

## **ZEPHYRHILLS MUNICIPAL AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING**

A Regular Airport Advisory Board meeting was held on **Monday September 21st, 2015** at 5 p.m. in the Robert H. Johnson Council Chambers of the Municipal Building. Chairperson Bill Castle called the meeting to order. Members present were Dan Evans, Bill Castle, David Ruffell and Ron Miller. \*Mark Frank arrived at 5:40 p.m. Rachel Nash and Buzz Hohmann were absent.

**APPROVAL/CORRECTION OF MINUTES** – David Ruffell moved to approve the Minutes from the meeting held August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Dan Evans seconded. All were in favor and the Minutes were approved as presented.

### **BUSINESS ITEMS –**

#### **1. Mr. Robert Winters to address Board regarding possible semi-permanent “event set up”.**

Mr. Winters introduced himself to the board and shared with them his long time interest in the City of Zephyrhills and the Airport. His desire, along with many other active folks in the community, is to encourage the betterment of our City and of our Airport. He believes we have an opportunity to showcase our airport and at the same time to assist the non-profit organizations of the City. Their idea is to create an event area. With an area like this located at the Airport it would help show off our wonderful military museum as well as provide close access to the aero side of our community. The area he pointed out as the preferred location for this site is south of 6<sup>th</sup> Ave and east of Airport Rd. At this time Mr. Winters introduced Mr. Daryl Pennington to the board. Mr. Pennington is on the Board of Directors for the Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce as well as the Co-Chairman for the Pigz in Zhills BBQ event. Mr. Pennington explained that the process of setting up the previous two events at the Airport had been largely dependent upon vendors he had previously worked with. Then each time afterwards the whole thing had to be torn down. This has not been the ideal situation and so taking steps to secure a more permanent event area would be important to insure the continuous success of the BBQ Event.

Mr. Winters continued that he would like to see not only the BBQ event but many other non-profit events be even more successful, handling even more visitors.

*\*Dr. Mark Frank arrived at this time. (5:40 p.m.)*

Mr. Castle asked the airport manager, Nathan Coleman, to speak regarding this issue. Mr. Coleman said the area that Mr. Winters had pointed out would be a good area to pursue as it is not connected to any future development at this time.

City Manager, Steven Spina spoke to the board. He has met with Bob, Darryl and Nathan and believes this to be a good idea. He said he will plan to take this information to City Council the following Monday if the Airport Board approves.

Mr. Winters shared a few more specifics that are being discussed:

- A 400 x 300 ft. controlled area to be staked off.
- Management and auxiliary would set up in this controlled area.
- A portable building would be set up here.
- 4 or 5 foot Elevated 20 x 40 Stage with a concrete floor would be set up here.
- Electricity and water would have to be installed.

It was noted that the City has a strong history of working with the community and has historically provided these items at other event areas around the City. The only thing that would be permanent would be the stage. These details could be worked out later. Many folks are interested in a venue like this for the City where they may hold various non-profit events. Mr. Winters said that as far as a controlled area to show off our City and Airport, this area could not be any better.

Board Member, Mr. Ruffell said he is all about supporting the community personally and is happy the Airport can also contribute to the support of the community. He believes the specified location would be great spot and they should move forward with it and that the community would certainly gain from it. He said that the financial side of this situation would be a different debate.

Mr. Winters clarified that the ownership of this area would be the City and the Airport and in their view it would only be used for non-profit events. Nathan Coleman said that as long as any structure in that area belonged to the Airport than we would still meet all of our FAA Grant Assurances.

Mr. Castle wanted to know if all the semi trailers that are currently parked in the vacant lot will be moved to the back corner. Nathan Coleman agreed that they will be.

Ron Miller had a couple questions and comments but said he was all for moving forward. He said he wanted to make sure that everything was carefully planned out and that the area would not eventually become such a successful event area that it could possibly interfere with the FAA and future development of the airport.

Dr. Mark Frank said he did not hear any downside of this plan. He thinks it is fantastic.

Dan Evans wanted to make sure everyone would have their own insurance. He asked Dr. Spina if there would be a contract or agreement formed for the various organizations that would plan to utilize the area. He thinks the idea is great and would love to see it take place.

Cliff McDuffie of 6130 17<sup>th</sup> St., Zephyrhills, addressed the board. He did the Celtic Festival for 11 years at the City Park. He says the economic impact of this type of event is tremendous. If we can set up a permanent event area as what is being discussed he said he believes it would be great.

Kevin Bahr of 37545 Sky Ridge Circle, Zephyrhills, addressed the board. He is a Board Member for the Thomas Promise where they feed over 1000 kids a week with the backpack program. They are always looking for a good spot to have major events for kid. He guarantees they would love to use this possible venue to bring in even more people to raise money for these kids.

Dan Evans moved that the Board approves the concept of making a not for profit area on the airport property located where indicated and for the City to further approve. Ron Miller seconded and all were in favor. The motion passed.

**2. Fuel Sales** - No action required.

- Dan Evans thanked Nathan for all the work done to get the barracks open again.
- Nathan informed the board that we have gone out for bid for construction of the electrical vault. Hopefully within the next month the electrical vault will be started.

**MEETING ADJOURNED** – Dan Evans moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:13 p.m. Ron Miller seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.