

Minutes of Non-Flood Protection Asset Management Authority
Airport Committee Meeting
October 17, 2017 @ 2:30 pm

Present:

Chair Wilma Heaton
Commissioner Thomas Fierke
Commissioner Pat Meadowcroft
Commissioner Dawn Hebert

Absent:

Commissioner Major

Staff:

Executive Director Jesse Noel
Deputy Director Ngoc Ford
Executive Assistant Kim Vu
Airport Manager Dave Howard

Also Present:

Addie Fanguy – Signature Aviation
Brayton Matthews – Flightline
Bonny Schumaker - Unknown

The Airport Committee of the Non-Flood Protection Asset Management Authority met on Tuesday October 17, 2017 at 6514 Spanish Fort Blvd. in the Lake Vista Community Center on the second floor conference room. Chair Heaton called the meeting to order at 2:43 p.m.

Opening Comments:

Chair Heaton wanted to remind everyone of Commemorative Air Force this upcoming weekend.

Motion to adopt agenda:

Motion to adopt agenda moved by Commissioner Meadowcroft, seconded by Commissioner Fierke.

Motion to approve minutes of the airport committee:

Motion moved by Comm. Meadowcroft and seconded by Comm. Hebert. All in favor to approve minutes from September 19, 2017.

Public Comments:

- None

Director's Report:

Executive Director Jesse Noel started off his report with announcing birth of baby boy Alexander Matthew Noel. Chair Heaton wanted to move onto discussion of old business with details to work out and that next month will be a much busier agenda.

Old Business:

A) Status on Part 139 certification for Lakefront Airport:

Executive Director Noel stated that the airport operation plan and emergency operations manual are required by FAA. The airport managers are also investigating proximity gear vs. structural gear. Mr. Howard (Lakefront Airport Manager) went to further explain that the airport team is working to update all operational manual and operating procedures, working to actively update them and increasing speed of gate door to get into compliance.

B) Motion to recommend approval of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) 2018-2023 (required under FAA) for Lakefront Airport:

E.D. Noel stated that the airport team has to submit a Capital Improvement Plan to DOTD and FAA annually to show the following: who they hire as planner under FAA guidance, signage rehabilitation, getting master plan updated to increase hangar space, increase ramp space, crack seal repaint, perimeter fence and access control improvements, etc. E.D. Noel continued to update some ongoing airport projects: a large scale rehabilitation project runway 36-L under design by AECOM, lighting volt project, drainage plan, and investigating relocating runway 0927 to north of its current location.

Chair Heaton entertained motion for approval, moved by Fierke, seconded by Meadowcroft, all in favor from airport committee.

C) Status on Mosquito Control Facility:

Executive Director Noel has been negotiating to see what will become of the old Mosquito Control Facility property. Overall, anyone that's toured the building is aware that the site condition is fair to poor at best. It has been abandoned since Katrina with absolutely no service. There has been an environmental assessment performed by company CB&I, which found all previously storage tanks have been removed. There are potential environmental concerns. Executive Director Noel noted that despite these concerns, there is someone still interested to invest in the property to turn it into office space. E.D. Noel noted that a current tenant, FA&A Aviation from Tipitina's Foundation, is interested in leasing the space to turn it into an administrative and storage facility for net ground lease where Non-Flood Authority has no maintenance concerns for it at all.

Chair Heaton stated that if someone is interested in leasing the space, she would like to send the recommendation to the full board and ask for board's authority at the next meeting. Commissioner Fierke expressed concerns of the possible lease price if the space was in better condition. He was mainly concerned if the authority would be getting the best price for the building. Comm. Fierke also asked if there's any discrepancies with FAA and asked if the old tenants, facility mosquito people, wanted to come get their 500 gallon tank, to see if the tank goes with the deal on the lease. E.D. Noel stated that the old Mosquito Control people aren't interested in the property anymore at all and they're not coming to re-claim their tank. Chair Heaton stated that the environmental assessment will help with any liability issues.

Motion offered by Comm. Fierke, seconded by Meadowcroft and all in favor. Chair Heaton further noted that this will be on the agenda for the upcoming board meeting.

D) Status on Lakefront Airport parking fees and airport owned tie-downs:

E.D. Noel stated the airport have run into impediments, especially the area of pavement near fire station to get more GA craft in. He further noted that within this past week, it became a pond so he doesn't know if it's a good spot to endeavor for parking the planes. He stated that the airport committee is not going to abandon airport owned tiedowns, but they are going to do a cost benefit analysis hoping to entice more GA aircraft.

New Business:

a) Discussion regarding Signature Aviation's leasehold maintenance concerns:

Mr. Addie Fanguy (Signature Aviation) stated maintenance concerns have been ongoing for over 2-3 years. He fully understands the budget and money issues. He noted that his company and a previous company have stepped up the plate by being a good partner with the airport. He further expressed concerns about the roof with cement coming down after the storm came through. Mr. Addie expressed frustration that the buildings have had roof leaks since the day they moved in. He wants to get the board involved in this to move forward and he doesn't want to see new buildings get destroyed. Chair Heaton said this was just a short term solution from OLD (Orleans Levee District) and she further stated that there aren't enough professional staffing that's needed. Chair Heaton stated that she will work with Executive Director Noel to find strategies for both William and Moffet hangars. Executive Director Noel will look at all the issues and come back to board with the issues, hoping for November board meeting for have a new "roof plan" to see what we can do about it. Chair Heaton stated that the board will have to look at all of the issues separately because they're all unique and expensive propositions. She hopes to address this issue so by this time next year, the airport committee won't be talking about the same issue. Mr. Addie has offered to put up some money for repairs if the airport team can get him an estimate/quote on the issues. Chair Heaton stated that the roofing issues are priority and hoping to get something going by end of the year. She ended the discussion with the fact that it's definitely on everyone's radar and the goal is to have a strategy plan to present to the board as soon as possible.

B) Motion to recommend CEA with CAF for the mutual beneficial use of airport facilities:

Commissioner Tom Fierke stated that he attended the CAF (Commemorative Air Force) meeting held at Lakefront Airport terminal building. He stated that the CAF wants to be here at Lakefront Airport but they are torn between Hammond and Lakefront. He further stated that the Hammond Airport's team didn't attend this meeting with CAF. Comm. Fierke emphasized that it's in the sense of the committee to cooperate with CAF to make it mutually beneficial for both entities. He stated that the more business they bring to the airport, the more money it brings in for the organization. Chair Heaton stated that a draft of a board resolution will be sent around to ask for support into entering a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with CAF. A plan needs to be figured out how to try to house these planes in available hangar spaces and possibly have a museum attached to it. There will be maintenance issues on long-term sponsorship of this and a sustainable way to maintain them needs to be figured out, especially if it fits within the airport budget. Chair Heaton stated it needs to be an attractive vision and will need security doors or gate system for access. She believes there's a market for a museum and its profit will go to sustaining aircraft and funding the airport as well. Chair Heaton asked Comm. Fierke to work with Executive Director Noel to formulate a letter to go out to tenants explaining what we are trying to pursue and to reach out asking for support or ideas from them.

Commissioner Fierke stated that this motion will be taken to the board, motion recommended by airport committee, seconded by Commissioners Meadowcroft and Hebert.

Motion to adjourn by Chair Heaton, all in favor, meeting adjourned at 3:24 p.m.