

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 1, 2021 – 4:00 P.M.
Virtual WebEx Meeting

Present of the Board:

Roger Taylor, Pilots, Vice-Chair
Clark Hungerford, Development Authority
David Kucko, Hawthorne Global Aviation
C.B. Fair, District I
Charmaine Chin, District IV
James Boyle, Chairman Appt.
Alisha Smith, Town Center Area CID
JoAnn Birrell, Commissioner BOC

Representing Cobb County:

Karl Von Hagel, Airport Manager
Erica Parish, DOT Director

Absent of the Board:

Mitch Rivera, District II, Secretary
Derek Easterling, Mayor Kennesaw
Chip Kaczynski, District III, Chair

I. Call to Order:

Von Hagel began the meeting at 4:05 pm.

II. Airport Board Business:

- a. **December Minutes** - Von Hagel presented the minutes from the December 7, 2020 board meeting. Motion made by Mr. Boyle to approve, seconded by Mr. Fair, all members in favor.
- b. **Officer Rotation** – A recommendation was made to postpone the Officer rotation until the next meeting due to limited participants at the meeting. Motion by Mr. Boyle, seconded by Hungerford, all members in favor.
- c. **Review Member Term Expirations** – Von Hagel explained that if a Members term expired at the end of December, and they have not been reappointed or replaced then they are to continue to serve as normal until they are replaced or reappointed by their appointing entity.

III. General Status Report:

- a. **Airport** –
 1. **Airport Certification Infrastructure Audit** – Von Hagel reported that a consultant had been contracted to conduct an infrastructure audit of the airport for compliance with an FAA Limited Airport Operational Certificate. If the airport were to pursue a limited operating certificate, then unscheduled charter aircraft would be able to land at the airport such as the KSU sport teams' charters. The audit will identify infrastructure improvements that would be necessary and the corresponding cost estimate to complete the improvements.

2. **Kennesaw Strategic Economic Development Plan** – Von Hagel reported that he has been invited to participate on the Steering Committee for Kennesaw’s Plan. Other participants include the Town Center CID, Cobb Chamber, KSU, Local Businessmen, and City Staff. Von Hagel values the working relationship that the airport and the city have together and appreciates the city looking to maximize the opportunities of having an airport adjacent to the city.
3. **Air Traffic Review** - Von Hagel reviewed Air Traffic and Customs Facility activity. RYY is the 3rd busiest airport in the State of Georgia over the last 6 months, up from its usual placement as 5th busiest. Training activity appears to be the primary reason for the traffic growth although Kucko added that the FBO is seeing all around increased activity including piston and jet aircraft. Customs activity is showing signs of returning with 11 international arrivals in December and January each.

b. Hawthorne Global Aviation Services –

1. **New Based Aircraft** – Kucko reported that in 2020 the FBO added 15 turbine aircraft and 20 piston aircraft. January has seen this excellent activity continue.
2. **All Star Game** - Kucko and Von Hagel have started planning for the All Star Game to take place in July. Kucko worked an All Star Game in the past and he expects 75-80 aircraft to visit for the game.

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. During preliminary discussions with the Corp of Engineers for a wetland permit, it was learned that the Corp will require the existing restrictive covenants on airport streams from the runway extension project to be extinguished prior to the issuance of any new permit. Once the FONSI is received an action plan will be created with the appropriate stakeholders to pursue the required permits. The extra requirement will cause a delay and additional expense.
- b. **Taxiway A Relocation Project / Modification of Standards** – Von Hagel reported that following the completed preliminary engineering work for the 400’ taxiway relocation, the State and the local FAA 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. The State has approved the scope and fee for the consultant agreement to do the work. The Agreement is to be presented to the Board of Commissioners at its March 9th Meeting and work to begin shortly thereafter.

- c. **Southeast Hangar Site** – Von Hagel reported that an engineering agreement with Croy Engineering has been approved for the design/bidding services of the southeast hangar site preparation. The State will consider construction grant funding if funding is available at the end of the year. Even if construction funding is not available the engineering plans will be valuable information when discussing possible lease agreements with developers to fund the site preparation and hangar construction.
- d. **Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) Storage / Airport Maintenance Facility** – Von Hagel reminded the Board that the ARFF vehicle lost 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 pursuing 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.
- e. **Transient Landing Fee Concept** - Von Hagel reviewed the discussions and information from the previous meetings and then presented an industry standard landing fee framework for discussion. The framework consisted of no landing fees for based aircraft. Transient aircraft greater than 6,000 lb at \$2 / 1,000 lbs and aircraft 6,000 lbs or less would only be subject to a night time \$10 flat fee to recover airport costs for night time operations. Consensus of the Board was to continue to vet the landing fee framework with the Commissioners and Airport Businesses for feedback and present at the next Airport Board Meeting

V. New Business

- a. **Airport Economic Impact Study** - Von Hagel presented the State's 2020 Economic Impact Study Report for Cobb County International Airport. The report found that the Airport contributes \$129,338,300 in annual economic impact to the community. The Airport's economic activity supports 954 jobs in the community. A copy of the individual airport report was provided to each Member.
- b. **Air Traffic Control Tower Generator** – Von Hagel reported that the ATCT Generator replacement is a project in the Airport Capital Improvement Plan. The contract for replacing the generator was being finalized and work should begin soon to replace the equipment.

VI. Public Comment

None.

VII. Next Meeting/Adjourn:

The next meeting is scheduled is for Monday, April 12, 2021, at 4:00 pm.
Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:00 pm.

Approved