

AIRPORT COMMISSION MINUTES

July 11, 2023

3:00 P.M.

Danville Regional Airport – Eastern Conference Room

The following were present for the Danville Regional Airport Commission Meeting held on Tuesday, July 11, 2023.

Attendees:

Marc Adelman, Director	Phil Hall, Chairman	Clarke Whitfield, City Attorney
Sid Allgood	Bob Jiranek	Todd Pinekenstein, Transportation
Jessie Barksdale	Fred Shanks	Bld. Grounds Superintendent
Stephen Daniel, Vice-Chairman	John Earl, FBO Manager	Lisa Bivens, Senior Admin. Asst.
Michael Duncan		

Clarke Whitfield, City Attorney, called the meeting to order and opened the floor for nominations for chairman and vice-chairman for FY2024.

Election of Officers

Michael Duncan nominated Phil Hall to serve a second term as Airport Commission Chairman. No other nominations were received. All members in attendance were in favor and the nomination passed. Michael Duncan nominated Stephen Daniel to serve a second term as Airport Commission Vice-Chairman. No other nominations were received. All members in attendance were in favor and the nomination passed.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Sid Allgood to approve the agenda as presented for the July 11, 2023, meeting, and Michael Duncan seconded the motion. All members in attendance were in favor and the motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

Fred Shanks moved that the minutes of the June 13, 2023, Airport Commission meeting be accepted as presented and Sid Allgood seconded the motion. All members in attendance were in favor and the motion passed.

New Business

Topic: Terminal Building Renovation Project Update

Action: Marc Adelman reviewed the status of the terminal building renovation project with the Airport Commission.

Disposition: Additional excavation work is needed to pour concrete and install brick pavers.

Marc Adelman reviewed the status of the terminal building renovation project with the Airport Commission. Identified below is information shared with members.

- The installation of the red soffit panels for the new airside canopy was delayed since insufficient panels were ordered. The anticipated shipping date for the remaining panels is July 21, 2023.

Topic: Terminal Building Renovation Project Update (Continued)

- A change order was approved by the state to install a new ceiling tile grid and ceiling tiles located in the vestibule area, which is adjacent to the airside canopy due to inconsistent project drawings that were produced for this area.
- Concrete demolition work began in the airside canopy area so new concrete can be poured and brick pavers can be installed.
- The roofing project was completed by the contractor. To support the installation of insulation materials located on top of the roof, the skylight was raised. The roofing contractor will repaint the interior of the skylight area due to damages that occurred when the skylight was raised.

Topic: Tour of Guilford Tech's Aviation Maintenance Technology Program

Action: Marc Adelman updated the Airport Commission concerning the tour of Guilford Tech's Aviation Maintenance Technology Program.

Disposition: No other tours of aviation maintenance technology schools are currently planned.

Marc Adelman informed members that airport staff, Danville Community College (DCC) representatives and several Airport Commission members recently completed a tour of the Guilford Tech Aviation Maintenance Technology Program, which is located at the Piedmont Triad International Airport. Images were provided of different locations of the facility and Marc Adelman updated the Airport Commission concerning information learned during the Guilford Tech tour and the Blue Ridge Community College tour. He indicated that Directors for both the Blue Ridge and Guilford Tech aviation maintenance facilities are retired military personnel and Guilford Tech averages 150 or more students per year compared to the Blue Ridge Community College, which averages 25 enrolled students per year.

Marc Adelman also mentioned that each maintenance training facility is sized relative to enrollment. However, he stated that the Blue Ridge Community College facility is extremely cramped for both their hangar and classroom space relative to the level of enrollment. A major difference between both programs is that Blue Ridge uses their paint booth as part of their training activities, but Guilford Tech does not use their paint booth. In addition, Guilford Tech's tuition fee is approximately 50% less than DCC's tuition fee. Other information shared with members concerning the tours is identified below.

- Both schools identified that the Federal Aviation Administration significantly influences their program.
- Both schools identified the challenges associated with recruiting instructors due to private sector wage rates.
- Guilford Tech staff are involved with airport development initiatives.
- Guilford Tech indicated that most graduates work in the Greensboro/Raleigh area.
- Blue Ridge Community College indicated that many graduates work in other industries than the airline industry.

Topic: Danville Community College Aviation Maintenance Technology Program Update

Action: Marc Adelman informed the Airport Commission concerning recent updates regarding the Aviation Maintenance Technology hangar facility project.

Disposition: Additional information will be obtained to develop building options to support the Aviation Maintenance Technology program.

Marc Adelman and Todd Pinekenstein met with Cirrus Construction recently to discuss facility options for the aircraft maintenance training facility. Cirrus Construction is presently under contract to construct a 60' x 54' hangar near the T-hangar buildings. Marc Adelman stated that after visiting the Guilford Tech facility he does not feel like 10,000 square feet of hangar space and 2,000 square feet of supplemental space for storage, classrooms and bathrooms is large enough to support a training facility. However, he stated the size of the training facility would require input from the Danville Community College. The city's responsibility is just to build the hangar, not the training rooms, offices, storage areas, or restrooms.

Danville Community College was requested to provide a preferred footprint for the hangar and training facility by mid-August to support the completion of engineering services for site prep construction. A grant application for engineering services to complete site prep construction for the facility will be considered during the August 2023 Virginia Aviation Board meeting. Discussion continued.

Marc Adelman indicated that the south ramp must be paved to support the construction of a hangar. However, the Federal Aviation Administration has not approved funding yet to pave the south ramp. An email was received from John Robinson, Engineer from the Washington Airport's District Office on July 11, 2023, regarding possible funding constraints for the paving project and shown to the Airport Commission. The email from Mr. Robinson indicated that bids for different airport projects have come in high across the country and discretionary funds are not going to be able to fund as many projects as planned. He also advised the airport to submit a grant application for the smaller project at this time. Discussion continued.

Topic: FBO Maintenance Update

Action: Aircraft and fuel data related to the June 2023 Virginia International Raceway event was reviewed and discussed with the Airport Commission.

Disposition: AU Aviation Services will provide additional updates at the next meeting.

John Earl provided aircraft data and fuel information related to the June 2023 Virginia International Raceway event for the Airport Commission's review. He indicated that two more jets came in this year for the event compared to last year. Also, of interest, there were twenty-five percent larger jets this year that accessed the airport compared to last year. He also indicated that the Las Vegas Sands Casino attended the event. John Earl stated that 44,199 gallons of fuel were put into the fuel farm in June 2023.

Public Comment

No public comments.

Communications

Sid Allgood commented that he recently visited Lebanon, Tennessee and was very surprised at the amazing growth of the community. He said that we need to be thinking fifteen to twenty years out in planning to grow. Discussion continued.

Communications (Continued)

Michael Duncan commented for the airport to grow we need more hangars. We need to build hangars and allow privately funded hangars to be built.

Chairman Phil Hall thanked everyone that went on the tour to Guilford Tech and commented that a lot was learned during the visit. He also thanked Marc Adelman for his dedicated work on the projects and congratulated Stephen Daniel and Bob Jiranek on being reappointed to the Airport Commission for another term.

Adjournment

The Airport Commission meeting adjourned at 3:59 pm. The next regular Airport Commission meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 8, 2023, at 3:00 pm in the airport's Eastern Conference Room.**