

HARRIS COUNTY AIRPORT COMMITTEE
February 16, 2017
10:00 AM

Members Present: Bill Champion, Jim Woods, Amanda Hill, Randy Dowling, Lynda Dawson. Members Absent: Harry Lange, Jayson Johnston, Nancy McMichael. Also in attendance: Andy Kober, news reporter and volunteer firefighter; Jim Trott, Pine Mountain Mayor, and Carol Woods, guest.

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Mr. Woods called the meeting to order in the absence of Mr. Lange.
2. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of January 12, 2017, was made by Mr. Champion, seconded by Mrs. Dawson, and passed unanimously.
3. **DISCUSSIONS**
 - A. **AWOS.** Mr. Champion reported that the AWOS system had been repaired as of yesterday, after having been damaged by lightning approximately three weeks ago.
 - B. **Security Path.** Mr. Dowling reported that all permits have been acquired, that no agreement is necessary between the County and Callaway Gardens, and that the project should be completed soon.
 - C. **Paving Repairs.** Ms. Hill reported that she had met with Alexander Paving on Tuesday to get the project closed out; that another survey with additional points is needed for the area to be leveled at Hangar 5; and that such should be completed soon.
 - D. **Taxiway Lights.** Discussion included that County personnel does not want to make repairs to the taxiway lights due to warranty issues; that Trinity will allow County personnel to do the work; and that Trinity is scheduled to be at the Airport tomorrow to replace four bulbs.
 - E. **Grassing.** Ms. Hill said that grassing should be done in mid-March; that a different method will be used whereby the seed is drilled into the soil and mulched; and that the grass should be up by May. Ms. Hill also reported that the sediment pond will be graded out and grassed and the inlets cleaned up over the next two weeks.
 - F. **GPS Locator Marker.** Ms. Hill reported that the GPS locator/marker will be re-established over the next two months with the contractor assuming the cost associated with same.
 - G. **Club Fly-Ins.** Mr. Champion reported that he has talked to Bill Doyle, Callaway CEO, about room rates (\$245 to \$275/night) for flying clubs at the Lodge & Spa. Mrs. Dawson said that she has talked with Kit McClung about a more reasonable rate and is waiting for info on the rooms presently being renovated at the Mountain Creek Inn. Discussion included that because most clubs are already making plans it may not be possible to attract them this year.
 - H. **Open House & Fly-In.** The open house is scheduled for Saturday, June 17, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, with plans still being finalized.
 - I. **Land Donations from Callaway Gardens.** Discussion included that the land donations from Callaway were appraised by the County Tax Assessor to be \$338,000; that the County will request that Callaway release the County from getting a third-party appraisal and accept the Tax Assessor's appraisal; and that it's important to get the release as quickly as possible so that the County's match for the fencing project can come from the appraisal.

- J. **Annual Allotment & Reimbursement**. In response to a question from Mr. Dowling regarding the \$150,000 annual allotment, Ms. Hill said that it can be used toward the fencing and that she will send him details of all budget data regarding reimbursement still outstanding, which is about \$250,000 due in 30-90 days.
 - K. **Terminal Repairs/Upgrades**. Mr. Champion is to provide Mr. Dowling with estimates for terminal building repairs and upgrades to be included in the upcoming budget.
 - L. **Land Acquisition**. Mr. Champion reported that he had talked with Bill Doyle, Callaway Gardens CEO, about the land between the Airport and Highway 18 and that Callaway wants to sell the property to reduce the debt with the County. Discussion included that the County should enter into formal discussion with Callaway regarding the property; that Mr. Doyle has not offered a per acre price as of yet; that it may be possible to do a swap of some of the debt for the land or using land credits that may exist with any of Callaway's previous land deals with the federal government. Ms. Hill volunteered to provide examples of what other counties have done with similar properties.
 - M. **Solar Farm**. Discussion took place regarding an analysis tool for solar farms being located in close proximity to airports and that the cost for same is about \$300; and that if the County can acquire the Callaway property (see "L" above), a solar farm may be a possibility on a portion of that property.
 - N. **Shelter for Airport Fire Truck & Fuel Truck**. Mr. Kober stated that the shelter for the trucks will be needed before year's end.
4. **NEXT MEETING**. The next meeting will be Thursday, March 9, at 10:00 AM.
 5. **ADJOURNMENT**. There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Woods adjourned the meeting.

Prepared by: Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk

Minutes approved _____ by a vote of ____ to ____.