

ZEPHYRHILLS MUNICIPAL AIRPORT BOARD MEETING

February 19th, 2024

A Regular Airport Advisory Board meeting was held on February 19th, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. in the City of Zephyrhills Council Chambers. Bill Castle called the meeting to order. The members present were Bill Castle, Buzz Hohmann, Matthew Laseter, Robert Page, David Inman and Erik Meredith. Dan Evans was absent. City staff present were, Nathan Coleman and Lucy Huber.

1. ANNOUNCEMENT -

1.1 Chairman Bill Castle welcomed new Airport Board member, Robert Page. Mr. Page shared a little bit about his work background and about his previous and current involvement in aviation.

2. APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Buzz Hohmann made a motion to approve the minutes for the meeting held on November 29th, 2023. David Inman seconded, and the motion passed.

3. BUSINESS ITEMS

3.1 Airport Manager, Nathan Coleman started the discussion regarding implementing an “additional user fee” associated with multiple users of individual hangars such as Flight Clubs, Co-Ownerships and Commerical Operations.

He pointed out that Flight Clubs and cost sharing at the airport is on the rise and for the board members to think on the issues discussed and hopefully by our next board meeting come up with an agreed upon fee to handle the additional costs these types of multiple user operations entail. He began by stating the increase in costs for infrastructure and operating supplies within the last year and that there needs to be a way to spread these and other operating costs between airport users. He does not think a blanket t-hangar rent increase or increase in fuel costs is an equitable solution at this point. He reminded the board that in 2016 when there was multiple gyrocopters and trikes being housed in individual hangars, a fee of \$35.00 per month per extra aircraft was implemented. Board Member, Matt Laseter pointed out that the Flight Clubs and multiple users of aircraft, etc., purchase large volumes of fuel and this should be considered. Everyone agreed that multiple users did increase fuel sales, but that additional wear and tear on the equipment also increased. Bill Castle pointed out that if all the rules and regulations for the airport are not being met then this is a problem and will need to be addressed. Erik Meredith suggested that the board take time to think about these issues and bring back a proposed or possible solution at the next meeting.

4. AIRPORT BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS

4.1 Bill Castle noted that the two proposed box hangars were being downsized due to construction cost increases. He said that it does not make good business sense to cut the size of the box hangars because hangars produce revenue and then instead spend those funds to build a new and larger FBO. A new FBO does not produce revenue. Nathan explained that these funds were appropriated by the FDOT and we are obligated to use them as required. He has several ideas that may produce additional revenue with the new FBO.

5. AIRPORT MANAGERS REPORT

5.1

a. **New FBO Project** - The new FBO is now at 60% design

b. **2 New Corporate Box Hangars Project** – Nathan has been in touch with FDOT regarding the Appropriations for these hangars. Because of additional construction costs he is working with the FDOT to find out if we can design and build one larger box hangar rather than the 2 smaller hangars that are assigned within the Appropriation contract. This is yet to be determined.

c. **Taxiway Foxtrot Project** – This project is currently at 30% design phase. Once again, with the finance shortage due to increase in construction costs, the project will remain in the design phase until additional funding can be procured.

d. **Runway 1 - 19 Rehab Project** - There is a request in with FDOT for an additional 1.3 million dollars to see this project to completion. It appears this project will not get underway until 2025.

e. Asphalt condition concerns on hangar aprons. The airport had approximately \$200,000.00 in funding to work on these improvements, but this money was pulled by the FDOT. Nathan is trying to get this money reprogrammed. He explained that the State prioritizes safety issues and infrastructure over other types of projects, such as asphalt repairs. Therefore, it will depend on their decision as to whether we receive the funding. There are also additional t-hangars programmed for 2027, but this too will be determined by FDOT.

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

5.1 Kyle Salvato, new owner of Skydive City, addressed the board. He said because of increased airport operations, they are actively working on more strict SOPS and pilot training. Their goal is to make it a culture of safety for everyone. Kyle invited the board members over to tour the Skydive facility and offered to take them up in the skydive plane.

6. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

4.1 Fuel Sales from the last 3 months were reviewed. No action taken.

5. MEETING ADJOURNED

5.1 Buzz Hohmann moved to close the meeting at 4:45. Erik Meredith seconded and the meeting was adjourned.