

TEXARKANA AIRPORT AUTHORITY MINUTES

9:00 AM – Thursday, May 30th, 2024

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Texarkana Airport Authority Board was held in the Jim E. Yates Terminal Conference Room Suite 201, 2600 TXK Blvd, Texarkana, Arkansas.

Call to Order/Roll Call

TEXAS

Chair Mr. Mike Mayo ✓
Mr. Matt Robertson ✓
Mr. David Potter ✓
Mr. David Baumgardner ✓

ARKANSAS

Vice-Chair Mr. Adger Smith ✓
Dr. Robin Hickerson ✓
Mr. Ray Abernathy ✓
Mr. Ronald Bruce ✓

Mr. Rob Sitterley ✓
Economic Representative

Mr. Paul Mehrlich ✓
Executive Director of Aviation

Roll Call: Mike Mayo called the meeting to order. Angie Clinton called the roll.

Public Comments: None.

Consent Agenda: Dr. Robin Hickerson made a motion to approve the April 2024 Minutes of Meeting and Financial Report Period Ending April 30, 2024; David Potter seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Airport Director's Report: The Director asked Billy Mayfield with Nabholz to provide the Board with a progress report on the new terminal. He explained that the parking lot construction has been hindered by the weather but is continuing. He provided a map of the progress. He also noted that landscaping will continue after the July 1st opening. He turned the meeting back over to the Director.

With regards to the solar panels, Paul Mehrlich gave details of a letter from Jason Willey with Arkansas Energy Office explaining the airport authority cannot receive the loan to cover the costs of the solar panels. Mr. Mehrlich then invited Ira Nichodemus with Holistic Utility Solutions to further explain the disqualification and possible alternative financing.

The Director announced the delay in the apron phases and crack seal project due to the inclement weather, but assured the Board that work is continuing. There is continued work on the drainage of Flight Solutions.

A coordination meeting was held with the FAA regarding the Localizer. The design has begun. The survey has been completed, and a geotechnical investigation is currently underway.

In his recent meeting in Washington DC, Congressman Moran assured Mr. Mehrlich that he is working towards including airports in next year's fiscal budget. He stated the offices of Sen. Boozeman and Rep. Westerman are also working towards this goal.

In quick updates on the real estate matters from the Director, it was announced that Mr. Haris with Harvest Ministries has finally signed the lease agreement. Project Paint is moving forward with incentives from the State and pending conversations to enter an MOU. In Project Woods, the airport will be working with AR-TX Redi group to determine the feasibility of the project and we are waiting for the contract to be sent back to us. With regards to the old terminal, an architecture firm in Little Rock is working on a concept for a flight school and children's museum. Once this has been received, Mr. Mehrlich suggested possibly getting funding from local groups or investors.

The Director announced that our website is now live, and the work to finalize advertisement is underway and will be seen on local tv stations soon.

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Mr. Mehrlich informed the Board that one of the Zero Turn mowers blew a cylinder and that a replacement was purchased from the airside components line item out of the existing budget.

There was a discussion on the Canteen's service agreement. The Director explained the Canteen's terms with an estimate breakdown of future concessions sales. It was agreed upon by the Board to provide a better experience for passengers, and more than basic concessions are needed. It was decided to move forward with the agreement with Canteen to accomplish this goal.

The Sneak Peek event coincides with next month's Board meeting, but the Board agreed to keep the meeting at 9:00 am. on that day. Mr. Mehrlich has been using social media to get the word out about this event and has utilized digital invites. There will be a mass mailout of invitations in the upcoming weeks.

The Director gave a summary of his various meetings in DC with United, American, and Allegiant. He stated there will be additional meetings in the future, but the concerns were increasing our load factor and continuing with the runway lengthening and strengthening. He believes based on continued work on these factors we are in a strong position to bring in a low-cost carrier in 2027.

There were discussions on road signage and progress with the city department. The Director hopes GPA routes will clear up confusion pointed out in social media. He said T-Line will provide help with transporting passengers back over to the long-term parking when needed.

After discussing American Airlines reviewing the drafted 5-year agreement, Mr. Mehrlich presented financials including parking rates for the new terminal. Mr. Sitterley made a motion to keep the general daily rate at \$10/per with \$12/day for covered parking. Mr. Bruce seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

This concluded the Director's Report.

Resolutions: None.

Authority Chair / Vice-Chair Selection: Mike Mayo announced that a new Chair/Vice-Chair needed to be selected. It was noted that Rob Sitterley could not be nominated. There was a motion by David Baumgardner to nominate Adger Smith as Chair and David Potter as Vice-Chair. The motion was seconded by Rob Sitterley and approval was unanimous.

Old/New Business: None.

Executive Session: None.

Adjourn: Rob Sitterley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Adger Smith seconded. The vote was unanimous, and the meeting was adjourned.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on **June 27, 2024 @ 9:00 AM**
Jim E. Yates Terminal Conference Room
2nd Floor
2600 TXK Blvd, Texarkana AR