

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

Airpark Liaison Committee  
November 16, 2011, 4:00 to 5:00 PM  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor Front Conference Room, Council Office Building

### PRESENT

**Committee members:** Howard Layer, Chair; Robert Anderson; Rosemary Arkoian; Roy Bevington; Robert Gawler; Donald Gray; Russell Madsen; Keith Miller; Edward O'Connor; Anne Root; Nancy Shenk; Jeff Zyontz

**Staff:** Susan Mabie, Council staff

**Also attending:** Brian Benitaim; Rich Bettinger; Chris Gillis (Councilmember Leventhal's Office); Sharif Hidayat (Police Dep't); Kevin Linck; Sebastian Montes (Patch.com); Terry O'Grady; Dale Tibbitts (Councilmember Elrich's Office)

### **Agenda:**

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Introductions
- 3) Report from Revenue Authority - Keith Miller reported on the following:

- a) Airpark Manager

John Luke, the Airpark Manager since 2004, retired on November 1, 2011. Until a replacement is hired, Keith will be the manager. Keith will inspect the facility daily and be on-site 1 day a week. The phone numbers and email for the Airpark Manager will remain the same.

- b) Airpark traffic

Maryland Aviation Association, based on sample observations for 2-week periods several times a year, estimated 48,000 operations (take-offs and landings) during 2010. This is down from 90,000 operations in 2007 and 150,000 operations in 2000. (The Revenue Authority is not the source for these estimates of air traffic.) The decline is similar to declines in general aviation operation around the state; the Airpark is still the fourth busiest airport in Maryland. The decline in operations has not changed the Revenue Authority's revenues and expenditures, other than reduced fuel sales.

- c) Capital Improvements Plan (CIP)

FY11 – Parcel #6 was acquired from MVA as part of a multi-year program to acquire property in the runway protection zone.

FY12 – A plan for the rehabilitation of the taxiway is being designed – it will run to the ends of the runway and will change turn-off radii. **Consistent with Council's direction, there are NO intentions or plans to extend the length of the runway.** There are no current plans to groove the runway. Runway lights will be replaced.

FY13 – Construction of the taxiway rehabilitation.

FY14 – Acquisition of additional properties and demolition of buildings in the runway protection zone.

The proposed CIP for FY13 - FY15 will be \$14.5 million less than the current CIP, consistent with reduced expectations for FAA funding for. The proposed program will still be dependent upon the FAA's federal appropriation and the percentage of federal participation in the proposed projects.

The CIP will be submitted to the Council by January 15 and will be formally approved by the Council before the end of May.

d) Improvements by the lease holder (DC Metro)

Improvements have been made and are being made to re-skin hangers. One row of new hangers may be added.

A self-service fuel station is under going its final tests before beginning operation.

4) Questions/Discussion

Questions and replies:

Question: By what process could the Airpark consider grooving the runway?

Reply: Keith will look into it.

Question: How many planes and jets are now based at the Airpark?

Reply: There are approximately 190 planes based at the Airpark. Keith will find out current numbers and report back.

Question: Are any new navigational aids to the Airpark planned?

Reply: No – most pilots are now using GPS.

Question: Will the control tower at the Frederick Airport affect Airpark operations?

Reply: Air traffic within 5 miles of Frederick Airport's control tower will be required to report to the Frederick tower. In order to avoid the requirement, more traffic is likely to go toward Charles County.

Question: How many flight schools and flying clubs operate from the Airpark?

Reply: There are 3 flight schools and 4 flying clubs with 35 members or more.

Question: Does the Committee wish to continue to exist past July 2012?

Reply: Committee members recommended that the Committee should continue to exist and to meet as needed, with periodic updates from the Revenue Authority.

**Next meeting:** Post-budget in June 2012 which hopefully will be after a new Airpark Manager is hired.