

Airport Advisory Committee
October 3, 2019
Meeting Minutes
Concord Municipal Airport Terminal Lobby

In attendance:

Committee: Joe Alosa (Chair); Councilor Candace Bouchard; Councilor Gail Matson; Rita Hunt; Jim MacKay; Deputy City Manager Baía

Absent: Richard Bartle, Charles Gerhan

Staff: Chip Chesley, Jay Burgess, Suzi Pegg, David Rolla (Airport Manager)

Guests: Heath Marsden, Jacobs Engineering

Meeting called to order at 4:35 p.m.

Introduction/Welcome: Rita Castonguay Hunt was welcomed as the newest member of the Airport Advisory Committee.

Approval of the July 9, 2019 meeting minutes: Councilor Bouchard moved approval; Mr. MacKay seconded. Motion passes.

Terminal Area Study Stakeholders: Mr. Marsden explained that the Airport Committee would be involved throughout this process. He noted that a working group was also necessary that would include the following members: the Deputy City Manager, the Associate City Engineer, the Economic Development Director, a City Planning Representative, a NH Fish & Game rep., someone from the NH Bureau of Aeronautics, Concord Aviation Services, the Regional Planning Commission and Jacobs. This group would also require a representative from the Airport Advisory Committee. Ms. Hunt and Councilor Bouchard volunteered to serve on the working group.

The committee voted unanimously to appoint both Ms. Hunt and Councilor Bouchard.

Wings and Wheels Update: Mr. Rolla stated that the event drew an estimated 4,000 people. He complimented and thanked the City—particularly the Parks and Recreation Department and the Public Information Officer—for their assistance.

Mr. Rolla noted that he would have liked greater participation from the Concord-based flying community. He suggested that next year the event may wish to include some seminars on topics that would be attractive to pilots in addition to the other activities.

Ms. Pegg asked whether the 5K was coming back. Mr. Rolla stated that if someone would manage that element it could. However, he noted that requests to likely local promoters such as Runner's Alley and Millennium Running have been declined in the past.

Mr. Rolla added that the event would benefit with having an organization that has more event management experience being involved. Certain details such as the inclusion of baby changing stations and some parking arrangements were overlooked in the planning of this year's function and became challenging during the course of the day. Ms. Pegg suggested Intown Concord. She was going to provide Mr. Rolla with the Executive Director's contact info.

Old Business

Faust Electrical Connection: Mr. Baía provided the committee with an update on the July 2019 request by Mr. Stan Faust. He noted that since the last advisory committee meeting, the Condo board for the private hangars had opted to rescind Mr. Faust's authorization to pursue his electrical modification.

National Guard: Mr. Baía noted that the City had issued a Purchase and Sales Agreement several months ago to the Adjutant General but that the General's Department has yet to sign and return it. Apparently it has been held up in Legal review. In the interim, the City and Adjutant General's staff have met with the NH Bureau of Aeronautics to review the checklist for acquisition of the property.

Airport Activity: Mr. Rolla gave the committee an update on overall aviation activity both locally and nationally. He noted that Concord's fuel sales have been relatively flat due to the loss of the September NASCAR race which historically would have consumed two 8,000 gallon loads of fuel in that month.

Mr. Rolla revisited the capital project to extend the main runway. He cited the market limitations on the airport due to the practical length of the runway. He indicated that if the City wants to build on the great projects such as the recent taxiway reconstruction and lighting, the runway extension should be the next step.

Mr. Rolla complimented the committee and the City staff. He stated that the relationship between the airport and the City is the best it's been in his 26 years as FBO.

Councilor Bouchard asked about the numbers of based aircraft. Mr. Rolla stated that at its peak earlier this year, there were 92. In his tenure at the airport, the highest number he can recall is 115. The lowest was around 70.

Councilor Matson asked what length of new runway would be needed to make Concord more competitive. Mr. Rolla stated that the goal would be to get to 7,200 total feet meaning we would need to add about 1,200 additional feet to the existing main runway.

Mr. Baía distributed copies of the revised airport advisory committee ordinance which increased the committee size by one in the general public category. Councilor Bouchard asked what category remained unfilled. Mr. Baía responded that it was the neighborhood resident and he welcomed the Councilors to submit a name of someone in either of their wards that might be a good fit.

New Business: None

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully,

Carlos P. Baía