

Airpark Liaison Committee
Minutes
May 11, 2016
3rd Floor Conference Room
Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD

Meeting start time: 4:02 PM
Meeting end time: 5:34 PM

The following attended:

Committee Members:

Howard Layer, Chair; Robert Anderson; Rosemary Arkoian; Michael Boone; Robert Gawler; Donald Gray; Keith Miller; Sandy Poe; Nancy Shenk; Jeff Zyontz (Staff)

Councilmembers:

Council President Nancy Floreen; Councilmember Craig Rice

Other County Staff:

Catherine Matthews

Other Council Staff:

Steven Goldstein; Brian Jones; Susan Mabie; Jocelyn Rawat

- 1) People introduced themselves at the request of the Chair.
- 2) Keith Miller described the Revenue Authority's recent activities at the Airpark:
 - The Airpark passed an MAA annual licensing inspection on May 6, 2016.
 - Terminal building construction project is in final punch list phase and when complete it will address all items in the FAA accessibility audit, which was conducted in 2013.
 - An amendment to the Airpark's Environmental Assessment is in process to include the acquisition of additional properties that were not included in the original Airport Layout Plan (ALP). A wildlife assessment and management plan is in progress to comply with new FAA/MAA guidelines.
 - The Airpark will remove trees near the runway as directed by the FAA.
 - A new pilot guide was published and is being circulated. It includes a map of noise-sensitive areas and neighborhoods, a reminder to pilots of noise abatement procedures and "fly friendly" guidelines, and key telephone numbers. The new brochure (handed out to meeting attendees) was distributed to Airpark tenants and flight schools. It is available to all pilots.
- 3) The status of the December 2014 jet crash.

Keith Miller reported that the tentative date for the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) public meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 7. The Board discussion on their staff's report will be webcast when it occurs. The information on the NTSB meeting will be communicated when the date is firm.

4) Comments by Council President Nancy Floreen

Council President Floreen noted that the function of the Committee is to share information and ideas. Management of the Airpark itself is the Revenue Authority's responsibility, subject to FAA rules and regulations. She thanked the Committee for its 26 years of work.

5) Discussion of the Revenue Authority's reply to ACCA requests and ACCA's response.

Mr. Anderson asked for a future opportunity at a Liaison Committee meeting to respond to the Revenue Authority's reply to the concerns of the ACCA. The ACCA's requests and response may be amended based on additional conversations within the association.

He noted a letter sent to the Council President requesting the appointment of additional representatives from Montgomery Village East and noted that Roy Bevington may want to get off the Committee.

6) General conversation

It was noted that there is now a voluntary agreement between the flight schools and the surrounding community that all student pilots will be required to have a flight instructor with them when they do touch-and-gos. It was further noted that this requirement applied to student pilots only, not all pilots.

Montgomery Village East residents complained about increased air traffic over their homes, low flights, and flights at 3:00 AM.

Mr. Miller replied that official flight patterns around the Airpark have not changed and that the total annual number of light operations is down from 160,000 in 2001 to 60,000. He reported that the FAA has jurisdiction over the Airpark and aircraft. Once an aircraft leaves the runway, it is the FAA's responsibility. With regard to the pattern, there is a lot of leeway due to different weather and aircraft characteristics. Flight traffic patterns are not like a road.

Mr. Miller urged residents to report the location and time of any offending fly-overs to him and to the FAA directly (tail numbers are not required for FAA tracking). With regard to when planes fly, the FAA requires the runway to be open 24/7.

Councilmember Rice commented that, unfortunately, there are a few inconsiderate pilots and we should work to minimize that without the expectation that all bad actors can be eliminated. Mr. Miller noted that when he has obtained the identity of inconsiderate pilots, he called them and asked them to be better neighbors.

Mr. Anderson claimed that some airports have required minimum altitudes for their pattern flight. Mr. Miller asserted that the minimum elevation referred to by Mr. Anderson were for departures, not patterns around an airport.

7) The next Airpark Liaison Committee meeting was tentatively set for June 22, given the tentative NTSB report date.

Chairman Layer adjourned the meeting at 5:34 PM.