

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

August 9, 2022 5:00 PM - Airport Conference Room

In attendance were board members, participants and guests as listed on the attached attendance sheet.

1. **Call to Order-** Chairman Locke called meeting to order at 4:59 PM; a quorum was confirmed.
2. **Invocation** – Logan Chappell
3. **Review of Agenda.** The agenda was accepted without changes.
4. **Consent Agenda** items were, as previously determined by procedure, approved as submitted:
 - a. Last month's meeting minutes
 - b. Treasurer's report
 - c. Airport Manager's Report
 - d. Technology Report
 - e. Grant Activity Report
5. **Audience wishing to speak:** None.
6. **Old Business:**
 - a. Statham (Secretary) reported that he has confirmed that the tenant whose aircraft we filed an FAA lien against died in May of this year and that we have a copy of the death certificate. He reported that we have sent several letters to the reported next of kin over the past year, offering to be of assistance. Upon learning of the tenant's death, our last letter three weeks ago included an offer to help sell the aircraft if that would help to pay the hangar debt, but with no response. He reported that he has turned the matter over to our attorney and that we are discussing with him if we can consider the aircraft to be abandoned. **Action items:** our attorney has asked the staff for copies of the lease and a few other details that need to be provided. **Follow on report:** as these notes were being typed on August 11, 2022, the airport manager reported that the deceased's family sent out an aircraft mechanic to begin the process of working on the airplane.
 - b. The Chairman reported that the lease proposal discussions with Baptist College of Florida are continuing. (For clarification, the college is currently in default of their land lease agreement with the Authority, and we are seeking to resolve the manner without having to resort to legal action.) The Board discussed some of the details regarding the lease, the negotiations to date and the three buildings. The Board unanimously directed the Chairman to continue to negotiate the matter on our behalf and expressed its fullest support.
 - c. The Treasurer (Chappell) discussed the enclosed budget, to run October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023 (Fiscal Year 2023). The Board unanimously accepted the proposed budget, which will now be advertised in our local newspaper and included in these minutes and posted on our website. (Approval would only come after public comment.) The Board thanked Chappell for taking the Treasurer duty over last year with the previous treasurer's untimely demise, and thanked him for his service term, which is slated to end on September 30, 2022.
 - d. AVCON (removed from the Consent Agenda and placed here for discussion, by request by Statham) (see AVCON enclosed report) reported details on the upcoming terminal construction and parking lot project, slated to be finished by the end of this year. There was a discussion about how to handle parking for our tenant Skydive Panama City during construction; our Manager and the Chairman will discuss with them so that they can continue operations during this process.

Regarding the separate tree removal project, there have been two issues that were driving the need for this long-planned project: 1) bird strikes from migratory birds that moved on to our field over the past Winter; and 2) trees on the field that have been identified by the FAA as within our runway glide slopes.

It had been decided in previous meetings to first target the "rookery" of migratory birds that are inhabiting what we thought was merely a swampy area to the north of our shade hangars; this rookery contains the main population of birds that are causing bird strikes and close calls from low-flying birds. It was believed that by removing the rookery we could eliminate most of the bird problems.

Calvin Palmer of AVCON and our Chairman reported that in a recent meeting with the contractor onsite, they reported that these trees in this area are not just in a swampy area but are in an actual small pond. Estimated costs to remove the rookery would now run "well in excess of \$1 million". While it is our plans to see if what appears to be a dam can be legally removed, by discussing this with the State of Florida, it is clear that we cannot proceed with the rookery removal as planned. We will continue to move forward with the other tree removal on this project.

Statham noted that in early May of this year we met by video call with the FAA to discuss the bird strike issue, who recommended that we consider "bird depredation" by federal permit. At that time, we had researched and completed (but did not submit) a "Federal Fish and Wildlife Permit Application Form, FWS Form 3-200-13, Migratory Bird Depredation" form and permit, which upon approval would allow us to destroy the birds ourselves; we had traded brief emails with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Statham moved, and Brooks seconded, that because we cannot deal with the issue by habitat removal that we re-complete a new permit and have our Chairman sign it, and that Statham submit this permit and other needed paperwork to the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Carried. It was noted by Brooks that we should ensure that the timing of the permit allow us to fully deal with the birds within the rookery during the Spring nesting season.

7. **New Business**

- a. It was mutually agreed that for the time being we move the AVCON report from the consent agenda and place it at the top of our old business each meeting.

8. **Adjourn:** There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 PM.

These minutes were compiled by the Secretary on behalf of the Board of Directors, and when subsequently approved by the Board of Directors (the following meeting) and signed by the Secretary, shall constitute a true record to be included with the official legal records.



Ross E. Statham, Secretary