



Bentonville Municipal Airport  
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, October 10, 2024 @ 3:00 pm  
City Hall – Thaden Fieldhouse - Street  
(**& VIA ZOOM WEBINAR**)

**Meeting Recording:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/BnjdXKMMR1HC5SKAfuy5uMkwpo2IxTaufYMZ1DLGOI0EBtyo0nS34\\_667hf-Wy54.foQ-g4VMeOGIF8ri?startTime=1728589574000](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/BnjdXKMMR1HC5SKAfuy5uMkwpo2IxTaufYMZ1DLGOI0EBtyo0nS34_667hf-Wy54.foQ-g4VMeOGIF8ri?startTime=1728589574000)

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

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff and Visitors Present:** Dennis Birge, Dan Weese, Ginny Lantz, Chris Maestri, Kelly Deeds, Beverly Shepherd, Tanner Martin, Paul Cantrell, SyCon Representative, Austin Conner, and Mark Marsiglio. Robin Fields and Maverick were absent.

**I. Call to Order, Welcome & Pledge of Allegiance – Brian Baldwin, Chairman**

Brian Baldwin opened the meeting with a welcome and the Pledge of Allegiance. He also thanked everyone who had a part in and supported the Up.Summit. It was successful.

**II. Approval of Minutes:**

- September 5, 2024 - Meeting Minutes

Rachel Hobert moved to approve the minutes from the September 5, 2024 meeting. Mark Slaughter seconded the motion. There were 0 comments or objections. The **motion was approved.**

**III. Geese Control Report – Robin Fields and Maverick**

- Status Report

Robin Fields and Maverick were absent.

**IV. New Business:**

**A. Engineering and Construction Updates – Chris Maestri – Garver USA**

- Airport Projects

**RUNWAY 18-36 WIDENING (FAA GRANT)**

Chris Maestri reported they have all the approvals and FAA additional agreements needed to close out this project. Garver will have the closeout package to the FAA in

November or December and get all our funds reimbursed. The project should be closed no later than the end of the year.

**VBT E. TAXIWAY EXTENSION - PHASE 2 (FAA GRANT)**

Garver received the construction grant for the East Taxiway Extension – Phase II. It is on the city council agenda for the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October for approval; the approval of the construction contract and the Garver contract associated with that project for onsite observation and construction admin. If passed by council, Garver will get those contracts executed. They are planning to start in the spring of 2025.

**VBT HANGAR ACCESS ROAD (ADA GRANT)**

This project officially started on September 20<sup>th</sup>. They have a 45-day contract time for completion or the first of November. This might change some depending on the city's in-kind services. Some of Sy-Con's work needs the city work to be completed before they can finish. They cut both roads to subgrade and have been evaluated for additional earthwork requirements. They have a little more to do.

**VBT PARKING APRON – FUEL FARM (ADA GRANT)**

This project is paused until the Access Road is completed to see where our budget numbers land for city funding availability. Mr. Maestri says he is preliminarily targeting design to start in early 2025, construction in the summer, and completion by the end of 2025.

**B. Updates from the Field – *Kelly Deeds – Summit Aviation***

- Kelly Deeds will give updates from Summit Aviation

In August there were 3100 operations but dropped to 2700 operations in September. Fuel Sales over the prior year are up 14% across the board. Year to date, Summit is tracking 30% above last year.

**C. City of Bentonville Updates – *Dennis Birge, Transportation Director***

- Airport Manager Position and New Board Seat

Dennis Birge introduced Dan Weese as the Deputy Director of Transportation. On the city side, they have items going before city council such as the bid award for APAC for Taxiway B, with a change order also. Also, Garver's work order issued to take care of that project. Additionally, change order 3 for the access road for some water and sewer relocation items. If that change order goes through, SyCon would take that work on. The city, the mayor, and the Superintendent of Schools are having conversations about the Ignite location. Mr. Birge also said that he had several lease agreements that he will be looking at in the next couple of weeks. .

- Chairman Baldwin asked for an update on the new Airport Manager. Mr. Birge reported that they had several applicants. They did make an offer and it was accepted. Mr. Mark Slaughter will be our new Airport Manager starting on October 21, 2024. Congratulations were given to Mr. Slaughter. This will open a new spot on the Airport

Advisory Board that will need to be filled, in addition to Dr. Ham's position. A selection committee will review applicants for the board positions and the committee will send their top selections to the mayor, and the mayor will make the final decision for those two positions. Mr. Baldwin said he would be glad to sit in on the selection committee.

- Military Installation Update  
There was no update this month.

**V. Other Business:**

**A. Projects and Priorities – Brian Baldwin, Chairman**

- Chairman Baldwin said that our CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) is due in November. A copy was put up on the screen and Chris went over the highlights for the next five years. He explained that the airport is required by the FAA to keep up with the CIP for projects using federal funding. This is so the FAA can plan the amount of money they need to have in place as we step through improvements at the airport. Discussion followed.
- The Up.Summit was discussed. Mr. Baldwin gave thanks to Mr. Deed's team who helped in a big way. Comments about the event included: Well organized, the transportation was spectacular, impressive, and the numbers were incredible. It was estimated there were twelve thousand visitors on Community Day, but they stopped counting at ten thousand. The board discussed a few safety concerns, but overall, it was a positive event.
- Chairman Baldwin said that last month the board allowed Mark Rockwell to move From Box #5 to Box #1, which left a vacancy. Since that time, a sub-committee met together and discussed a list of people who would like to build a hangar. In the end, they narrowed the list down to four individuals and then to one for recommendation. They recommended Alex Hodge. This would make six members in full alignment. This will allow them to split costs in Neighborhood #1, and do so in a harmonious fashion, as Paul Cantrell has expressed to the board. At this time, Brian Baldwin recommended that the city and Mark Slaughter, enter into lease negotiations with Alex Hodge for Position #5 in Neighborhood #1. There was a second by Dennis Cherry. There was no opposition. The **recommendation** passed. Dennis Birge said he would work with the Legal Department on this.
- Mr. Paul Cantrell was asked to give us an update on where he is with the community development in Neighborhood #1. He said that when these two leases between Mr. Rockwell and Mr. Hodge are complete, they will be in a good place to move forward with Large Scale Development. The biggest challenge for them is knowing exactly what costs the applicants will assume and costs the applicants will not assume. After discussion, a meeting was set with some applicants, the city, Garver, and Jorgensen for Friday, October 18, 2024.

**VI. Closing:**

**A. Next AAB Meeting Schedule**

- Proposed Meeting Date and Time: Thursday, November 7, 2024, at 3:00 pm
- Location: City Hall, 305 SW “A” Street – Bentonville, AR

**B. Motion to Adjourn:**

- Rachel Hobert made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mark Slaughter gave a second to the motion. Motion approved.

###