



OKALOOSA COUNTY AVIATION BOARD MEETING AGENDA



Date and Time:

Monday, June 14, 2021 1:00 PM

Type:

REGULAR

Location:

Okaloosa County Administrative Complex
Shalimar Board Chambers
1250 Eglin Parkway N
Shalimar, Florida

I. Prayer

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Public Comments

IV. Airports Update

- Mr. Tracy Stage, Airports Director
- Ms. Andrea Stachewicz, Marketing Coordinator
- Lt. Chad Rewis, ASU Update

V. Special Visitors

- Mr. Eric Pilsk, Attorney, Kaplin Kirsch Rockwell

VI. New/Old Business

- Request to retroactively appoint Mr. Chip Cook as SME on helicopter issues
- Mr. Cook's Letter - Tour operations over area parks – specifically Bald Eagle population impacts
- Tour Helicopters BCC Item and OCAB Requested support

VII. OCAB Business Items

1. Approval of April 12, 2020 OCAB Meeting Minutes
2. August 19, 2021 OCAB at 1PM

VIII. Board Member Minute

IX. Public Comments

X. Adjourn

Okaloosa County adheres to the Americans with Disabilities Act and will make reasonable accommodations for access to this meeting upon request. Please call the Airport Director's Office at (850) 651-7160 to make a request. For Hearing Impaired, Dial 1-800-955-8771 (TDD), and 1-800-955-8770 (Voice). Requests must be received at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting in order for Okaloosa County to provide the requested service.

Meeting Minutes
Okaloosa County Aviation Board

Monday, June 14, 2021

1:00 PM

Board Members in Attendance:

Seat 1 Mr. Dick Russell	Seat 2 BG Robert Buhrow
Seat 3 Mr. Don Harrington	Seat 5 Lt Gen Mike Wooley
Seat 6 Lt Gen Gordon Fornell (Chair)	Seat 7 Dr. Richard P. Hallion
Seat 8 Commissioner Carolyn Ketchel	

Board Members Absent:

Seat 4 Mr. Chip Cook (Vice)

Chair Fornell opened the meeting at 1:01 PM

Opening Prayer by Chair Fornell

Pledge of Allegiance led by Chair Fornell

Public Comments – None

Airports Update – Mr. Tracy Stage, Andrea Stachewicz, Lt Chad Rewis

Mr. Tracy Stage, Airports Director

Mr. Stage opened his presentation by speaking about the airport and the previous weekend. This past weekend was a testament to the airport being in full season. Overall it was a controlled crowded weekend. Staffing is a huge issue across the airport with airline carriers, vendors, concessions, etc.

Commissioner Ketchel asked about the rental car national shortage.

Mr. Stage noted that there is a national car rental shortage.

Mr. Stage discussed a rate adjustment with Crowne Aviation. Planned to be on the BCC agenda June 15, 2021. The rate adjustment will hopefully retain existing staff and attract new employees.

Mr. Stage began his slideshow.

- Over 213,000 operations in May, a 40% increase compared to 2020.
- The Joint Use Agreement was amended resulting in 5 arrivals M-F during the 8-5 hours.
- In 2019 the airport began working alongside others including Northwest Florida State College to aid Dr. Shu in the creation of the Aviation Center of Excellence. Mr. Stage featured pictures of the new center and invited the board to attend the June 23, 2021 ribbon cutting ceremony.

Ms. Andrea Stachewicz, Airports Marketing Coordinator-Marketing Update

- Several airlines have had Inaugural Flights over the past few weeks.
- Southwest's Inaugural Flight was May 5, 2021. Pictures were featured.
- Digital Boards running the months of June and August on Hurlburt Field. Photos featured. Pictures also highlighted the great locations and visual appeal.
- Sponsorship in the upcoming Hurlburt Freedom Fest on June 25, 2021 with Hurlburt Field.
- Sponsorship with Eglin Air Force Base's Outdoor Recreation Programs, advertising with Eglin Life Magazine and a beautiful banner that has been hung up at one of the Eglin gates.
- Ms. Stachewicz asked for questions.
 - *Ret Lt Gen Wooley asked about seasonal marketing and seasonal routes.*
Acknowledged new routes, discussed Saturday and Sunday routes, most of the new routes are not seasonal.
 - *Dr. Hallion asked if we had looked into advertising with local radio station host Dan Diamond.*
Tracy spoke about Marketing and highlighted that his aim has been to use marketing to say thank you, specifically to Eglin AFB and military members/families.
 - *Chair Fornell asked if there is a way to contact new arrivals on Hurlburt.*
Ms. Stachewicz explained that we are currently in a newcomer's magazine on Eglin AFB and would find out more about Hurlburt.
 - *BG Buhrow mentioned that WEAR Channel 3 has highlighted VPS and Pensacola the previous evening on the news.*

Lt. Chad Rewis-ASU Update

- Lt Rewis began by stating what a great relationship the Sheriff's Department has with the airport.
- Reviewed the calls for service, highlighting the difference between the months. Total calls of service from October 2020-May 2021 is just over 16,000.
- Compared calls for service during the 2019, 2020, 2021 years in a featured chart.
- Lt. Rewis asked for questions.
 - *Dr. Hallion asked what happened in April with numbers, there was a significant jump?*
Lt Rewis explained the difference was due to increase in people and time of year.
 - *Chair Fornell asked how do arrests work?*
We do not arrest if you have a made mistake and have documentation.
Tracy Stage: Sky the ASU's security dog needs to visit again.
 - *Chair Fornell stated The Sheriff's at our airport are always helpful, good impressions are important.*

Special Guests & New Business

Mr. Tracy Stage introduced Mr. Eric Pilsk, Partner, Kaplan Kirsch & Rockwell LLP

Special Aviation Counsel to Okaloosa County

Mr. Stage shared that Eric is out of the Washington DC office and we are happy to have him. We have been communicating everyday about the tour helicopter operations.

Chair Fornell welcomed Mr. Eric Pilsk.

Tour Helicopters Presentation

You all know about the complaints, issues, safety.

Presentation Points:

- Okaloosa County cannot take direct action.
- FAA has exclusive jurisdiction over air traffic control, flight paths and flight altitude.
- FAA does have a process for counties to ask for help.
Counties has limited authority over aeronautic access to DTS, Grant Assurances and Airport Noise and Capacity Act of 1990. Very difficult process, only 1 airport has had success with this. Counties can exercise reasonable control over tenants and airport users on the ground. This area is where we should be focused.
- Background on Timberview as a DTS User-operates from Lynx FBO, occupies Hangar for aircraft storage only, current operating agreement dated in 2017 and expires 2049. Terminate on 15 days written notice. Currently operations have been increasing appx 4,400 in May (22/day).
- There is a history of breaches of operating agreement: unapproved use of FBO terminal and hangar, underpayment of fees, operations beyond permitted hours, maintenance operation violations, lack of insurance information, lack of car of premises.
- We are encouraging new operating agreement.
- Other Action Items:
 - Address to FAA in a Part 13 complaint
 - Develop new minimum standards and rules/regulations
 - Work with Airport, DTS Tower, Eglin AFB and Timberview for new letter of agreement on routes and altitudes.

Mr. Pilsk asked for questions.

- *BG Buhrow-How do they get into area to book and also to the flights?
Believe some Golf Carts are used.*
- *Mr. Harrington-Is is really safe to run any type of helicopter operation there?
County is doing everything possible.*
- *Does the county have liability?
Not directly, the county should not have any liability.
Mr. Stage stated more on what the county has done. Letter sent to FAA demanding action.
Okaloosa County doesn't have any authority once it leaves the ground. Numerous complaints.*
- *Mr. Harrison-Politicians need to act?
It has been done but it is challenging, it requires a major lobby effort. It is a viable option.*

- *Commissioner Ketchel-if we are successful then what prevents them or others from going somewhere else in Destin?*
We don't believe Destin will approve the zoning, at the time airport uses were permitted. They are grandfathered in.
- *Chair Fornell-stated we are grossly over populated now compared to years in the past. We have really done everything we can. This is our only action, the max we can do at the moment.*

Mr. Pilsk stated this par 13 compels a response versus a letter. We hope for a different degree of action.

Chair Fornell asked for a resolution in support of documentation for the complaint.
Chair Fornell made motion.

RESULT:	Support of the documentation for the complaint was given and supported.
MOVER:	Mr. Don Harrington, Seat 3
SECONDER:	BG Buhrow, Seat 2
AYES:	Unanimous

Mr. Stage stated Mr. Cooks isn't here today but has worked very hard on this. Chip asked for his work to be presented. I request he is retroactively recognized as subject matter expert. Work was shared and highlighted.

Chair Fornell made a motion.

RESULT:	Mr. Chip Cook will be recognized as subject matter expert in reference to Tour Helicopters.
MOVER:	Mr. Don Harrington, Seat 3
SECONDER:	BG Buhrow, Seat 2
AYES:	Unanimous

Approval of Minutes: Chair Fornell discussed.

Chair Fornell made a motion to approve the minutes from April 12, 2021 meeting.

RESULT:	Meeting Minutes from 04/12/2021 meeting were approved.
MOVER:	Mr. Don Harrington, Seat 3
SECONDER:	BG Buhrow, Seat 2
AYES:	Unanimous

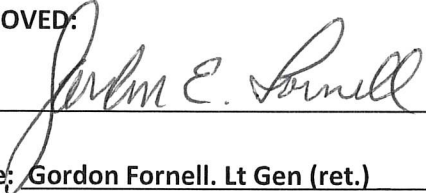
Discussion of next meeting scheduled for August 9, 2021. Decision: Location will be VPS Airport.

Public Comments – None

Meeting adjourned – 2:19 PM

APPROVED:

By:

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Name: Gordon Fornell. Lt Gen (ret.)

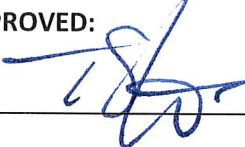
Title: Chairman

Date:

08/09/2021

APPROVED:

By:

_____

Name: Tracy Stage, A.A.E.

Title: Airports Director

Date:

8-9-21

*These minutes are a summation of the meeting.