

HARRIS COUNTY AIRPORT COMMITTEE
August 19, 2021
9:30 AM

Members Present: Randy Dowling, Lynda Dawson, Phil Eberly (LeadEdge), Nancy McMichael, Ronnie Pendergrass, Kim Tharp, Jim Woods. Member Absent: Andrew Zuerner. 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 June 10, 2021 Regular meeting was made by Mrs. Dawson, seconded by Ms. Tharp, and passed unanimously. (No meeting in July.)
3. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **Airport Runway Extension Justification Study Status.** Phil Eberly, consultant with LeadEdge, distributed the study form that is to be completed by someone who has an aircraft, and said that the form is needed to justify the runway extension; that one of the questions is to indicate the number of operations the aircraft would use the airport; that while the magic number of operations is 500, really 650 to 700 will need to be shown because some will not qualify, and it will take six months or more to get enough responses; that the responses will be compiled, submitted it to the FAA/GDOT, and once approved the Airport is in line to receive funds; that there is no reason to start the environmental study until after notification from FAA/GDOT; that the environmental study could be 1.5 years; and that it could be five to six years before construction would begin on the extension.
 - B. **Airport Rejuvenation Grant Status.** Phil Eberly, consultant with LeadEdge, said that this project is on the CIP; that the design won't be done until it is funded; that the project will be bid out; that the rejuvenation will not be on the runway because of the type of material/product it is; that when the project starts, the Airport will have to be closed at least three days; that test strips will be required before the project starts; that it will be bid out in August; that he will submit the advertisement to the Harris County Journal and Mrs. McMichael will submit it to the GPR website; that the bid would be opened in the Commissioners' office on September 23 at 1:00 PM and go before the Commissioners for approval in October, after which the NTP would probably be issued in November with the project scheduled for December or January; that the project would not actually begin until the product is in hand; and that the GDOT grant would be about \$60,000 but all engineering costs would be on the County.
 - C. **Open House/Fly In Event for 2021.** Ms. Tharp and Mrs. Dawson brought the Committee up to date on the status of the Open House/Fly In that is scheduled for Saturday, October 9, to include the advertising flyer is almost ready for circulation, the golf carts are lined up, there will not be a bouncy house, a Beech 18 will be on hand for the event, Silver Wings have it on their calendar, the band is lined up, the war bird is lined up, the antique car clubs know about it but haven't committed, the acrobatic plane not yet committed, determination of available space for the Vietnam display is needed, the VFDs have been contacted about food, Andy Kober has the event on his calendar for the train, FDR State Park will have a display, Animal Safari has not yet been contacted, working on getting an ice cream truck (not Callaway's), and the Boy Scouts will be doing the parking.

Mr. Eberly said that LeadEdge will be making its usual contribution to the event as sponsor and have a tent display.

Mr. Pendergrass said that a formation group from Peachtree City is interested in attending, that remote control jets will be at the event, that GSP will have a vehicle and helicopter on display, and that the ambulance/medical helicopter has not committed. Regarding the pilots, only three have committed and Mr. Pendergrass is to contact others as well as finding out if the pilots have issues with possible COVID contamination.

Mr. Dowling said that he will contact the Humane Society/Animal Control about the event, and that he will arrange for the tables, chairs, inmates and trash pickup.

Consensus was that during the next meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, September 7, the Committee will decided to move forward with the event or to cancel it due to COVID.

- D. **New Antenna.** Mr. Pendergrass reported that work has started on the new antenna in order for better communications between the terminal and aircraft (aircraft can't hear the terminal).
- E. **Freight Program.** Mr. Pendergrass said that the freight program is moving forward and the forklift needed for same is on order.

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **5 Year CIP.** Mr. Eberly distributed the November 2020 CIP, reviewed same, and said that minor changes will be made, brought back to the Committee for approval during its September meeting, after which it would go to the Commissioners for approval in October in order to submit to GDOT by the appropriate date. Mr. Dowling said the construction of a new hangar and terminal building improvements should be moved to the bottom of the list as the Commissioners have expressed no interest in such projects.
 - B. **Based Aircraft.** Mr. Eberly said that the County is in good shape, with 36 based aircraft, making it number 34 on the list of Airports.
5. **NEXT MEETING.** The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, September 7, 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 _____.