

HARRIS COUNTY AIRPORT COMMITTEE
June 10, 2021
9:30 AM

Members Present: Randy Dowling, Nancy McMichael, Ronnie Pendergrass, Lynda Dawson, Jim Woods, Phil Eberly.
Members Absent: Andrew Zuerner, Kim Tharp. Also in attendance: Amanda Rosstin (Lead Edge).

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Mr. Dowling called the meeting to order.
2. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of March 11, 2021 Regular meeting was made by Mr. Woods, seconded by Mrs. Dawson, and passed unanimously. (No meeting in April or May.)
3. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **Proposed Budget 21/22.** Mr. Dowling reviewed the proposed Airport budget for 2021/2022 to include increasing the small hangar rent from \$165 to \$195 and the large hangar rent from \$215 to \$270 effective January 1, 2022; \$10,000 for consultant to perform the runway extension justification study, which should be completed within six months; and \$8,000 for a forklift to unload and load freight from plane to truck. There was discussion about the possibility of including the actual runway extension costs in the upcoming T-SPLOST.
 - B. **Freight Program.** Mr. Pendergrass said that he has contacted various brokers about participating in the proposed freight program (unload and load freight from planes to trucks) and has received positive interest.
 - C. **Open House/Fly In Event for 2021.** Mrs. Dawson gave a status report regarding the October 9 Open House/Fly In event. Discussion included that the Army band has committed; that the event will open at 10 and close at 3; various displays/planes have committed; that there needs to be a better flow of displays so the food will be moved to the east side of the terminal; that the Silver Wings has not committed; that the acrobatic plane may be available; that food truck(s) need to be contacted; that the fire department(s) will be contacted; that a new poster will be developed; that Lead Edge will help sponsor the event and have a tent on site; that the pilots do not want to offer flights due to the length of time they have done so in the past, they are less enthusiastic, and they don't enjoy it; that having flights is an integral part of the event; that perhaps reducing the time for the flights to occur (10 AM to 1 PM), providing food, providing fuel, and offering a \$100 discount on the following month's hangar rental might help get the pilots back on board; that a radio station (103) needs to be contacted; that Animal Control needs to be contacted; that FDR State Park and the Animal Safari have been contacted; that the County will provide the tables and chairs; that an ice cream vendor (other than Callaway) should be contacted; that contact will be made with antique car clubs; that there is a possibility of having an ambulance helicopter on site; and that Andy Kober will have his train ride on site.
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Hosting Sky Dive Atlanta.** Mr. Pendergrass said that because the Thomaston Airport will be closed two weeks in July, the sky diving operation that contracts with Fort Benning will be using the Airport on the Saturday and Sunday of these two weeks.
 - B. **Corporate Hangar.** Mr. Pendergrass said there is interest by an individual for the County to construct a corporate hangar to rent to him. Discussion included that a commitment should be obtained from the individual regarding the ad valorem tax on his three planes or future similar planes, charging him a monthly retail rate, and entering a long term agreement.
5. **NEXT MEETING.** The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, July 8, 2021, at 9:30 AM in the Airport Terminal building.
6. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Dowling adjourned the meeting.

Prepared by: Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk

Minutes approved _____
by vote of _____ to _____.