



AGENDA
AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 13, 2024
6:00 PM
CITY HALL COMMISSION CHAMBERS
204 ASH STREET
FERNANDINA BEACH, FL 32034

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - 4.1 The minutes from the April 11, 2024, regular meeting, are presented for approval.
- 5. OLD BUSINESS**
 - 5.1 Jacksonville Class C Airspace Modification Proposal Update
 - 5.2 Airport Landing Fees
- 6. NEW BUSINESS**
- 7. AIRPORT DIRECTOR AND STAFF REPORTS**
 - 7.1 Airport Financial Report
 - 7.2 Airport Director Report
 - 7.3 AAC Vacancy (Seat 5, term ending 12/2026)
- 8. COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS/COMMENTS**
- 9. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**
- 10. NEXT MEETING DATE**
- 11. ADJOURNMENT**

All members of the public are invited to be present and be heard. Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations in order to participate in this program or activity should contact the City Clerk at (904) 310-3115 or TTY/TDD 711 (for the hearing or speech impaired). All interested parties may appear at said meeting and be heard as to the advisability of any action, which may be considered with respect to such matter. For information regarding this matter, please contact the Airport Director.

1. **Call to Order:** Chairperson Geib called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. **Members Present:** Doug Geib, Chuck Colcord, Prudence Hostetter, Hugh Giggy, Tom Lockie, George Haffey, and Robert Sell
Members Absent: Tom Piscitello

Others Present: Airport Director Sam Carver, Airport Operations Robert Kozakoff, Airport Admin Dave Broughton

3. **Pledge of Allegiance**
4. **4.1 Approval of Minutes:** The February 8, 2024 AAC Regular Meeting Minutes were presented for consideration of the AAC.

A motion was made by Member Hostetter, seconded by Member Lockie, to approve the February 2024 AAC Regular Meeting Minutes. A vote upon passage of the motion was taken by ayes and nays and being all ayes, carried.

5. **5.1 Old Business: Jacksonville Class C Airspace Modification Proposal Update**

Class C Modification Ad-Hoc Committee Co-Chair Jeff Sluter briefed the AAC on how the Committee operates. He stated that at this time the committee is submitting various requests to the FAA for information in order for the Committee to make counter proposals.

Jim Harkins, 1942 Springbrook Lane, Fernandina Beach, stated that he doesn't like aircraft noise. He believes that this Class C Modification is a safety issue and not a noise issue. He also stated that he believes that TCAS issues are being dismissed and "swept under the carpet".

Member Lockie stated that TCAS issues are not dismissed or taken lightly. The FAA has a process, and they are not "swept under the carpet".

6. **6.1 New Business: Vector Airport Systems, Presentation: Airport Landing Fees**

Airport Director Sam Carver briefed the AAC on the recent history of landing fees at GAA airports and why FHB is considering them. He then introduced Helena Glenn from Vector Airport Systems, PLANE PASS, who then gave the AAC a presentation.

Helena Glenn gave a comprehensive briefing on how landing fees at GAA airports can help with the cost of airport maintenance and help with safety issues. She told how Virtower Inc. is a partner in the process. PLANEPASS is the automated landing fee process component. There are now approximately 70 GAA airports nationwide using PLANEPASS. She also told how the fees are counted and collected via FAA guidelines.

Several questions were asked by AAC members which were satisfactorily answered by Helena Glenn.

The floor was opened for comments from the public:

Vicki Somora, 4406 Titleist Drive, Fernandina Beach, stated that she supports the idea of landing fees if it cuts down on airport traffic. Airport traffic has increased, and the noise is unbearable.

Nate Coyle, General Manager of Bent Wing Flight Services, 680 Airport Road, Fernandina Beach. He stated that Bent Wing is a major source of revenue for the Airport. Bent Wing opposes the landing fees as it will negatively affect their revenue. He also stated that the landing fees are for revenue for the airport, but where does the Airport Capital Plan show a need for this landing fee income. He also stated the aviation community, including flight school aircraft, already pays fees via fuel tax which is spent at airports via FDOT and FAA grants. The Fernandina Beach Airport has benefited from these grants. He also stated that The FAA Rates and Charges Policy states that the users should be notified and invited in a process of user fee changes that will affect them.

Mike Lednovitch, Fernandina Observer, 1586 Canopy Drive Fernandina Beach, made a "Point of Order" stating that Mr. Coyle spoke for 10 minutes and 22 seconds and that he believes that the three-minute rule is no longer valid and therefore all speakers should be given 10 minutes and 38 seconds to speak.

Mr. Coyle made a "Point of Order" stating that as a major tenant of the Airport, he should be allowed more than 3 minutes to speak.

Neither point of orders were acted upon by the AAC.

Shari Roan, 1586 Canopy Drive, Fernandina Beach, stated aircraft noise is now constant. She can no longer sit outside and enjoy her yard. She has called the airport to complain, but nothing has been done. She is in favor of the landing fee proposal.

Rick Howe 4694 Carlton Dunes Drive #12, Fernandina Beach, stated he has lived in Fernandina Beach for 65 years and has an aircraft located at Fernandina Airport. He was concerned that this proposal was not broadcast to the local aviation community as required by the FAA. He believes that the proposal is disingenuous as a revenue generating vehicle. He believes it's about noise. He also believes that this will encourage flight schools to relocate to Fernandina Airport.

Don Edlin, 1548 Ruskin Lane, Fernandina Beach, talked to the assistant manager at Brookhaven Airport on Long Island NY, which is a similar type and size airport as Fernandina Beach Airport. Brookhaven has landing fees. Brookhaven did not see any decrease in flight training after implementation of the fees. The schools passed the fees onto the students. He stated that very few airports that are primarily GAA have landing fees. He stated that he is against landing fees.

Jennifer Radtke, 1566 Canopy Drive, Fernandina Beach, has seen aircraft traffic increase at FHB, and said the noise in non-stop. She also said she is in favor of the airport generating revenue from the fees.

Steve Sherman, 95035 Woodberry Lane, Fernandina Beach, believes that the landing fees are a good way to generate income for the airport. He stated that the costs are minimal and will not have an effect on Bent Wing FBO. He said that Nate Coyle missed the point. He believes that this proposal will not make a difference to whether an aircraft lands here or not. He stated that there isn't a valid proposal that shows that it will affect airport operations. He said that he is usually in opposition to things the airport does but is in favor of landing fees.

John Ginn, 4441 Bean Street, Fernandina Beach, stated, this proposal needs more work.

Airport Director Carver stated that this proposal has been presented only for discussion. He did not expect a recommendation from the AAC at this time. He believes that many more GAA airports in the future will implement this type of landing fee process. He also stated that there is an endless need for income to improve safety and other projects at the airport.

Member Lockie asked Director Carver if he could present a schedule for airport benefits from the proposal. He also believes that the airport tenants should be included in the discussion.

A motion was made by Member Colcord, seconded by Member Hostetter to keep the Landing Fees proposal on the future agendas for more study. A vote upon passage was taken by ayes and nays and being all ayes, carried.

7. Airport Director and Staff Reports:

7.1 Airport Financial Report

Director Carver stated that the airport is financially strong and has approximately \$800,000 in reserves. Capital projects coming up are Taxiway A and The Bulk Hangar apron improvements. Operation numbers are shown as down but Virtower has had outages this past calendar year so the numbers we have are not accurate. He stated he is working on next year's budget and will bring that information to the next AAC meeting in June. The Ybor Alvarez Complex update, Director Carver is meeting tomorrow with the EPA in reference to a grant given in the 1980's. The airport has received a grant from FDOT for two emergency backup generators, one for the terminal and one for the fuel farm. On May 25th, Southern Timing is having its annual Run the Runway 5k event at the airport. On Saturday May 11th the EAA will conduct a Young Eagles event from 9:00am till 3:00pm. On August 17th a Wheels and Wings event will be held at the airport. More information on that event will be forthcoming.

8. Commission Member Reports/Comments:

None

9. Public Comment Regarding Items Not On The Agenda:

None

10. Next Meeting Date: June 13, 2024

11. Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Airport Advisory Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Secretary

Doug Geib, Chairperson