

**COBB COUNTY AIRPORT - MCCOLLUM FIELD**  
**AIRPORT STRATEGIC PLANNING BOARD**  
(AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD)

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**December 14, 2020 – 4:00 P.M.**  
**Virtual WebEx Meeting**

**Present of the Board:**

Chip Kaczynski, District III, Chair  
Roger Taylor, Pilots, Vice-Chair  
Clark Hungerford, Development Authority  
David Kucko, Hawthorne Global Aviation  
C.B. Fair, District I  
JoAnn Birrell, Commissioner BOC

**Representing Cobb County:**

Karl Von Hagel, Airport Manager

**Absent of the Board:**

Mitch Rivera, District II, Secretary  
Derek Easterling, Mayor Kennesaw  
Charmaine Chin, District IV  
James Boyle, Chairman Appt.  
Alisha Smith, Town Center Area CID

**I. Call to Order:**

Von Hagel began briefing the Members at 4:10 pm without a quorum. A quorum was available at 4:20 pm as additional Members were able to log in.

**II. Airport Board Business:**

- a. **October Minutes** - Von Hagel presented the minutes from the October 5, 2020 board meeting. Motion made by Mr. Kaczynski to approve, seconded by Mr. Taylor, all members in favor.
- b. **New Member Introduction** – Von Hagel introduced Dave Kucko, general manager of Hawthorne, as the replacement for Chad Fulcher as the FBO Member. Fulcher has pursued a career opportunity at another airport.
- c. **Review Member Term Expirations** – Von Hagel explained that if a Members term is expiring at the end of the month, they are to continue to serve as normal into the next term until they are replaced or reappointed by their appointing entity.
- d. **2021 Meeting Calendar** – Von Hagel presented the proposed 2021 Meeting Calendar. Motion made by Mr. Kaczynski to approve, seconded by Mr. Taylor, all members in favor.

**III. General Status Report:**

- a. **Airport** –
  1. **Aviation Park** – Von Hagel reported that the Town Center Community Alliance had installed a Beechcraft Musketeer on a pedestal at Aviation Park. The Alliance continues to make aviation improvements to the park creating an inviting place for the public to watch aircraft operations.

2. **Atlanta Gas Light Pipeline** – Von Hagel reported that the Board of Commissioners approved AGL’s request for a pipeline easement on the west end of airport property under the runway 9 approach on the leasehold of SiteOne and work has proceeded without incident.
3. **Marietta Auto Sales** – Von Hagel reported that the Board of Commissioners approved the lease for leasing 2 acres of adjoining airport property behind the parcel on Barrett Lakes Blvd for overflow storage of automobiles.
4. **Air Traffic Review** - Von Hagel reviewed Air Traffic and Customs Facility activity. RYY is the 3<sup>rd</sup> busiest airport in the State of Georgia over the last 6 months, up from its usual placement as 5<sup>th</sup> busiest. Training activity appears to be the primary reason for the traffic growth. The IFR count that has been traditionally used as a measure of business traffic on the airport is losing its value as a barometer of that activity as the training traffic increase has likely caused IFR activity to increase disproportionately. Von Hagel will work with Kucko to develop a better indicator of business activity. Customs activity is showing signs of slowly returning.

**b. Hawthorne Global Aviation Services –**

1. **New Based Aircraft** – Kucko reported that a new Group III Global 5500 has based on the airport, and an existing tenant has acquired an additional Falcon 7X to his fleet. Both these aircraft are Group III. There are inquiries from other Group III aircraft. October was busiest month other than Super Bowl for Hawthorne and November/December are providing a strong finish to the year.

**IV. Old Business:**

- a. **Environmental Assessment / Permitting** – Von Hagel shared that the airport is still waiting for the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to be approved by the FAA. The FONSI sign off continues to be expected soon. Von Hagel is negotiating the scope and fee for the next environmental step, Environmental Permitting, for the projects outlined in the Environmental Assessment. Von Hagel is targeting January for approval of the Consultant Agreement and the corresponding Grant Agreement.
- b. **Taxiway A Relocation Project / Modification of Standards** – Von Hagel reported that engineers completed the preliminary engineering for the 400’ taxiway relocation. The final budget estimate for the construction is \$22 million plus quarry impacts. The State and the local FAA have requested the Airport submit a waiver (MOS) request to the FAA for consideration to construct the future Taxiway A closer to the runway and avoid the quarry impacts and corresponding bridge. Von Hagel is negotiating the scope and fee and is targeting January for approval of the Consultant Agreement and the corresponding Grant Agreement.

- c. **Additional Hangar Opportunities** – Von Hagel reviewed the current status of the three locations being pursued for additional hangars. Von Hagel reported that a Scope and Fee is being negotiated for the design and bidding of the Southeast Hangar Site adjacent to the future ARFF Site. The State will consider construction grant funding if funding is available at the end of the year. Von Hagel is targeting January to begin design work.
- d. **Airport Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan** - Von Hagel recounted the information provided to the Board Members via email on October 29<sup>th</sup> regarding the updated Airport CIP after the October 27<sup>th</sup> meeting with the State. The Board of Commissioners approved the CIP on November 17<sup>th</sup>. The CIP focuses on the Taxiway A Project and the waiver request, adding a Taxiway B Rehabilitation Project, Designing and constructing the southeast hangar site, and replacing the Air Traffic Control Tower Generator.
- e. **Transient Landing Fee Concept** - Von Hagel reviewed the discussion from the previous meeting and then presented the information he had gathered from other airport experiences on implementing landing fees. The findings from interviews with other similar airports and a point/counterpoint document was emailed to Members prior to meeting. Kucko reported that his contacts reported an acceptance of landing fees as an industry trend. Taylor and Kaczynski suggested tailoring any landing fee only to business segments or no fuel purchasers of transient flights. Von Hagel stated to Kaczynski question that revenue collected from landing fees per the FAA must be used for airport expenses. Von Hagel will provide a list of possible landing fee implementation plans for the next meeting to discuss.

#### **V. New Business**

- a. **Taxiway B Rehabilitation Project** - Von Hagel presented the Taxiway B Rehabilitation Project. The State suggested that the Taxiway B between B2-B5 be included in the airport CIP as a Rehabilitation Project. The State is focused on pavement rehabilitation with State directed federal funding. The taxiway has a rating of 65 out of 100 which will compete well for funding. Von Hagel is currently developing a scope and fee with the airport consultant for the project.
- b. **Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) Storage / Airport Maintenance Facility** – Von Hagel reminded the Board that the ARFF vehicle was losing its parking location in a Hawthorne hangar because of hangar demand from aircraft. Hawthorne found a temporary location in a different hangar. The Airport is searching for an interim solution to house the ARFF vehicle until the permanent station is constructed by the Fire Dept. The Airport is investigating adding a parking bay to the existing Airport Maintenance Building near the tower for the ARFF vehicle as part of the upgrades to the maintenance building.

#### **VI. Public Comment**

None.

#### **VII. Next Meeting/Adjourn:**

The next meeting is scheduled Virtually for Monday, February 1, 2020, at 4:00 pm.  
Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:45 pm.

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Approved