



Bentonville Municipal Airport
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 6, 2025 @ 3:00 pm
Bentonville City Hall – 305 SW “A” Street
Bentonville, AR 72712
(& VIA ZOOM WEBINAR)

Meeting Recording: <https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/miUyUjckKWITscxpv49tvMq3kxcxECvSBOD91ghyrCRQkbS-aNjFvvhbL8IpuRn6Z.20khiqkQV3jFH0XN?startTime=1738875123000>

Members Present: Brian Baldwin-Chairman, Dennis Cherry, Rachel Hobert, Beckie Seba-Ex Officio

Members Absent: Cara Osborne

Staff and Others Present: Mark Slaughter-Airport Manager, Chris Maestri-Garver Engineering; Kelly Deeds-Legends Air Center (LAC Works)

Others Absent: Ginny Lantz–Garver Engineering, Beverly Shepherd-Administrative Assistant

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

Brian Baldwin welcomed everyone to the meeting and led the room in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Approval of Minutes:

- December 12, 2024 – Approval of Meeting Minutes
Dennis Cherry moved to approve the December 12, 2024, Minutes. Rachel Hobert gave a second. Motion approved.
- January 9, 2025 – Meeting Canceled Due to Weather

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

- Status Report
Robin Fields appeared and gave his report. There were fewer birds in the last two months than when the program was started. The coyote was seen ten days ago and chased off. Maverick is in good health and loves his job.

IV. New Business:

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

- Current Airport Projects

Runway Widening Project: The grant closeout package for the original construction grant from 2020 was submitted to the FAA. They are awaiting comments. The second grant closeout from 2024 to cover the lighting is left. He will review it before sending it on to Mark Slaughter for signatures and get it to the FAA.

East Taxiway – Phase II: This is an FAA-funded construction that will take place this summer. They are working with APAC to get a start date. It is a 90-day construction project that will affect some runway operations. Chris will talk about this more as the project progresses.

Hangar Access Road: Some progress has been made. This week base rock is being put down on the two east-west access road connectors. The main wait is on the city side since we have hit

winter weather and they are busy with that. Excavation work still needs to be done further to the south before Sycon can finish the rest of its scope next to the Summit Hangar.

East Parking Apron: Chris Maestri and Mark Slaughter met yesterday to go over this project in more detail. It is on pause until the Access Road project is completed to know exactly what our airport budget looks like before we dedicate specific city cash to the project. We are considering in-kind services like we are using on the Access Road. Nothing is concrete at this point, but there are other options for getting the project moving forward this year with some additional state money. Mr. Slaughter said his goal is to lay all pavement at one time and then come back with the tanks when we figure out how to fund the fuel farm. He said it would be cheaper this way. It is still being discussed.

B. Updates from the Field – Kelly Deeds – Legends Air Center

- Status Report

Summit is now Legends Air Center. It is official. All the paperwork has been submitted to the FAA and waiting for comments back.

Kelly reported that January was a good month for them. The fuel business was up 61% over January of 2024 with Jet A up 80% over last year. Rental operations were up 25% in total. They did 1980 operations off the airport.

In 2024, 100 low lead and Jet A fuels were both up 35% with 455,000 gallons total. This year they are projecting 550,000 to 560,000 gallons in total if the current trends hold. Plane rentals were up 38% and total operations were over 29,000.

C. City of Bentonville Updates – Mark Slaughter, Airport Manager

- Lease for 2500 SW Aviation Street w/Bentonville Public Schools
Ignite Aviation Program - *Update*

Mark Slaughter reported that the lease was signed by the school. Renovation will start in March.

- Proposal for 2510 SW Aviation Street (Open T-Hangar)
No new information to report.

- Fencing around Neighborhood 1

Mr. Slaughter said he would meet with Paul Cantrell to see what they had planned for the fencing around Neighborhood 1. Mr. Cantrell was on Zoom and reported that he thought it was from wherever the fencing ended relative to the movement towards “I” Street when the new north/south access road was completed. More discussion later.

- Mark Slaughter reported that they had a Mayor’s Staff Meeting that morning and he thanked the Police and Fire Department actions during the plane crash that happened recently. He said it was amazing how quickly everyone was there and how they communicated. He said the plane was out of there in 48 hours and both pilots were okay. Everyone did a great job.

V. Other Business:

A. Projects and Priorities – Brian Baldwin, Chairman

- Mr. Baldwin first wanted to talk about our FAA partners out of Fort Worth. Kathy Franklin, our FAA Program Manager, came and visited with he, Mark Slaughter, and Kelly Leeds. They had a positive meeting. She toured the airport and got a report on our vision and where we are headed. Game Composites also gave them a tour. We took them where we would like the fuel farm and where Ignite is. There will be a conference in a couple of weeks close to Fort Worth. Brian and Mark are both going. It will allow them to talk with the FAA and let them know where we are and where we could use their help.

- Strategic Vision – 3 – 5 Year Planning (*Review of Work Session*)
 Brian gave a quick rundown on the Work Session they had since the last meeting.
 1. Safety – Anything that is presented to the Board will be based on safety.
 2. Growth – How fast do we want to grow. Also, how efficient are we using space?
 3. Balance - Opportunity both for small GA and up to and including mid-size corporate aircraft.
 4. Support – From our City, Federal, State, and Private
 5. Business – Opportunity for Aviation-related businesses (like Game Composites).
 6. Community – Continue on a path that allows the airport to be viewed as a city asset that provides benefit for the broader community.
 He then went into what are the challenges do we see as a committee.
 1. West Side Development – Dirt Removal, AWOS and Radio Facility Relocation and Infrastructure
 2. Fuel Farm – Acquisition and installation of Fuel Farm with long-term growth capacity.
 3. Mitigation of the old Fuel Farm – Disposition and mitigation of the old equipment, as well as what do we do with the land that the fuel farm has been on and EPA requirements.
 4. Elimination of East side parking that conflicts with the north-south taxiway.
 There was a little more discussion about this and what we do to deal with these challenges and Brian will work on framing the discussion up with the help of others. They will also talk with Legal.

VI. Closing:

A. Next AAB Meeting Schedule

- Proposed Meeting Date and Time: Thursday, March 6, 2025, 3:00 pm
 Location: City Hall – Council Chambers – 305 SW “A” Street, Bentonville, AR
 Everyone was good with the proposed date.
- A gentleman named Sam asked to speak before the Board. He had three (3) minutes to speak. He was advised to speak with the Legal Department. No action was taken.

B. Motion to Adjourn:

Rachel Hobert motioned to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Dennis Cherry. Motion passed.

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