

Airpark Liaison Committee
Minutes
November 6, 2019
3rd Floor Council Conference Room
Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD

Meeting start time: 4:00 PM
Meeting end time: 4:50 PM

The following attended:

Committee Members: Howard Layer, Chair; Rosemary Arkoian; Dennis Barnes; Michael Boone; Robert Gawler; Keith Miller; Terry O’Grady; Richard Peppin; Nancy Shenk; Richard Wilder; Jeff Zyontz (Staff)

Other County Staff: Tommy Heyboer, Susan Mabie, Catherine Matthews

- 1) Mr. Miller presented an update on Airpark activities and operations.
 - MAA report on operations (the number of take-offs and landings) every 2 years – there was no report this year.
 - The positive economic impact calculated by the MAA was distributed.
 - Mr. Miller has not heard any new complaints from the Cypress Gardens neighborhood since the PAPI system was put in place last year.
 - No planes have wandered into restricted airspace. (When it does occur, it triggers a military interception response.)
 - The \$1.5 million taxiway improvement project is completed. Remaining federal money will be used to finish the overflow parking area on the northern end of the runway. This area is designed for a second operator and there is some interest in a second operator locating there.
 - Drones – hobbyists who operate within 5 miles of the airpark are required to notify the airpark manager. There are 3 such operators who contact the airpark regularly. Commercial operators who are FAA licensed are no longer required to notify the airpark when within 5 miles.
 - Management is reviewing options to conduct a long-range plan for operations.
- 2) Davis Airport is leveling and expanding their runway to make it wider and longer. County land was purchased to do this and to keep the area clear of obstructions (trees). The Airpark cannot direct where air traffic goes, but the State believes that there may be a natural migration of flight training there.
- 3) Next year will be the 60th anniversary of the Airpark; plans have begun for an open house celebration.
- 4) Questions from Committee members

What is the next major project being planned?

A new hanger for overnight jets is under construction and expected to be completed in the next month. The FAA is working with MCRA to review options that will eliminate the need to

purchase business adjacent to the Airpark. Therefore, FAA has delayed upcoming ACIP projects for two years.

Is the school system for new pilots still in process?

Yes, there are 49 students in the program. The school system is looking forward to a full curriculum.

Are there plans for a tower?

No. The future of aviation is trending away from towers. Automated systems are being developed, which may substitute for towers in the long term.

When will the windsock be fixed?

It requires a part that has been ordered.