



Bentonville Municipal Airport
Advisory Board Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, July 11, 2024 @ 3:00 pm
Thaden Fieldhouse – 2205 SW “I” Street
Bentonville, AR 72712
(*& VIA ZOOM WEBINAR*)

Members Present: Brian Baldwin, Mark Slaughter, Dennis Cherry, Rachel Hobert, and Beckie Seba, Ex Officio

Members Absent: Richard Ham

Staff and Visitors Present: Debbie Griffin, Kelly Deeds, Sophie Lowe, Ginny Lantz, Adam White, Tyler Flagg, Austin Conner, and Paul Cantrell.

I. Call to Order, Welcome & Pledge of Allegiance:

- Brian Baldwin will call the meeting to order at 3:00 pm

A. Brian Baldwin called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm and led the room in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Approval of Minutes:

- June 6, 2024 - Meeting Minutes

A. *Dennis Cherry made a motion to accept the minutes from our June 6th meeting. Rachel Hobert gave a second to the motion. Motion approved.*

III. Geese Control Report – Robin Fields and Maverick

- Report from Robin Fields

A. Robin Fields reported very little geese activity at the airport right now. Rather than being at the airport, presently they are at the church property on the east side, by the pond, and some at the Walmart warehouses. Robin said he did have a report from Kelly Deeds that he had seen the coyote once recently.

IV. New Business:

1. Engineering and Construction Updates

- Airport Projects, Ginny Lantz – Garver USA
Ginny Lantz with Garver gave the report on the current airport projects. Chris Maestri is on vacation.

Ms. Lantz reported that due to the hurricane pushing weather our way, they had to cancel that work on the threshold, but have it rescheduled for tonight. It should be the last runway shutdown for this project, but Ms. Lantz said they will have to reinstall the light when the concrete reaches strength. However, they are going to see about doing it during the day without shutting the runway down.

A. Runway 18-36 Widening (FAA Grant).

The grant amendment request in the amount of \$375,000.00 has been sent to the FAA for review. Garver has received positive feedback and is expecting the amendment to be approved soon. When the amendment is fully executed, they will apply for a runway lighting reconstruction AIG grant which will cover another \$630,000.00 of that project. The good news is the total project cost is \$3.8 million. But when all the funding is finalized, the city share will only be \$75,000.00, only 2% of the entire project.

B. VBT Hangar Development (ADA Grant)

Garver has closed out all three grants for this project, so there are no further updates.

C. VBT E. Taxiway Extension (Phase 2) (FAA Grant)

The grant application for construction has been sent to the FAA and they anticipate a grant award in August. The construction contract execution should take place in September, and they will then begin working with the contractor to determine the best start date for construction. The total contract time is three months.

D. VBT Hangar Access Road (ADA Grant)

This project is the combined effort between the city Street Department and Sy-Con. A change order to pave the access road has been coordinated and is ready for City Council approval. Garver will be working with the city and Sy-Con on a construction schedule once all those approvals are final and in place. This goes to City Council on July 23rd.

E. VBT Parking Apron (Fuel Farm) (ADA Grants)

Action on this project is suspended until Garver finds out what the new status of the private funding is. Ms. Griffin reported that the private funding is coming forward. It is \$244,000.00 and has been approved. She will be getting a letter of approval, and we will be able to apply for the additional state grants this fall.

2. Updates from the Field

- Kelly Deeds will give updates from the field.

A. Total operations for June were roughly 2045, a 47% increase over June of 2023. They were running 103 operations a day during the last two weeks of the month.

B. Jet fuel sales were up 139% over last year and low lead gas was up 57%, so an overall increase of 79% in fuel sales. We sold 35,700 gallons versus 20,000 gallons a year ago.

C. We had six fixed-wing charter operations in June and had three helicopter charter operations. Mr. Deeds said that now when you see the black helicopter leaving, there is a very good possibility that it is a revenue-generating flight for the airport.

D. The Up Summit is set for the end of September. They will be here next week doing a walk-through, so they are gearing up for that. Mr. Deeds said they are planning to move all the turbine aircraft off-site, and the Flight School will probably move to Rogers during that time.

E. Mary Katherine McKinley attended the meeting today. She, Kelly Deeds, and others are looking for ways to promote general aviation and aircraft operations and they came up with an idea called Hopscotch. MK passed out a flyer which more fully explained the idea. *(A copy is attached to these minutes)*. They have a \$1500 award “pot” and prizes for the winners. As of this date, MK reports she has 16 participants, and has gained two new club members from it. She would like to expand on this idea and possibly have them three times a year. Any ideas are welcome.

F. Maintenance is up roughly 27% this year. Their hours are now 6:00 am to 6:00 pm. They are also hoping to start mobile maintenance, a quick-turn maintenance for jobs off-site. They have four full-time mechanics, and another mechanic that is full time with Summit, but also a part-time flight instructor. They are also looking to start training programs for their technicians to advance their skillsets.

3. City of Bentonville Updates – Debbie Griffin, Airport Manager

- Update on West Side Hangars and Leases, Etc.

A. Hangars and Leases: Ms. Griffin presented Paul Cantrell and John Furner as applicants to recommend to the board to fill the two hangar spots, #2 and #6, that are available at this time. Both gentlemen have come forward with solid plans. Ms. Griffin is ready to move forward with leases for both gentlemen under the same provisions that the board had with the previous two applicants. After discussion, Chairman Baldwin asked for a motion to accept these two recommendations, Paul Cantrell and John Furner, to move forward in the lease process. ***Dennis Cherry made the motion to accept both applications as recommendations to City Council. Mark Slaughter made a second to the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.*** Ms. Griffin then explained that their lease does not get presented to City Council until they have completed large scale development. Additionally, Ms. Griffin said she was informed last week that Adam Grosser is pulling out of his area, Hangar #1. However, she said there were still people in the queue. Mark Rockwell, another leasee, has expressed interest, but Ms. Griffin needs further information about his intentions before she would feel comfortable presenting him to the board.

B. Minimum Standards: Ms. Griffin handed out a copy of the Minimum Standards document that they have been revising. She would like everyone to look at it again and make sure it is correct. Anything that the board sees that needs to be changed or updated, please let her know. Brian Baldwin also asked Kelly Deeds if he would look at this between now and the next meeting, as he has a history of being at different airports and might be able to help the board with this. Mr. Deeds said he would.

C. Military Installation: The military is interested in putting a helicopter installation at Thaden Field or somewhere in NWA. Debbie Griffin and the Fire Chief are going to go to Camp Robinson next week to get more information on what they want to do. She doesn't know if it makes sense that they would install it at Thaden, as she doesn't think we have the space. The military would also be bringing their own fuel facility as well. She will keep the board informed.

D. NOTAMS: Ms. Griffin said she needs to update the NOTAM list, and said if there was anyone that wanted to be added to the list and trained, to let her know. There was interest.

V. Other Business:

Debbie Griffin brought up that Dr. Richard Ham's term expires in September, and the board will have an opening. If you know of someone who might be interested in serving, please let her know.

VI. Closing:

1. Next AAB Meeting Schedule

- Proposed Meeting Date and Time: Thursday, August 1, 2024, @ 3:00 pm
Location: City Hall – City Council Chambers, 305 SW “A” Street, Bentonville, AR

This meeting time was agreed upon by the members present.

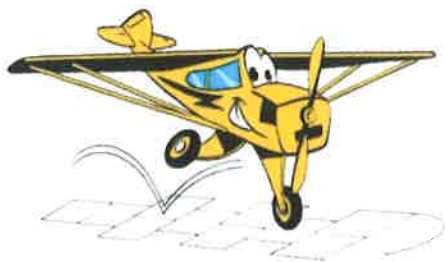
2. Motion to Adjourn:

Rachel Hobert made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dennis Cherry gave a second. The motion was approved, and the meeting ended.

###

Project Task	Runway 18-36 Widening (FAA Grant)					VB T Hangar Development (ADA Grants)	VB T E. Taxiway Ext. (Phase 2) (FAA Grant)	VB T Hangar Access Road (ADA Grant)	VB T Parking Apron (Fuel Farm) (ADA Grants)
	Site Investigations								
Conceptual Meeting w/ City									7/1/2024
Preliminary Design									7/3/2024
Preliminary Design Review									7/1/2024
									8/30/2024
Final Design									9/15/2024
Final Design Review									10/15/2024
Bidding									11/15/2024
Grant Award					8/16/2024				
Construction Contract					9/1/2024		6/25/2024		12/15/2024
Preconstruction					9/15/2024		6/25/2024		1/15/2025
Construction Start					10/1/2024		7/1/2024		2/1/2025
Construction Complete					12/31/2024		8/16/2024		3/31/2025
Grant Closeout	7/31/2024				1/31/2025		10/20/2024		5/31/2025





FIRST ANNUAL HOPSCOTCH CHALLENGE

01 JULY - 30 SEPTEMBER



TROPHIES & PRIZES*

AWARDED AT OCTOBER HOPSCOTCH HOEDOWN!

- First submission each month earns \$50 fuel or rental credit to keep on hoppin'!
- "First Annual Hopscotch Challenge" t-shirt awarded after your first 10 landings!
- **Monthly First Place Winners** (3 winners) - \$200 toward gear in Thaden Field Gift Shop *and more!*
- **First Place Winner Overall** (over 3 months) - Garmin D2 Air X10 Aviator Smartwatch *and more!*
- **Second Place Winner Overall** (over 3 months) - Garmin inReach Mini 2 *and more!*
- **Third Place Winner Overall** (over 3 months) - Flight Outfitters Bush Pilot Folio Bag *and more!*

**AS PARTICIPATION INCREASES ... SO DO THE PRIZES!!*

RULES & REGS

- **Land as PIC** at any public use airport -AND- certain backcountry/private airfields. List of qualifying backcountry/private airfields provided below. PIC must be sole manipulator of controls.
- **Document with picture(s)** of: plane landed at airport/field, PIC, clearly identifiable signage of airport/field -OR- unique feature (i.e., pavilion at Trigger Gap), and screenshot of date picture taken (must be between 01 July - 30 September).
- **Text picture(s)** to: 479.310.6812. Include PIC name, airport identifier, and tail number of aircraft.

POINTS! Earn 'em!

- **10 Points** = Airports/fields within 0 - 125 NM of VBT
- **12 Points** = Airports/fields within 126 - 200 NM of VBT
- **15 Points** = Airports/fields over 201 NM of VBT (150 points/10 landings maximum)

BONUS POINTS: Extra! Extra!

- **10 Bonus Points** = Find and land at a "Mystery Airport." Four Mystery Airports/fields chosen each month. Clues given in newsletters. Mystery Airports/fields will be within 0-125 NM of VBT. 10 bonus points per airport/field. Text pic(s) to: 479.310.6812. Include snapshot of date.
- **5 Bonus Points** = Land at an airport/field no one else has landed (within 0-125 NM of VBT). Landings reset monthly -AND- are tallied overall. 5 bonus points per airport/field.

SIDE COMPETITIONS: Very Special Prizes Awarded!

- **Most Questionable Courtesy Car Competition** Find a crazy courtesy car after you've landed? Take pic(s) and text to: 479.310.6812. Picture(s) must include yourself, questionable feature of car, and screenshot of date pic(s) taken (must be between 01 July - 30 September). Include your name and airport's identifier.
- **The Mystery Buffalo!** The most creative picture with this airport's beast will win somethin' very special. Text pic to: 479.310.6812. Pictures become property of FLY OZ and will be used, so be tame(ish).

THE DETAILS: Blah, Blah, Blah....

- **Cheaters!** Will be outed via "wanted" posters around VBT, in newsletters, on social media, in club text messages, and on the news!
- Each airport/field counts only once over course of contest; no duplicate landings.
- Touch-and-go landings and flyovers do not count.
- Departure and arrival airport cannot be the same.
- Submissions must be received by 11:59PM on the last day of each month.
- Tie breaker will be most distance flown from VBT.



QUALIFYING PRIVATE AIRFIELDS

1AR4	5AR8
2AR5	62AR
37AR	AR05
40AR	AR09
51AR	MO00
58AR	MO32
58MU	OL20
4AR9	

MORE INFO & SCOREBOARD AT FLYOZ-HOPSCOTCH.COM