this project. Chris said if you drive down "I" Street lately you will notice some steel going up on the south expansion. They will get started on this in the next couple of weeks.

East Hangar

They are pretty close to being done on this project. They have the doors on, the wall panels are up, they are finishing up some site work, and they are working on an easement vacation along SW Aviation Street to get the close out documents put together. They have estimated that they will be done the end of this month.

Widening Project

Chris said that Ginny Lantz, also of Garver, is now working on this project. They are still working through final design. The schedule has been updated slightly from what was presented last month. They are now looking at bidding in late May instead of late April. That is due to the

FAA being very busy and have not received their grant allocations yet for the year, so they adjusted this accordingly to make sure they do not have an issue where they are holding bids too long after they are opened. Chris said that the runway would be closed for one 16-day period for the 12 foot widening section. It is more cost effective to close it this way instead of closing it in phases. This is an FAA funded project. It will bring the runway to the designated 75 foot width for this type of runway, which it has not ever been. Chris said they could be looking at fall for this widening, but it is still too early to be certain. The contractor is going to want the best weather possible with such a short time-frame closure. However, if they can't get the grants fast enough, they could be looking at summer of 2023.

Mike Frost asked, "What's next"? Chris said that Chad Cox had mentioned some additional funding from the Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Law. They have a meeting with Debbie Griffin next week to talk about what projects we want to target with that funding. Right now on the CIP, we are looking at an East Taxiway Extension that would come out to the end of our new runway extension, so that's another 600 feet of taxiway on the east side. We have also talked about the potential to add additional parking in some form or fashion. We haven't picked the best spot for that yet. It may depend on where hangars get developed first. Bentonville Municipal Airport with the Bi-Partisan Infrastructure funding, they are getting an additional \$295,000.00 a year for the next five (5) years, so that is essentially double what their normal entitlement funding is. How that money can be used is still being determined. Mike Frost asked Dennis to get with Debbie Griffin that someone from the Committee would like to be in attendance in the discussion meeting regarding projects that are going on the CIP. Dennis said he would get with her.

2. City of Bentonville Updates – Debbie Griffin - Director of Administration

Dennis had nothing else to report for Ms. Griffin.

3. Master Plan Discussion – Dr. Richard Ham

Dr. Ham was not present today, so this matter will be tabled until the next meeting. All three members were in agreement.

Lisa Kelley reminded the Board that, as well as Master Plan, we still need to work on Rules and Regulations because there are things that we want to make sure the officers can clearly point to a specific line in the code or the ordinances that state specifics about what is and what is not acceptable and what can happen if those ordinances or code is broken. Bonnie Bridges suggested that she and Lisa Kelley meet together about this and come up with a proposal to bring to the AAB. Then if the Board does not like it, they could incorporate suggestions. She thought that it might be more efficient to work on it. Ms. Kelley said that she liked that idea. She asked that Ms. Bridges talk with Camille Thompson as she had started working on this at one time. She might have some things that she could forward to them both that would help. Ms. Kelley said that she knew that Dr. Ham would like to be a part of the rules and regulations regarding drones. She also suggested talking with Chad Cox on what his needs are in the field.

Other Business:

1. Schedule AAB Meeting for April 2022

Proposed Meeting Day: Thursday, April 7, 2022 @ 3:00 pm

The proposed date and time was agreeable with all members present. Dennis Cherry said that he would be in Boston on that date, so he will attend by Zoom.

Mike Frost recapped items that they need to work on:

- 1.) Dennis Birge will ask Debbie Griffin regarding someone from the Board being part of the CIP meeting with the Mayor.
- 2.) That we are still working on getting a meeting with the Mayor and Jake, Debbie, etc. Ms. Kelley said she has already sent an email to the Mayor's Assistant, Karilea Magee about this.
- 3.) We are still working on submitting bids to the FAA to get grants.

2. Motion to Adjourn

Mike Frost called for a motion to adjourn. There was a motion by Dennis Cherry to adjourn the meeting. Mark Slaughter gave a second to the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

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