

County Council of Beaufort County
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**AVIATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF MAY 15, 2008**

The print media was notified in accordance with the State Freedom of Information Act.

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Beaufort County Aviation Advisory Board was held at 1:30 PM on Thursday, May 15, 2008 at the Hilton Head Island Air Service Building. Chairman David Ames opened the meeting and noted that there was a quorum present.

**A motion was made and seconded to accept the April 17, 2008 meeting minutes.
The motion passed unanimously.**

MEMBERS

David Ames-Chairman
Pete Buchanan – Vice Chairman
Anne Esposito
Councilman Rick Caporale – Beaufort
County Liaison
Leonard Law
Councilman Ken Heitzke – Town of Hilton
Head Liaison
Dick Warden
Ross Sanders
Dan Lynch
Jared Newman
Harvey Ewing

MEMBERS ABSENT

John Curry

STAFF

Paul Andres – Airport Director
Larry Yeager – Operations Chief
Mary Sieger – Fiscal Technician

GUESTS

Charlie Reed – Resident
Gary Gildner – Resident
Will Dopp – Resident
Joe Zimmerman – Resident
John McCann – Resident
Dan Davis – Resident
Bill Coleman – HHI/CRC
Councilman Steven Baer
Patty Blackmon – Resident
Perry White – St. James Baptist Church Rep.
Perry Hooks – Resident
Fran White – Resident
Patrick Kelly – Resident
Al Wattay – Resident
Scott Barnard, Wilbur Smith Associates
Chris Eversman, Wilbur Smith Associates
Don Baldwin – HHI/CRC
Ed Brown – HHI/CRC
Jack Schuler – Resident
Joe Croley – Hilton Head Area Assoc. of Realtors
Tom Thornbury – Resident
Mike Bennett – Signature Air

HILTON HEAD ISLAND AIRPORT REPORT

1. Tower Report: Paul Andres
 - For the month of April 2008 there were 4,145 total flight operations of which 2,479 were conducted under IFR procedures.
2. Operations Report: Chief Yeager
 - There were 8 medivacs and 1 in-flight general aviation emergency for the month of April.
3. Noise Complaints & Traffic Counters:
 - There were a total of 12 confirmed noise complaints. One was due to commercial traffic flying the VOR approach from Savannah on a bad weather day. Only one was affiliated with the disaster drill that was taking place on Hilton Head due to helicopter traffic on the north end of the island. Other complaints came from the area of Port Royal Plantation, Indigo Run Plantation and Sea Pines Plantation concerning general aviation.
 - There were six logged after hours traffic counts. Four out of the five traffic counters are still out of service. Attempts are being made to repair the counters.
4. Projects: Paul Andres
 - The tree obstruction removal for Runway 03 has been completed to a 20:1 clearance slope in the approach zone.
 - The Town's Design Review Board has approved the revised plant back mitigation plans with the stipulation that the plant back be scheduled to occur on or after October 1, 2008.
 - The other lighted ILS sign on the general aviation side has been installed and the frequency has been changed for the pilot control lighting back to the proper common traffic advisory frequency that the tower operates on now.
 - The consultant is reviewing the contractors' submittals for the emergency generator project. These should be approved early next week so they can get materials on site and hopefully get it installed this summer.
 - Tentative allocation letters for the FY-O8 FAA Grants for both airports were received this week. Hilton Head Airport will be receiving a little over \$1 million in grant monies for various projects. Lady's Island Airport will receive a little over \$200,000 for their projects. Mr. Warden wanted to know if this included/excluded the Master Plan. Mr. Andres stated the supplemental funding for the Master Plans at both airports are not included in these tentative allocation letters.

BEAUFORT COUNTY AIRPORT REPORT

1. Fuel Sales: Paul Andres for Joel Phillips
 - For the month of April they sold a total of 5,676 gallons of AVGAS and 5,435 gallons of Jet A. This was down 6,600 gallons compared to April 2007. The reason is because the CitationShares are no longer flying CJ1 aircraft. The aircraft they are flying now are not capable of landing at the Lady's Island Airport due to the short runway length so they have diverted their operations to the Walterboro Airport.

2. Projects: Paul Andres

- The bids were received on May 14, 2008 for the tree obstruction removal project. The bids will be evaluated and a recommendation for contract award will be made as soon as possible to Public Services Committee and County Council in hopes of getting this underway with the next one or two months. This will involve trees both on and off airport property. Mr. Warden asked if the residents have signed off to allow them on the property. Mr. Andres stated that about half have signed aviation easements voluntarily and the remainder have been sent to the condemnation attorney in Charleston. By the time they are ready to start tree removal they will have either signed easements or legal access to the property.
- The Mosquito Control Hangar work is continuing. The materials have arrived on site.

GUEST INTRODUCTIONS

- Guests attending the meeting introduced themselves.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance and Lady's Island Facilities: Pete Buchanan

- The Hilton Head Airport is solvent, but the Lady's Island Airport may be in trouble due to the loss of jet fuel sales. Comparing this year's ten month period to the previous 3 years, aviation gas remains about the same in total sales (approximately 60,000 gallons). Jet fuel, however, shows a significant drop due to CitationShares and similar aircraft switching to Walterboro because of the runway length.
- They are hoping to talk to Wilbur Smith Associates about lengthening the runway at Lady's Island as part of the upcoming Master Plan Study.

2. Hilton Head Island Airport Facilities: Anne Esposito

- Five picnic tables were received for use by the general public.

3. External Affairs: Dave Ames for John Curry – No Report.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE (CRC) REPORTS

1. Hilton Head CRC: Don Baldwin and Ed Brown

- Mr. Brown stated there was a small turnout for the quarterly meeting. He stated reports were given by Mr. Ames, Mr. Andres and Chief Yeager and they also had a recap of the emergency training session and a report on the Airport Appreciation Day. Mr. Brown stated that one CRC member expressed his concern about the runway limits. He stated that community feedback was normal except that one member from Port Royal Plantation had informed them that Mr. Gary Kubic and Mr. Andres had recently met with their POA and it was a very informative and well received meeting.
- Mr. Baldwin wanted to clarify the roll of the CRC. He stated they are not advisors and they do not make recommendations. He stated the CRC was created by the Aviation Advisory Board to provide another means of

sharing information about the airport with the community and for the community to offer feedback to the CRC and to the Aviation Advisory Board members that attend the CRC.

- Mr. Ames asked Councilman Rick Caporale to summarize the email he (Mr. Caporale) had written. Councilman Caporale stated the 5 points he made in his email were:
 - 1) CRC needs to do a better job of setting agendas that include any and all recommendations that may be forthcoming from the Aviation Advisory Board to the County Council.
 - 2) The CRC could probably do a better job of noting the content of community feedback and of providing the Aviation Advisory Board with an accurate statement of the feedback received at CRC meetings.
 - 3) The Aviation Advisory Board probably needs to do a better job of incorporating the feedback received from the CRC into its recommendations(s) to County Council so that Council is aware of the community input.
 - 4) The Aviation Advisory Board needs to do a better job of maintaining a direct line of communication with County Council regarding the recommendations and advice it has to offer. All future communiqués need to go directly to County Council Secretary Sue Rainey.
 - 5) Everyone, including the County Council, needs to do a better job of clarifying the relationship, roles, and responsibilities of the CRC, Aviation Advisory Board and County Council as they are not perceived clearly or correctly at the present time.

Councilman Caporale concluded by stating all of these problems are manageable. An open discuss was then held concerning these issues.

2. Lady's Island CRC: No meeting and nothing to report.

HILTON HEAD ISLAND CRC ISSUE UPDATE

- Paul Andres stated the Broad Creek Visual Approach for the Hilton Head Island Airport is still on track for a July 31, 2008 publication date.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Noise Abatement Signs: Paul Andres
 - They are in the process of locating the underground utilities off either end of the runway to make sure none of the utilities are cut during the installation of signs. Once these locations are marked, they will be ready to install the signs.
2. Hilton Head Island Master Plan: Paul Andres
 - The proposals from consultants are due on May 22, 2008.
3. Weight Limitations: David Ames
 - Mr. Ames stated he had prepared comments for the County Council and that Councilman Baer had responded with his thoughts. Mr. Ames

thanked Mr. Baldwin for working with Councilman Baer on some of the technical issues. Councilman Baer stated the CRC and the Aviation Advisory Board could not have been more cooperative in this matter.

4. Lady's Island Airport Hangar Development: Pete Buchanan
 - Mr. Buchanan stated he had sent a memo trying to get this into Public Services, but he had not heard anything. Mr. Andres stated he has had this discussion with Mr. Kubic. He stated this is being looked into since the original motion dealt with a specific individual and Mr. Kubic had raised legal concerns about this since it involves public land.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Aviation Advisory Board Charter: David Ames and Jared Newman
 - Mr. Ames stated he had named a four person committee consisting of Anne Esposito, Jared Newman, Dan Lynch and himself to address the priorities of the charter. Mr. Ames asked Mr. Newman to give the report. Mr. Newman stated the ad hoc committee prioritized the list of items. He stated one of the priorities is the revision of the charter which includes clarifying the role of the Board. He stated the Board should be defined as a technical board, not a political board. He further stated the language dealing with financial accountability as well as direct and better communication with County Council should also be priorities in the charter. Mr. Newman stated they are still working on the draft, but the changes are very small. After an open discussion, Mr. Ames stated the draft will be completed and distributed among the Aviation Advisory Board members in order to give them an opportunity to read over it and then make it part of the formal agenda at the next meeting. Councilman Caporale will provide Articles 3 and 5 of the County Ordinances to also be distributed to the Board.
2. Mr. Warden expressed his concern over the reported losses at both airports. Councilman Caporale stated it is the financial reporting that is the problem, not the finances themselves. Mr. Andres stated that he, Saleem Khattak and Mary Sieger have been meeting with Tom Henrikson and his staff repeatedly in order to reconcile the airport's financial records with the County's records.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Fran White – Ms. White stated the Baygall Property Owners' Association had resigned from the CRC because they felt the CRC was not serving a useful purpose. She was concerned that from what she understood, the AAB Charter was going to be revised and taken directly to the County Council without input from the CRC.
2. Jack Shuler – Mr. Shuler requested an update on the position of acquiring the lumber yard on the south side. Mr. Andres stated the County Administrator is still working on this. Mr. Shuler stated that as of last night a contract was submitted to the lumber yard owner and it was accepted. Councilman Caporale stated an offer had been made to the owner previously and there had been ongoing negotiations between the County and the land owner. He stated he could not go into details because it was being handled in Executive Session.

3. Perry White – Mr. White expressed his opinion that it seemed rather odd that with all of the more critical national issues that the FAA would have a interest in the Hilton Head LMO to the point of sending the Town a letter on this matter.
4. Charlie Reed – Mr. Reed stated he did not have anything to do with the FAA sending the email concerning the LMO. He stated the fact is that the FAA has the right not to fund the airport because the LMO affects airport safety and the general public. Mr. Reed continued by stating the FAA has the final authority concerning the airport.
5. Al Wattay – Mr. Wattay wanted to clarify that under Robert Rule's of Order there is no such thing as "Old Business", it is "Unfinished Business".

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Aviation Advisory Board: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 26, 2008 at 1:30 PM at the Beaufort County Airport Conference Room.

Hilton Head Island Airport Community Relations Committee: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 7, 2008 at 4:30 PM at the Hilton Head Air Services Building.

Beaufort County Airport Community Relations Committee: The next meeting will be announced at a later date.