



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, APRIL 25, 2024 – 1:30 P.M.**

Board Members	Attendance	Cumulative Attendance 7/2023 - 6/2024	
		Present	Absent
Mark Volchek, Chair [via Zoom]	P	5	1
William Gilbert, Vice Chair	P	5	1
David Ash	P	4	2
Kelly Gordon	P	5	1
Dr. Jeff Johnson	P	5	1
Dr. Ed Kwoka	P	5	1
Robert Laughlin	P	6	0
Kevin Macelhaney	P	5	1
Valerie Vitale	A	5	1
John Vratsinas	P	5	1
Non-Voting			
Commissioner Marlon Bolton	P	4	2
Jeff Helyer, City of Oakland Park	P	5	1

Airport/City Staff

Rufus A. James, Airport Director
Carlton Harrison, Assistant Airport Director
Khant Myat, Project Manager II
Krystal Permanan, Airport Business Development Administrator
Miguel Laca, Financial Administrator
Linda Blanco, Senior Administrative Assistant

Others

Suzanne Jacob, VP of Lofts of Palm Aire HOA
Debbie Puia, Lofts of Palm Aire
Carl Puia, Lofts of Palm Aire
Tom Quinn, Lofts of Palm Aire
Michael Ray, National Lawyer’s Guild and Lofts of Palm Aire
Richard Haughton, Civil Air Patrol

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Gilbert called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Vratsinas, seconded by Dr. Kwoka, to allow Chair Volchek to attend the meeting via Zoom. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. James confirmed that a member attending via Zoom could participate in the meeting but could not vote.

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **February 22, 2024**

Motion made by Mr. Laughlin, seconded by Dr. Kwoka, to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2024, meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

VOTING ITEMS

None

UPDATE ITEMS

A. Noise Compatibility Program

Ms. Permanan reported that in February, there were two aircraft exceeding the recommended decibel level at Noise Monitor 2 on Runway 9, generating one noise report from the community attributed to a private owner. There was a total of 35 noise reports from residents in February. In March, there were five aircraft exceeding the recommended decibel level at Noise Monitor 2 on Runway 9, but these had not generated any noise reports from the community. In March, there were a total of 27 noise reports from residents.

Dr. Kwoka asked about the margin for the decibel readings and Mr. James said the FAA had set the number at over 80 decibels, and if the operator exceeded 80 decibels, the Airport would reach out to the pilot or business operator involved. There was nothing more they could do. Dr. Kwoka thought the measuring equipment might not be accurate sometimes due to environmental changes, but Mr. James said he was aware of which aircraft would exceed the 80-decibel level. He said in many instances, it was the pilot operating the aircraft not being fully aware of what was going on or instructions from air traffic control due to traffic conditions. He further stated their equipment was very accurate and calibrated annually. Mr. James said some airports had been grandfathered in and could issue fines. Dr. Kwoka noted that they wanted to be responsible airport custodians and they wanted pilots to be responsible, but noise abatement was voluntary. Mr. James stated that when they conducted the Part 150 noise study in the early 2000s, it was to find a happy medium and that the FAA agreed to some but not all their suggestions.

Ms. Permanan reported they had created an FPL account for Noise Monitor 1.

Mr. Laughlin wanted to know the actual decibel readings for those that exceeded 80 decibels and Ms. Permanan agreed to provide them. She noted that the readings had always been under 83 decibels.

B. Development and Construction

Midfield Run-Up Area Project

Mr. Harrison reported all the work was done and it would reopen next week.

Runway 9 Run-up Area Relocation and Southend Taxiways Project

Mr. Harrison said they were now in Phase 3. Taxiway Echo was closed west of Taxiway Echo 3 and Taxiway Echo 1 is under construction for the next 30 days. They would then move onto Phase 4, up to Taxiway Alpha and Taxiway Alpha 1.

Taxiway Golf Rehabilitation Project

Mr. Harrison said the work was substantially complete and they were in the 30-day cure period for the permanent markings. They would complete the final markings and do some work in the edges and then fully reopen Taxiway Golf.

Taxiway 31 Bypass Project

Mr. Harrison stated this work had begun and was being done at night.

Operational data was included in the Board's packet.

C. Arrearages

Mr. James reported rents were late for Lots 23 and 24, Cypress Commerce. The Airport had issued a notice of default and if the rent was not paid in 30 days they would send the default letter. He said they had tried unsuccessfully to contact the tenant.

There were no fuel flowage arrearages to report.

D. Communication to the City Commission

None

E. Other Items

I. Community Events

2024 STEMFEST Flying Classroom with Barrington Irving

Mr. James reported that on March 2nd, there were approximately 750 attendees. There was a good turn-out and they look forward to continuing to host these events to get younger kids interested in aviation. Mr. Harrison showed a video of the event. Mr. James said there were over 60 volunteers and tenants, Civil Air Patrol, US Customs and Border Protection and the Museum of Discovery and Science Star Lab also participated.

Civil Air Patrol Eclipse Mission

Mr. James said the group had captured information to share with the organizers. Richard

Haughton, Civil Air Patrol, said the Eclipse Mission had been the biggest mission in Civil Air Patrol history. He reported the information was uploaded in real time to NASA. Mr. Haughton presented certificates to Mr. James and Mr. Harrison.

II. Banyan Air Service and Fort Lauderdale Executive Jet – Top Rated FBOs in America

Mr. James reported two tenants were in the Aviation International News FBO survey: Banyan Air Service was ranked in the top 5% and tied for fifth place and Fort Lauderdale Executive Jet Center was in the top 20%.

Marshall Myles from Fort Lauderdale Executive Jet Center said they were also #6 in the country for their CSR Customer Service.

III. Women in Aviation Interview with Banyan Air Service

Mr. James stated FXE had coordinated with NBC6 News on a story regarding a female mechanic at Banyan Air Service. Mr. Harrison showed a video of the news report.

Dr. Kwoka stated he had recently attended the eMerge technology conference in Miami, and suggested FXE have a presence there. He said aviation was shrinking and they needed to recruit young people to the industry. Mr. James thought September 11 had discouraged young people from coming to the airport and they needed to bring them back. Dr. Kwoka said Diversity, Equity and Inclusion had been a theme this year at eMerge. He did not think participating would be expensive.

Mr. James said he and Mr. Harrison had recently attended the graduation ceremony for the Barrington Irving Flying Classroom in Opa-Locka. He noted that every graduate had a job upon graduation. Captain Irving had committed to bringing this program to FXE.

IV. Midfield Run-up Area Virtual Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Mr. Harrison played a video of the project.

Mr. James said this project was attributable to master planning between FXE and its tenants. He said the single run-up pad used to be occupied all day, causing delays and this project would alleviate that problem. Mr. Harrison thanked the project team: Khant Myat, FXE Project Manager II, and Cody Parham and Raheel Dosani from HDR. Dr. Kwoka was proud they were improving the Airport. He asked if the administration building was too close to the taxiways without adequate blast shields. Mr. James said they were not, and this was taken into account during the planning process. He added that the controllers took the aircraft position into consideration.

V. Broward MPO 2024 State of the Region Champion Award

Mr. Harrison announced that the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization presented the Champion Award to Mr. James for his efforts in overall transportation, sustainability initiatives and youth outreach.

VI. Noise Compatibility Program Presentation

Ms. Permanan gave a presentation on the program.

Dr. Kwoka asked what the noise compatibility program was costing them in total. Mr. James said the ANOMS system was \$65,000. Dr. Kwoka noted the additional cost to pay Ms. Permanan, maintain the sensors and to “compile useless reports” far exceeded any normal efforts for noise abatement. Mr. James explained they did not want negative community pressure to impact the businesses at the Airport. He noted the impact neighbors were having on other airports’ operations. Dr. Kwoka thought that since the Airport accepted federal dollars, these types of restrictions could not happen at FXE. Mr. James stated some of the airports that had noise restrictions also accepted federal dollars. Dr. Kwoka said the Noise Compatibility Program was too accommodating. He thought they were needlessly spending money giving too many people too many opportunities to complain. Mr. James noted the drastic drop in the number of calls the Noise Abatement Officer received since they implemented the program. He added that this was not a matter of whether they had a right to enforce a noise limit, it was about being a good neighbor, and it worked. He stated this had been a worthwhile investment.

VII. Public Comments

Suzanne Jacob, Lofts of Palm Aire resident, discussed her experience in various aviation businesses. She talked about the prior Aviation Advisory Board meeting and the issue with W Aviation and JM Family that she thought the Board should not have discussed. She said the Airport also had noise issues and noted there had not been a noise compatibility study since 2005. Ms. Jacob said Board members had also engaged in bullying and “Frat” behavior. She said this unprofessionalism reflected on the entire Board, FXE and the City of Fort Lauderdale.

Michael Ray, Lofts of Palm Aire resident, said it was good to try to control noise and to be a good neighbor. He also thought Dr. Kwoka should resign or be removed from the Board for his comments at the previous meeting. Carl Puia, Lofts of Palm Aire resident said Dr. Kwoka had made “incendiary comments” at the last meeting. Dr. Kwoka apologized for having made a flippant comment and for offending anyone. He said as a pilot, it was frustrating hearing about the noise complaints. Tom Quinn, another Lofts of Palm Aire resident, said if Dr. Kwoka could not handle serving, he should leave the Board.

Commissioner Bolton introduced his son Matthew and said it was “Take Your Child to Work Day.”

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING DATE: Thursday, May 23, 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.