



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**AVIATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FORT LAUDERDALE EXECUTIVE AIRPORT
RED TAILS CONFERENCE ROOM
6000 NW 21 AVENUE, FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA
THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2024 – 1:30 P.M.**

Board Members	Attendance	Cumulative Attendance 7/2023 - 6/2024	
		Present	Absent
Mark Volchek, Chair	P	3	1
William Gilbert, Vice Chair	A	3	1
David Ash	A	2	2
Kelly Gordon	A	3	1
Dr. Jeff Johnson	P	3	1
Dr. Ed Kwoka	A	3	1
Robert Laughlin	P	4	0
Kevin Macelhaney	P	4	0
Valerie Vitale	P	4	0
John Vratsinas	A	3	1
Non-Voting			
Commissioner Marlon Bolton	P	3	1
Jeff Helyer, City of Oakland Park	P	3	1

Airport/City Staff

Rufus A. James, Airport Director
Carlton Harrison, Assistant Airport Director
Chelsea Jones Finley, Airport Programs Manager I
Khant Myat, Project Manager II
Krystal Permanan, Airport Business Development Administrator
Angelia Basto, Senior Financial Administrator
Miguel Laca, Financial Administrator
Linda Blanco, Senior Administrative Assistant
Yadsel Ortiz-Rodriguez, Senior Administrative Assistant
Katharine Lee, Intern

Others

Michael Ray, National Lawyers Guild
Tom Rowe, Atlantic Aviation
Hugo Cortez, W Aviation
Lionel Leon, W Aviation
Debbie Puia, Lofts of Palm Aire
Stephen Martin, AOPA
Travis Werth, JM Family Enterprises
Don Campion, Banyan Air Service
George Desher, Resident of Lofts of Palm Aire

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Volchek called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Roll was called and a quorum was determined to be present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **December 7, 2023**

Motion made by Mr. Laughlin, seconded by Mr. Macelhaney, to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2023, meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

VOTING ITEMS

1. Public Transportation Grant Agreement with FDOT for the Design of Aviation Equipment Safety Building Pavement Rehabilitation Project

Mr. Myat provided the presentation and recommended Board approval.

Motion made by Dr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Laughlin, to approve the Public Transportation Grant Agreement with FDOT for the Design of Aviation Equipment Safety Building Pavement Rehabilitation Project in the amount of \$87,000. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Public Transportation Grant Agreement with FDOT for the Design of Taxiway Echo Pavement Rehabilitation Project

Mr. Myat provided the presentation and recommended Board approval.

Motion made by Mr. Macelhaney, seconded by Mr. Laughlin, to approve the Public Transportation Grant Agreement with FDOT for the Design of Taxiway Echo Pavement Rehabilitation Project in the amount of \$204,800. Motion passed unanimously.

UPDATE ITEMS

A. Noise Compatibility Program

Ms. Permanan reported that in November, there were six aircraft exceeding the recommended decibel level at Noise Monitor 2 on Runway 9, but none generated any noise reports from the community. Ms. Permanan said in November, there were a total of 43 noise reports from residents. In December, there were two aircraft exceeding the recommended decibel level at Noise Monitor 2 on Runway 9, but these did not generate any reports from the community. In December there were a total of 22 noise reports from residents.

Ms. Permanan provided an update on the status of Noise Monitor 1. It had been inspected and approved by the City of Oakland Park. There was a delay regarding the permit sign-off because the pole had no physical address. Once the pole has an address, the permit will be approved by Broward County and the meter will be powered on by the contractor at which time the vendor will be able to install the noise monitor. She anticipated completion in March or April. The Monitor had been out of service since December 2020.

Mr. James remarked on the number of cold fronts in south Florida this year, resulting in more people opening windows and spending time on their patios, leading to an uptick in noise complaints, specifically on Runway 27.

B. Development and Construction

Mr. Harrison reported the Midfield Run-Up Expansion Project was progressing. He anticipated paving in the next few weeks and confirmed that the project was on schedule.

Regarding the Runway 9 Run-up Area Relocation and West end Improvements, Mr. Harrison said they had demolished the blast fence and were reshaping the end of Taxiway Alpha-1, which was closed. The next phase would begin in roughly 45 days.

Operational data was included in the Board packet. Mr. Harrison noted growth in operations and customs and that helistop use was the same.

C. Arrearages

There are currently no rent or fuel flowage arrearages.

D. Communication to the City Commission

None

E. Other Items

I. 2024 Achievements in Community Excellence Awards

Ms. Jones Finley said the Airport hosted the 2024 Achievements in Community Excellence Awards on January 18, which provided them the opportunity to express gratitude to anyone who assisted the Airport in becoming a premier global general aviation airport. It was also an opportunity to recognize companies and individuals who significantly impacted the Airport, the City and neighbors.

Ms. Jones Finley reported this year's Green Champion award was presented to WeatherTech, for its commitment to Green initiatives. The ACE award was presented to Atlantic Aviation for its outstanding support of the Airport, the community and general aviation. Ms. Jones Finley displayed several photos from the event.

Ms. Jones Finley said Captain Barrington Irving, a trailblazer in aviation and the owner of Flying Classroom, a Miami-based non-profit organization, had addressed the attendees. Mr. James stated Mr. Irving had been one of the youngest people to fly solo around the world. After that, he started the Flying Classroom, flying around the county and introducing kids to STEM studies. He created the Barrington Irving Technical Training School just last year, and the first class of 15 graduated in December 2023. Mr. James said every graduate had a job in aviation waiting when they graduated. At the ACE event, Mr. Irving announced he wanted to bring the Flying Classroom to FXE. He was in discussion with tenants for

classroom and shop space, as well as aircraft for the kids to work on. Mr. James showed a brief video about the school.

Mr. James announced that Challenge Air would host its annual event on Saturday, January 27. He thanked Banyan and Don Campion for allowing them to use hangar and ramp space for this activity. Mr. James said this event was open to youngsters with physical challenges and offered them the opportunity to experience flight. He appreciated watching the kids start out being nervous but seeing joy on their faces when they returned from the flight.

Mr. James announced Dr. Johnson now has a doctorate.

Mr. James introduced Katharine Lee, intern. Ms. Lee said she is studying Aviation Management at Lynn University, she currently holds her private pilot certificate, and is working on her instrument rating.

Mr. James requested Board members allow time to visit the three current Airport project sites and some tenant improvements after the next meeting.

II. Public Comments

Don Campion, Banyan Air Service, said 17 planes, 23 pilots and over 100 kids signed up for the Challenge Air event. Mr. Campion said Banyan Air was entering its 45th year and it is a privilege and their duty to provide services that benefit the community. He thanked the Board for providing ideas and approvals for the investments in the Airport. He noted Banyan was voted #1 in America by the Pro Pilots' survey in 2023 and thanked FXE management and the Board for making the Airport what it is.

Michael Ray said he lives in Palm Aire Lofts by the water plant and stated the planes that flew over his home made a lot of noise and dropped lead. He asked about flight paths. Mr. James described the noise studies the Airport had conducted and said they considered all ways to fly safely and to avoid flying over residential communities. He noted that it is up to the FAA to determine which proposals were mandatory and which would be voluntary. He stated that FXE is the first airport in the county to have a noise abatement program. Mr. James noted that there is a number of operators who use the Airport but are not based here therefore, they may not be aware of the Airport's noise abatement program. He also mentioned that the majority of planes that are based at the Airport do follow the noise abatement program.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING DATE: Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 1:30 P.M.

Any written public comments made 48 hours prior to the meeting regarding items discussed during the proceedings have been attached hereto.