

AIRPORT COMMISSION MINUTES

August 9, 2022

3:00 P.M.

The following were present for the Danville Regional Airport Commission Meeting held on Tuesday, August 9, 2022.

Attendees:

Marc Adelman, Director	Robert Jiranek	Alan Spencer, Deputy City Attorney
Jessie Barksdale	Fred Shanks	Todd Pinekenstein, Building &
Michael Duncan	Nishad Menon, FBO Operations	Grounds Superintendent
Stephen Daniel	Manager	Lisa Bivens, Administrative
Phil Hall	Earl Reynolds, Deputy City	Assistant
Gene Jackson	Manager	

Approval of Agenda

Robert Jiranek moved to approve the agenda for the August 9, 2022, Airport Commission meeting as presented. Michael Duncan seconded the motion, all members in attendance were in favor and the motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

Jessie Barksdale moved that the minutes of the July 12, 2022, Airport Commission Meeting be accepted as presented. Michael Duncan seconded the motion, all members in attendance were in favor and the motion passed.

Communications from Visitors and Airport Commission Members

No communications.

Topic: Status of the Aviation Promotion Grant

Action: The Aviation Promotion Grant has been awarded by the Virginia Department of Aviation. Funds will be appropriated by City Council on September 6th with the final reading on September 20th.

Disposition: The Apex, NC EAA chapter will begin planning 2023 Young Eagle Rallies during their December 2022 meeting.

Marc Adelman indicated that the Aviation Promotion Grant has been awarded by the state however, the grant will terminate on May 19, 2023. The significance with that date is that all the expenses related to the grant must be reimbursed by that date. Therefore, the Young Eagles Rally and Airport Open House must be held in April 2023. Marc Adelman said he spoke to the Apex, North Carolina EAA Chapter and they indicated they cannot hold the event on April 15, 2023, and they will not be scheduling events for 2023 until the group meets in December 2022. In addition, the rally and open house must be held when the Virginia International Raceway (VIR) is not holding a major event. Therefore, it will be necessary to plan the April 2023 special event after the VIR confirms their calendar for 2023.

Topic: Update on Terminal Artwork Project

Action: Marc Adelman updated the Airport Commission on the terminal artwork project currently underway.

Disposition: The framed images are expected to be placed on the walls the week of August 15th.

A listing of the images selected for the airport terminal artwork project was distributed for the Airport Commission's review. Thirty-two (32) images were selected to be enlarged and framed. PIP Printing has produced the images to the selected size identified by the consultant. Hobby Lobby will frame all the images. Special sized glass is needed for six of the images that are larger than 4' x 3'. Discussion continued. The walls located on the north side of the terminal must be painted before installation can begin. The framed images are expected to be placed on the walls the week of August 15th.

Topic: Runway 13/31 Rehabilitation Project Update

Action: Marc Adelman updated the Commission on the Runway 13/31 Rehabilitation project.

Disposition: Temporary runway markings will be placed this week. The runway could potentially be opened the week of August 15th.

Marc Adelman reviewed an aerial image taken of the newly paved runway provided by Travis Williams, Chief Flight Instructor for Averett University. Currently thirty-six (36) items are identified on the punch list for the Runway 13/31 Rehabilitation project that include the following:

- Joint not in tolerance of 1/4"
- Cracking in asphalt
- Holding water in small areas
- Asphalt needs to be cleaned off the edge of the runway
- Taxiway joint is higher than the runway

A meeting will be scheduled with the contractor and inspectors this week to review the punch list document. Temporary runway markings will be placed this week. The runway could potentially be opened the week of August 15th. The permanent runway markings that include reflection beads and a heavier paint application will be completed by mid-September 2022. Marc Adelman also said the runway rehabilitation project is now expected to be under budget since less asphalt was needed than estimated by the airport engineering firm. Discussion continued.

Topic: Update on the South Ramp Rehabilitation Project

Action: Marc Adelman updated the Airport Commission concerning the status of the South Ramp Rehabilitation project.

Disposition: Federal and state funds for this project will be appropriated by Danville City Council on September 6, 2022, with the second reading on September 20, 2022. The project could potentially begin in October 2022.

The Virginia Department of Aviation indicated they will recommend state funding for the south ramp rehabilitation project to the Virginia Aviation Board. The Federal Aviation Administration informed the airport that the federal grant review for the south ramp project should be completed by mid-August. If approved, federal and state funds for this project will be appropriated by Danville City Council on September 6, 2022, with the final reading on September 20, 2022. It is anticipated this project should begin in October 2022.

Topic: **Status of Terminal Building Renovation Project**

Action: Marc Adelman updated the Airport Commission on the status of the Terminal Building Renovation project.

Disposition: Marc Adelman indicated the contractor is two months behind in the schedule with completing the project.

Marc Adelman updated the Airport Commission on the status of the Terminal Building Renovation project. Currently, the construction work related to the project is two months behind schedule. The FBO is expected to move back to their permanent office space located on the north side of the terminal the week of August 22, 2022. Discussion continued.

Marc Adelman identified the following work needs to be completed for the first phase of the project that involves the north side of the terminal building.

- Installation of ceramic tiles for walls and floor of the new pilot's shower and installation of the toilet in the pilot's shower
- Additional drywall work is required where the new electric panel was installed
- Finish painting the new pilot's lounge
- Installation of dishwasher, ice machine, washer and dryer and new countertop in the kitchen
- Installation of new HVAC ceiling unit for the FBO Manager's office

Topic: **Survey of General Aviation Airports concerning impact of local casino**

Action: Todd Pinekenstein provided information from other general aviation airports that are located near a casino.

Disposition: Additional airports will be surveyed regarding the impact of local casinos.

Marc Adelman stated that during the last Airport Commission meeting it was suggested to contact some general aviation airports to get a sense of how they were impacted by casino activity. He indicated that there are over 1,000 casinos located in the United States.

Todd Pinekenstein took the lead with identifying airports to survey that maintain some similar characteristics as the Danville Regional Airport. Todd Pinekenstein contacted the following airports to attempt to gain related information; Tri-Cities in Bristol, VA, Metropolis, IL, Okeechobee, FL, Dover, DE, Aurora, IL. Marc Adelman noted that one of the big differences between some of the airports surveyed and the Danville airport is the number of corporate based jets and multi-engine aircraft that can significantly impact fuel sales.

Discussion regarding the findings continued. On the following page, responses to the survey questions are identified for each airport.

Topic: Survey of General Aviation Airports (continued)

SURVEY QUESTION	METROPOLIS, IL Municipal Airport Harrah's	OKEECHOBEE, FL Airpark Seminole Brighton	DOVER, DE Airpark Bally's
Prior to casino/operations completed?	No data available	No data available	No data
After casino opened – operational impact?	Increased first year – other casinos opened	No impact on operations	No impact on operations
How long of an impact?	One year	Minimal	Not applicable
Decrease of operations?	More gambling options	No	Not applicable
Other activity impact operations?	No	No	Dover Speedway
Busiest days at airport?	Minor difference	Not applicable	Race weekends
Years casino has been open?	Over 25 years	Several	25-30 years
Primary runway?	4002' x 75', no ILS	5000' x 100', no ILS	4200' x 75', no ILS
Close runway to support parking?	No	No	No

SURVEY QUESTION	AURORA, IL Municipal Airport Hollywood Casino	TRI-CITY AIRPORT Bristol, TN Hard Rock Casino
Prior to casino/operations completed?	No data available	Casino presently located in Belk Store
After casino opened – operational impact?	No impact to airport	Minimal
How long of an impact?	Not applicable	Not applicable
Decrease of operations?	Casino tax revenue flattened after 2 years	Not applicable
Other activity impact operations?	No	Not applicable
Busiest days at airport?	Not applicable	Not applicable
Years casino has been open?	Over 30 years	Scheduled – 2023
Primary runway?	6501' x 100', with ILS	8000' x 150', with ILS
Close runway to support parking?	Yes, due to golf tournaments	No

Marc Adelman asked the Commission members if they would like for the airport to continue researching airports regarding the impact of casino activity. Jessie Barksdale said he would like for additional information to be obtained. Fred Shanks said he would like to survey some of the casinos in the state of New York. Phil Hall suggested taking airports off the list if their runway is shorter than the Danville airport's primary runway and not to include airports where casinos have been open for a long time but no operational data exists before the casino opened.

Topic: **Report from the Conceptual Development and Real Estate Committee**
Action: Fred Shanks reviewed data from the Conceptual Development Committee with the Airport Commission.
Disposition: Phil Hall mentioned scheduling the Commission's next planning session and using this information to develop the agenda for the meeting.

Fred Shanks reviewed and discussed potential projects and ideas with the Airport Commission that the Conceptual Development Committee documented. Michael Duncan said that he appreciated all the ideas being put in one document and he could see a need to prioritize the projects. Phil Hall mentioned scheduling the Commission's next planning session and using this information to develop the agenda for the meeting. Potential dates for the planning meeting were discussed. Phil Hall asked Fred Shanks to poll the members regarding a date for a planning session.

Topic: **FBO Management Update**
Action: Nishad Menon provided an update on FBO activities.
Disposition: Additional information will be provided next month by the FBO.

Nishad Menon, the FBO's Operations Manager, was present for the meeting in the absence of John Earl. He informed the Commission that the FBO is preparing for an uptick in activity due to events at VIR during the month of August. Discussion continued.

Public Comment Period

No public comments.

Communications

Jessie Barksdale commented on a great and informative meeting.

Michael Duncan said a future Civil Air Patrol US Airforce Flight Seminar will be hosted in Danville.

Phil Hall thanked everyone that took part in preparing for the presentations for the meeting. He also mentioned on August 18, 2022, there is an event at the Institute, the Southern Virginia Housing Summit that would be a wonderful opportunity to be informed of the changes in the area.

Gene Jackson mentioned how nice it is to see everything coming together for the airport. He also mentioned that he is frequently asked when the airport will have another airshow.

Robert Jiranek asked when the airport should become a controlled field. Discussion continued.

Adjournment

The Commission meeting adjourned at 4:29 pm. The next regular Commission meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 13, 2022, at 3:00 pm in the Civil Air Patrol Hangar, 424 Airport Drive (Building #500).**