

Airport Advisory Committee
Concord Public Library Auditorium
Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2021

Committee Members in Attendance:

Deputy City Manager Carlos Baía, Mr. Rick Bartle, Councilor Candace Bouchard, Councilor Gail Matson, Mr. Warren Runde, and Ms. Gail Wolek

Absent:

Ms. Rita Hunt, Mr. Jim MacKay, and Mr. Sathesh Mani

Staff:

Mr. Jay Burgess, Public Properties Superintendent, Mr. Crayton Brubaker, Local Government Management Fellow, and Airport Manager/FBO: Mr. David Rolla

Guest:

Mr. John Gorham, Jacobs Engineering

Councilor Bouchard called the meeting to order at 4:35 pm.

Approval of the August 26, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Wolek moved approval; Ms. Matson seconded the motion. Motion passes; Mr. Bartle abstains.

Airport Manager Update

Mr. Rolla stated that he met with Air Shark, a company conducting a state-funded obstruction study using drone aircraft. He did so as part of an effort to better understand the impacts of drones on general aviation airports going forward.

Mr. Rolla noted that he is presently dealing with a malfunction at the SRO gate. He is attempting to fix this.

Mr. Rolla stated that he has yet to hear back to his FOIA request concerning the C-130s that flew low over Concord several months ago. He has heard, however, that they are still reviewing his request. He is certain that the aircraft were from the Connecticut Air National Guard.

Mr. Rolla stated that last week there was an instance where a pilot called in with engine trouble and trailing smoke. The Airport contacted the Concord Fire Department. The plane landed and it turns out that the smoke was caused by an engine that was burning oil.

Ms. Wolek asked the type of aircraft that had suffered this incident. Mr. Rolla expressed that it was a Cessna 210.

Facilities Condition Assessment

Mr. Burgess explained that the City recently conducted a facilities condition assessment for several City properties not affiliated with the airport. He described the scope of that assessment and indicated that if the airport wished to consider doing such an analysis of its property, it would likely cost around \$25,000.

Ms. Wolek asked what buildings would be included. Mr. Burgess answered that it would be the terminal, hangars and SRO building.

Ms. Drukker noted that a complete site assessment was done in 2011 as part of a federal grant so any changes proposed in a facilities assessment would need to consider that all changes would require Division of Historic Resource coordination.

Electric Chargers

Councilor Bouchard recently recalled the late Joe Alosa's comments about electric aircraft. She asked if we should be considering charging stations for aircraft at the airport. Mr. Runde stated that he wasn't sure if we're there yet in terms of need for this infrastructure. If we did install them, he suggested solar-powered stations.

Mr. Rolla noted that several pilots using the airport have electric cars so having landside charging stations could be an attractive amenity. Mr. Bartle stated that there is only one aircraft manufacturer seriously looking at electric planes but he has seen an increasing number of airports offering this landside. His experience is that it is usually a tenant-driven amenity where private users might contribute toward the cost of the infrastructure along with public dollars.

Councilor Bouchard stated that she'd like to incorporate charging stations into the new Terminal project. The committee members concurred.

Wings N Wheels Event

The virtual platform is almost complete. VHB is now linking the videos to the base map. The event committee has a meeting in two weeks to review. The goal is to host it on the City's website.

Councilor Bouchard asked Mr. Baía to make access to the platform and/or videos available to the airport committee so they could take a look.

Ms. Drukker asked the committee if it would like to move forward with an "in-person" Wings N Wheels event in 2022. Councilor Matson moved that the event be "in-person"; Mr. Runde seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Mr. Bartle offered to provide contact resources that might be helpful to the event organizers.

Old Business

Ms. Drukker advised the committee that the City received the CRSSA grant for \$13,000.

Ms. Drukker reminded the committee that the City will be selecting a new "on-call" engineering consultant for the airport in Quarter 1, 2022. She noted that, in the past, one member of the airport advisory committee has been appointed to serve on the selection committee. Staff assumed that this would be the case again with this new round.

New Business

None

Councilor Matson moved to go into non-public session for the discussion of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real property per NHRSA 91-A3:11(d); Mr. Runde seconded the motion. Roll call vote was unanimous in support of the motion.

Upon conclusion of the non-public session. Councilor Matson moved to seal the minutes of the non-public session; Mr. Bartle seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Councilor Matson moved to adjourn; Mr. Runde seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.