



Bentonville Municipal Airport
Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 4, 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. Richard Ham opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Old Business:

1. Approval of Minutes from April 7, 2022

Lisa Kelley made a motion to approve the Minutes from the April 7, 2022 meeting. Mark Slaughter gave a second to the motion. No discussion or comments. All members were in favor. Motion carries.

2. Robin Fields and "Maverick"
 - Updates on Geese Control and Progress of Maverick

Robin appeared before the Committee via Zoom, even though he was in Court today. Dr. Ham asked what he had been seeing out at the airport. Robin said he had a number of geese. He said with the construction happening with the extension of the runway and the taxiway, some new grass has grown and has attracted the geese. He said it was not large numbers and they have been trying to get them run out as soon as they see them. He did say there was good news. He reported that in April they found two nesting pairs that had built nests. However, the flooding we had in April washed those nests out and the two pair of have left. He said everything was going well, and Maverick was doing well. He had no complaints.

New Business:

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

Chris Maestri and Adam White appeared for Garver Engineers and gave updates to the current projects and construction, and also talked about design and potential future projects.

A. PROJECTS AND CONSTRUCTION:

SE TAXIWAY PROJECT AND RUNWAY EXTENSION:

The taxiway is paved. Chris said they are awaiting the seeding and sodding and some pavement markings to finish out this project. TriStar have the sod rolls out there ready to go.

On the Runway Extension, there is a similar situation. They have seeded and sodded, but they will have to have them re-seed a portion of it that washed away over the last few months with the wet weather we've had. We are close to having both of these projects completed and off of our list.

EAST HANGAR CONSTRUCTION

On the East Hangar Construction, they are finishing up some miscellaneous site work. Chris Maestri said he will reach out to the contractor to see where they are on getting their Certificate of Occupancy. They had to finish out the underground detention basin and some sidewalk, and then some grading. They should close out by the end of this month to have access and occupancy of the hangar facility.

GAME COMPOSITES EXPANSION

Chris said they are still pushing to get this project completed. On the building expansion itself, they are working on the north side of that facility at present, and then the site work associated with it. The parking lot to the south is complete and in use. They are hoping to get this whole project completed this year.

B. DISCUSSION REGARDING DESIGN AND BIDDING PROJECTS:

RUNWAY WIDENING – WEST SIDE

Chris mention that Garver had finished their design work last week on the west side of the runway widening. He said they advertised for bids for the first time last Sunday, and will go to bid on the 26th of this month. They are working with Gladys Shoemake in Purchasing to get the whole bid put together, answering any questions they may have from any potential bidders as they put prices together for us for the 26th date. From there, they are still on schedule to look at a grant award early this summer. Chris said this is the only project they will be submitting to the FAA for a grant.

HANGAR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT:

This is a taxi-lane with associated utility improvements in the form of a waterline extension. Chris said they bid this yesterday and they received "zero" bids. They got some feedback from contractors and said that everyone is just extremely busy right now. He said that the market right now is a little crazy from a pricing standpoint and a little crazy from a personnel standpoint. Chris, Adam, Debbie and Dennis have a meeting tomorrow to discuss our next steps forward on a potential alternate project delivery outside of a normal bid opening procurement process, to see if we can still take advantage of that State funding that we were shooting for with this project. They will update everyone later when they see what they can come up with.

PEDESTRIAN TUNNEL PROJECT:

The Pedestrian Tunnel project is still on hold. Chris has taken it off of the plan that he handed out, but it is still on hold. He has receive no updates since last month. Mike Frost asked how long the project could be on hold from an FAA standpoint. Adam White responded that it was really unlimited from the FAA's standpoint. He thinks the only thing that could change that is if a standard changed which would have affected the design of it. As far as a time frame about when this project would start, Chris responded that they don't have one. Dr. Ham said we could address this again in 30 to 60 days if we haven't heard anything.

C. POTENTIAL PROJECTS:

FUEL FARM:

Chris Maestri showed us conceptual drawing of what a new fuel farm might look like and there was discussion among the Board. Debbie Griffin made a comment that if we decided to move forward with this we would want to

renegotiate our city contract as far as what we receive as fuel tax. We get 10 cents a gallon now and we don't get anything for self-serve. She wanted to make the Board aware of that. She also said that what all we had on the CIP was for renovation, not a complete new fuel farm. She said this proposal was presented to her a couple of weeks ago and they wanted to bring it before the board now as they have not gotten any bids on the hangar project, and if we want to be considered for State funding for this fiscal year. It starts again June 30th for 2022-2023, and she does not want to miss the state funding on something.

MARKING OF THE APRON – SE TAXIWAY EXTENSION PROJECT

Chris Maestri reminded the Board that about two years ago as they were going through the design of this project, they proposed a couple of options on how to mark the centerline on the east side of the airfield. A couple of options are shown in the exhibit they showed the Board today. They said we could mark the entire east apron with a yellow taxiway centerline and make it a true taxiway through the apron area, but it would get rid of about half of the tie downs that are over there on the east side. Option two was to mark it in a similar fashion but curve down to the east closer to those existing hangars on the east side before curving back up towards the runway and tying back in to the Bravo 3 centerline to the north. The Board decided at that time that we would want a taxiway centerline all the way through the apron even though we knew that it would take out a lot of our parking area on the east side. Chris said they wanted to bring this back to the Board today to discuss the potential and get your thoughts on a separate marking option, which we discussed in the past but was not decided on. He said that was if we were to stop the taxiway centerline before we got to the apron and had an unmarked apron area and then restart that taxiway centerline north of the apron so that your tie downs stay in place, and it becomes an unmarked apron and operation area just like it is today. Pilots would operate at their own discretion in that area. The reason we bring this up today, Chris says, is that we have a limited area for parking right now at VBT, but we do have plans for parking on the west side in the future. That is on the CIP now. He said we do have a slot on the west side that we are looking for future parking. Chris wanted to present them as an interim phase to not mark the apron on the east side with the taxiway centerline, keep the use of the tie downs that are there today until we have parking on the west side that we could relocate those tie down locations for. At that point in time, we could then come back and put the true taxiway centerline through that east apron. The Board discussed.

There was a motion by Mark Slaughter that we concentrate our focus on creating more parking wherever available, east side or west side, prior to creating a taxiway on the east side of the airport. Mike Frost gave a second to the motion. To make it clear, Lisa Kelley moved to amend the motion that we add that the striping is going to be on the ends and we are going to leave the ramps open as present. Mike Frost seconded the amendment. Motion carried, and the amendment carried.

TWO CONNECTOR TAXIWAYS

Adam presented the East Taxiway projects includes two new connector taxiways to the runway that lie across our two connectors on the west side of the airfield. With that design as part of the Master Plan, the plan was to demo these existing mid-field connectors on the east side. We include that in our plans and based on some recent discussions, and he thinks Chip Gibbons will be requesting later to keep those in place or requesting the FAA that we keep those in place from a safety standpoint versus removing them at the end of our taxiway construction project which is coming up here in the next fifteen to thirty days, so it is important to get some feedback before we would go to the FAA, if that is the path the board wants to go. Adam then said that is what is on the table is about leaving these in, and he then asked Chip to speak to his findings regarding a safety standpoint.

Chip Gibbons then spoke and said their concern about removing these was that back in 2019 we had the discussion of how much time aircraft spend on the runway. He said the less time that we have aircraft on the runway the better. These two exits get used a lot not only by the Flight School, but by jets that come in and can make those exits. They are accessible exits for a lot of aircraft. He said that they actually obtained the ability in 2021 to count how many airplanes that made that exit. He is working with a guy in Atlanta who has developed software that tracks where people are on the airport. They had exiting on those two combined 8351 airplanes that exited there. So, if they can't exit there, they are going to have to continue down the runway which means about another 45 hours of aircraft on the runway that they don't think is necessary to do. One of the things we talked about was that across from the south stub taxiway to the grass. Our agreement when we did that was we didn't have any other taxiways, so we came to the Board and asked if we could do this and you said yes, with the understanding that we would eliminate

that once we had the other taxiways, so that has been eliminated. We removed any of the markings and are going to allow that to grow up and not mow it anymore. He said that he probably did not see five (5) airplanes going across there all year, and three of them were him. One of the arguments that we talked about early on was we didn't want people going straight across the runway like that, so that is not an argument anymore. We would ask the Board to work with the FAA to try and convince them that this is not a good use of funds and it is not a good safety item for the airport. We would like to see both of these left. We don't mind them being designated as Exit Only if that helps with the concern about people taxiing from there on to the runway, but to us it doesn't make any sense to spend money to demo those when they actually do serve a safety purpose. Discussion. Dr. Ham said that they've tried to get rid of mid-fields everywhere they can. He said he is willing to help justify leaving them, and see if we can find some place that was successful in keeping them. Adam said someone from the ADO came and looked at our airport and said they have to be removed. Adam said he thinks we should work to devise a plan to send to the FAA one last time. In talking with Chip, he thought it was certainly worth one last effort and they are willing to help with that, but he wanted to get the Board's opinion on it, too, before we made that one last push to the FAA. Chip will continue to work with Adam and come up with a plan to submit to the FAA. Debbie Griffin said he had her support.

2. Chad Cox

- Noise Complaints – Discussion: Tracking Noise Complaints & System for Tracking – Chip Gibbons

Chip Gibbons appeared recently with working on noise complaints. It is not just this airport, but at other outlying airports as well. They had a club meeting recently that he presented at. They are trying to get their members to understand how to reduce their noise footprint when they fly, or dial back the noise in the airplane. He said they tend to focus on the safety aspect of flying. Everything is on full forward and we can make a lot of noise, so we are trying to say that's fine when the situation demands it, but when they don't demand it let's be more conscientious of the noise footprint that we are making. He said that they took one of the loudest airplanes that they have and did some tests and we worked on not making as much noise. Chip said that they are not real good at keeping track of noise complaints. They remember some of them, but they don't have a way of saying of saying there is an area where we've had more noise complaints than any other area in town. They have contemplated ways of keeping our people away from those areas, and which airplanes are creating the most noise, or which pilots are creating the most noise. So, they created an application that tracks the noise complaints that we receive. The idea is that when they get the noise complaint in they have the ability to enter the information about the complaint like a general area, a certain address, the latitude and longitude of it, who made the complaint, who took the complaint, what the complaint was, details about that complaint, and what we suggest the response might be, and then we have the ability to close that complaint with the person who made it. He shared his screen online to show the board what they have come up with. With this system, they can keep track of the complaints, see these areas on the map where there are specific issues or chronic complainers, chronic offenders, etc. Chip just wanted to make the Board aware that they are making a concentrated effort to address this the best they know how. He said to Debbie Griffin that they probably should work together with the city and figure out how to get all this information in one spot and how to deal with things.

Debbie Griffin said that we may get two or three complaints every two or three months, normally being reported via a phone call or that they submit it through the 311 system. She said that anytime she get those calls, she sends it to Robin Fields, but she also copies Will Gunselman and Chad Cox. She will start copying Chip Gibbons as well. Then, she said, Robin investigates the noise complaints but that she would be happy to help coordinate. Chip said that was great. Robin said that it sounds great and that he will visit with Chip this week and will help with the game plan. Dr. Ham said this was a good thing. This could help us should the FAA get complaints. Having down what we have done to help with these complaints would go a long way with them.

- Airport Updates – Will Gunselman

Will Gunselman appeared for Chad Cox. He said that last month they sold 29,814 gallons of fuel, compared to April of 2021 with 26,005 gallons. The Flight School was affected by the bad weather we had. He said that the flyable time was 450 hours. However, the bad weather hasn't slowed the fuel sales down or transient traffic. It hasn't slowed to jet traffic at all. They had seven (7) large jets yesterday and those guys are buying fuel, so things are good. Chip Gibbons reported that at this time there are 127 students in the Flight School. The wait list for instrument training takes a little longer wait to get in as opposed to the private training. The actual club members is

at 360, Will said. They do have a waitlist to get on the Back Country membership program, so they will probably be buying another airplane in the near future to accommodate those people.

3. City of Bentonville Updates – *Debbie Griffin - Director of Administration*

Debbie Griffin mentioned that the UP Summit was brought to the Board last year, and it is coming up again this June 6 – 8, 2022. She said there will be more information coming out about it, she wanted to make sure the Board had those dates on their calendar.

She also reported that they were getting quotes right now to restripe the auto vehicle parking lot because the lines are faded, so this should be done within the next 30 or 45 days.

- AAB (Update to Ordinance 2014-103)

Mike Frost brought this issue back up about changing the number of board members from 5 to 7. He said that he asked several people who work at the City about this and they contradicted that statement. He said he had not done the research so he wasn't sure of the validity of it. Debbie Griffin said Bonnie Bridges did the research on that, but she said that she did know the Arts Board, the Parks and Rec Board had more members. She said that they were asking for from the last meeting was feedback on the pdf that she had sent to Mike Frost and Dr. Ham. Ms. Griffin said that Dr. Ham has presented some comments back. She visited with Legal again today and Bonnie said she would just like your comments on that issue, and when he board decides which way they want to go, they will draft the Ordinance. They were not saying that they want it to be 5 or 7. They were giving the recommendation to the board for them to come back with comments. Ms. Griffin said that they were just looking at consistency, and that the majority of the boards in the city are 7 members. Mike Frost just said that if they could just see a list of all the boards and how many members they have on them. Debbie said that was fine and if the board wants to leave it at five members, they were not trying to press the issue to change. They are just waiting for comments from the pdf that she sent out earlier. Dr. Ham said that the board should get their comments back to Debbie and we could talk about it next month. Debbie said that she would put this on the agenda again for next month.

Other Business:

SPECIAL MEETING:

There was a Special Meeting of the Airport Advisory Board on May 10, 2022, at 3:00 pm via Zoom. All members of the Board were in attendance, except Lisa Kelley. The Board recommended the application to apply for grants to City Council. The vote was 4-0.

1. Schedule AAB Meeting for May 2022
Proposed Meeting Day: Thursday, June 2, 2022 @ 3:00 pm

This date was agreeable with everyone.

2. Motion to Adjourn

Mark Slaughter made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lisa Kelley gave a second. Motion carried.

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AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD ATTENDANCE LIST

DATE: May 4, 2022

NAME	AFFILITATION	PRESENT	ABSENT
Adam White	Garver	✓	
Beverly Shepherd	Administrative Assistant - AAB		✓
Bonnie Bridges	Legal		✓
Camille Thompson	Legal		✓
Chad Cox	Bentonville Airport Manager		✓
Chris Maestri	Garver	✓	
Chris Sooter	Ex Officio Board Member		
Dan Weese	Bentonville City Engineer		✓
Debbie Griffin	Director of Administration - Airport	✓	
Dennis Birge	Bentonville Transportation Director		
Dennis Cherry	Board Member - AAB		✓
Ellen Norvell	City Engineer		
Ginny Lantz	Garver	✓	
Lisa Kelley	Board Member - AAB	✓	
Mark Slaughter	Board Member - AAB	✓	
Mayor Stephanie Orman	City of Bentonville		
Mayor's Assistant	City of Bentonville		
Mike Frost	Vice-Chairman - AAB	✓	
Mike Jones	Democrat-Gazette		
Richard Ham	Chairman - AAB	✓	
Robin Fields & Maverick	Goose Dog Handler	✓	
Will Gunselman	Summit Aviation	✓	