

## **ZEPHYRHILLS MUNICIPAL AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

**April 17, 2023**

A Regular Airport Advisory Board meeting was held on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. in the City of Zephyrhills Council Chambers. Buzz Hohmann called the meeting to order. The members present were Buzz Hohmann, Kenneth Leslie, Bill Castle, Erik Meredith, Matthew Laseter and David Inman. Dan Evans was absent. City staff included Airport Manager Nathan Coleman and Executive Administrative Assistant Lucy Huber. City Manager, William Poe also attended the meeting.

### **1. APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES:**

*Matt Laseter moved to approve the minutes of the 08/15/2022 board meeting. Kenneth Leslie seconded. Minutes were approved.*

*Bill Castle moved to approve the minutes of the 02/20/2023 board meeting. Erik Meredith seconded. Minutes were approved.*

### **2. BUSINESS ITEMS:**

#### **2.1 Posada Aviation request for Assignment of Lease from JJ Aeronautics.**

Nicholas Posada, of Posada Aviation, 39514 Aviation Ave., addressed the board.

Mr. Posada introduced himself to the board. Posada Aviation was started in 2018 and has been based at the Zephyrhills Airport for 4 years now. It has been operating out of JJ's Aeronautics building leased by Mrs. Ana Franco. There are now 6 employees, and the company has been successfully expanding the mechanic shop, avionics and flight school.

Mr. Posada talked to the board about his involvement in Missionary work both local and overseas, partnering with locally based non-profit organizations as well an aviation branch down in the Amazon, where aviation is a key way to help the people there.

At this time Ana Franco, owner of JJ's Aeronautics Maintenance, 39514 Aviation Ave., addressed the board.

Mrs. Franco and her late husband, JJ, took over the lease of 39514 Aviation Ave. from The Nasworthy Corporation, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2004. She said there had been some conversation at that time with the current airport administration regarding a 25 year lease extension, but that agreement was not included in the assignment. The current lease is set to expire August of 2031. She has had a successful business relationship with Nicholas Posada since he began to sublease from her, but she hoped to be able to procure the additional 25 years to the current lease before assigning it over to him.

Board member, Erik Meredith inquired of Nicholas Posada if the current subleases under him, Silverlight Aviation, would be allowed to continue to do business from the hangar. Mr. Posada said yes.

City Manager, Billy Poe, addressed the board and clarified some of what Mrs. Franco was saying, as he and Mr. Coleman had met with both her and Mr. Posada regarding the situation.

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Mr. Castle said that the board should only decide if the transfer, or assignment of lease from JJ's to Posada should go forward because the issue of the additional 25 years was not part of the current item under consideration. He asked the airport manager for his thoughts. Mr. Coleman said there is no documentation stating the additional 25 years. He said normally, to procure extra years, there would have been Capital Improvements required.

Mr. Meredith said that Posada would still have the opportunity to extend the lease with the Airport granted he remained in good standing throughout the terms of the current lease.

*Bill Castle moved to allow the Assignment of Lease from JJ's Aeronautics to Posada Aviation, contingent upon the proper paperwork being submitted and the approval of the City Attorney.*

*Buzz Hohmann seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.*

**2.2 ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

Buzz Hohmann nominated Bill Castle as Chairperson, Kenneth Leslie seconded. All were in favor and Bill Castle is the new Chairperson of the Airport Board.

Buzz Hohmann nominated Erik Meredith as Vice Chairperson, Bill Castle seconded. All were in favor and Erik Meredith is the new Vice Chairperson of the Airport Board.

**3. AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT:**

The Airport Manager updated the board on current projects and projected projects. There was some discussion regarding funding of projects and how the funding works with both the FAA and FDOT as well as the scheduling of the projects.

Both the Airport Manager and City Manager gave an overview of how things are going with the FAA in regard to the situation revolving around Sky Dive City. Mr. Poe said they are laying out the various options and trying to decide what would be the best avenue to take that would be the least costly.

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**4. CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

**Mr. Ricardo Foster LCR, USN (Ret.) 4639 Birdsong Blvd, Lutz FL 33559 addressed the board.**

Mr. Ricardo, owner and founder of Infinity Aero Club, wanted to connect with the local airport and airport businesses to share with them the opportunity to join him in introducing under-served young men and women in the world of aviation. This would be through hands-on instruction in business operations, maintenance, AV-STEM curriculum and flight training in their club Cessna 172. He was able to impact over 3000 kids in 2021. He is thankful that God has directed his path in this endeavor, and he is looking to find those who could help in mentorship and guidance. His goal is to impact 30,000 kids in the coming year. He would like to get find and connect with investors to help with startups in this endeavor and is looking forward to getting involved in this community.

**5. AIRPORT BOARD MEMBER'S COMMENTS: N/A**

**5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

Fuel sales: Mr. Castle asked about the recent lower jet fuel sales. It was noted that there could be a couple of reasons for that.

Sun N' Fun Traffic: Although it was a good year, there were less visitors to our airport than usual. There was discussion as to why that might be.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** *Bill Castle moved to adjourn the meeting and Dave Inman seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m.*