

ZEPHYRHILLS MUNICIPAL AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING

A Regular Airport Advisory Board meeting was held on May 21st, 2018 at 4:30 p.m. in the Public Meeting Room of the City Library. Chairperson Bill Castle called the meeting to order. Members present were Bill Castle, David Ruffle, Buzz Hohmann and Mark Frank. Ron Miller, Rachel Nash and Dan Evans were absent. Staff present was Airport Manager Nathan Coleman, Executive Administrative Assistant Lucy Huber and City Manager Dr. Steven Spina.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES – Mark Frank moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 19th, 2018. Buzz Hohmann seconded. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

BUSINESS ITEMS –

1. Tom Kimball – Autek Spray Booths. Ana Franco, Owner of JJ's Aeronautics.

Mr. Tom Kimball of Autek Spray Booths was present to represent Ana Franco, Owner of JJ's Aeronautics regarding the possibility of installing a type of spray painting area in their leased building. There were questions regarding the type of equipment being considered. Mr. Kimball stated that this would not be a spray "booth" but instead it would consist of two large filtered plenums constructed through the building's roof. These chambers will exhaust the fumes and debris involved in painting aircraft but would not be contained in a separate booth.

It was noted that Hawk Aviation will soon be in the process of installing an approved spray "booth" in the Aerocenter building they have recently leased. Mr. Coleman suggested it would be important to make sure all aircraft painting equipment installation be held to the same standard of specification in each case.

David Ruffell made a motion to approve that Autek Spray Booths could move forward with the process of installing this type of exhaust system contingent upon the Site Plan Review Committee and Building Departments approval of said system and that everything is done according to code. Mark Frank seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS –

1. Brad Cohen – 1755 Florida Ave. Palm Harbor FL 34683 – Hangar 11 Unit 10.

Mr. Cohen has been a tenant at the Zephyrhills Airport for 6 years. He told the Board about two separate and concerning close-call incidents he has had here. One was with the Sky Dive aircraft for Sky Dive City and the other was with the Tow Plane for Tampa Bay Soaring Society. After describing what had happened he said that in his opinion, these two entities do not meet the regulations as set forth in the Air Informational Manual, Section 7-6-3 'Near Mid Air Reporting'. He said they pose a safety issue and that other pilots agree and that they seem to have a "cowboy" attitude. He said he understands the reluctance of the Airport Staff to get involved but that he fears for his safety. Other pilots feel the same way and the Zephyrhills airport has a reputation for this type of problem. Mr. Cohen would like all the tenants on the field to be reminded that Zephyrhills is a shared field and that everyone needs to be polite and share the airfield. He said that unfortunately it is his perception that there are two entities on the field that feel as if they have more than their share of ownership of the airfield.

There were questions as to the specific distances between the reported close calls but those distances could not be confirmed. Board Member David Ruffell, Chief pilot for Sky Dive City, said that their pilots strive to be safe and considerate at all times and that safety is always an ongoing priority. He said that the Zephyrhills airport is a very busy airport, with a variety of aircraft such as gyro copters, gliders, etc. and that it is important to always “be the better pilot” in the events described. There was then discussion regarding the non-radio communication of the tow-pilot for TBSS. Board Member Mark Frank is a member of the glider club and said he felt sure that the tow pilot in question must have been secure in his choice of maneuvers regarding the incident. He invited Mr. Cohen to come discuss the matter and other safety concerns with the TBSS group. He also said that there is great care taken for ongoing safety at TBSS. Mr. Frank said he and TBSS take Brad Cohens concerns and all other safety issues very seriously. Mr. Coleman said that because it is a “see and avoid” environment, everyone must talk and work together but sometimes pilots have different perceptions of what constitutes a real safety issue. He said everyone is responsible for safety. Mr. Ruffell said that we have a fantastic facility where everyone can do their own thing and based on all that goes on here, the fact evidence is that we are safe – however that does not take the place of working to be more considerate – making the facility even better. He said Mr. Cohen has relevant points and that everyone takes them seriously. He agreed that sometimes it is just a matter of differing opinions on what constitutes safety. The board agrees to talk to the individual groups – reminding everyone to be more considerate regarding safety and communication. Once again, both Mr. Ruffell and Mr. Frank invited Mr. Cohen to come talk with them at their respective businesses if he ever feels the need. Mr. Cohen was appreciative and agreed that consideration and communication should go both ways. Mr. Castle thanked Mr. Cohen for bringing these concerns to the Board.

2. FUEL SALES –

Fuel sales were reviewed. No action required or taken

ADDITIONAL -

Mr. Coleman gave an update on the beginning of the Taxiway Bravo project. Board Member Buzz Hohmann asked about the closing of runway 1-19. He wanted to make sure everyone would be maintaining the normal flight pattern during this closure. Mr. Ruffell gave an update on how Sky Dive would operate during this timeframe. Mr. Coleman explained the glider operations. There was further discussion and it was confirmed that everyone should fly safe and maintain the see and avoid policy.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

Susan Stark 4241 Sky Dive Ln. Zephyrhills, FL 33542

Mrs. Stark introduced herself to the Board as President and one of the founders of Sky Dive City. She expressed that she had come to the Board in partnership with concerns regarding the future runway extension. She is very concerned with City’s decision to embark on this project. Namely, how will it

affect their business and future. Particularly regarding the safety of the jumpers as the landing area will be impeded during the construction and afterwards as well. Mrs. Stark stated that she is concerned as to how this extension will affect SDC's business prospects going forward. They are in the process of making long range plans to enhance business and safety. She wants to know what their future business may look like and at this point does not understand at all and feels as if they are in the dark. Mrs. Stark stated that ultimately the decision to extend the runway is made solely by the City. Undergirding that decision, Sky Dive City has embarked on a learning mission to discover what is the City's intention for the runway extension and what is their long-term objective. Is this a runway to nowhere or what do they see the airport looking like in 20 to 40 years in the future? The answer to these questions will affect SDC and the decisions they make now for their own future. They want to be able to sustain sky diving activity in the City of Zephyrhills and want to understand clearly the City's plans regarding this issue. Board member, Mr. Castle thanked Mrs. Stark for her comments. He stated that he shares many of her same concerns and other concerns as well. He said that the Board is simply an Airport Advisory panel and that the information Mrs. Stark has received is the same information the Board has received. Airport Manager, Mr. Coleman, said that he also has been asking these same questions and wondered about the timing of this project. He stated that normally there are 2 to 3 years of programming and coordination with many entities in order to do a project of this nature. He highly recommended Mrs. Stark to come to City Council and voice her concerns. Mrs. Stark said that whether the Airport Board is an Authority or Advisory she hopes they can partner together on a learning mission regarding this issue in order to present her concerns to the City Council and have them be grounded in reality. Another concern is that this is an airport owed by the City and that this a Home Ruled State and she would like to see the City protect the Airport asset for its future whether or not that includes Sky Dive City. She also stated that she worries that the planners may not have the City's long-term objectives in mind. They also may not have the aviation law information they may need in order to protect the airport for the City of Zephyrhills. She reiterated that it is ultimately the City's decision.

MEETING ADJOURNED – Buzz Hohmann moved to close the meeting at 5:28 p.m. Mark Frank seconded and the meeting was adjourned.