

Airpark Liaison Committee

Minutes

November 18, 2020

Virtual Meeting Held on ZOOM and recorded on FACEBOOK

Meeting start time: 4:05 PM

Meeting end time: 5:15 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; Sandy Poe; Jeff Zyontz (Staff)

Invited guests: Christine Wallenmeyer; Mike Ginter; Adam Williams

Zoom Attendees: Russ Kornack; Steve; Johnson; Suzann Baklarz; Jake Adler; Judith Riccio; Marcela Agoilar; Dale Tull; Dennis Montgomery; Susan Mabie (Council Staff); **Sharonda Williams**

- 1) Chairman Layer opened the meeting and attendees introduced themselves

- 2) Mr. Miller presented an update on Airpark activities and operations.
 - Operations
MAA report on operations (the number of take-offs and landings) every 2 years – there a MAA report was anticipated in 2020 but there was no report received.

 - On-going Capital Improvements

The malfunctioning wind sock was repaired

Some resurfacing over flow parking area off of the taxiway to start in the spring 2021 in addition to resealing and marking the runway

 - Status of future Land Acquisition

The FAA funding would be to purchase businesses adjacent to the Airpark on the south east end of the runway.

- 3) Mr. Miller reviewed responses to complaints from Christine Wallenmeyer a resident of the Cyrus Gardens community;
 - The Airpark web site was updated (<https://montgomerycountyairpark.com/noise-safety/>) to provide a way to receive noise complaints **and safety complaints**, transmit those complaints

to the appropriate party, track the types of complaints received, and communicate with the person complaining on actions taken by the Revenue Authority

- Speak **to** an aircraft owner when a particular plan can be identified
- Update the Noise Abatement Pilot Guide
- Review Noise Abatement Requirements with flight schools

Mr. Miller said that once an aircraft was airborne, the FAA was responsible for addressing safety issues. He reporting speaking to a Flight Standards District Office (FSDO – the FAA office responsible for flight safety) Baltimore Office staff member who stated that they regularly observe operations at general aviation (GA) airports including Gaithersburg and they have not observed any safety violations. In answering questions Mr. Miller said that he did not know when FSDO made the on-site inspection and that the information from FSDO was received by telephone. He was not aware of a written report.

He reported that the Revenue Authority has no plans to change the flight pattern since a change would impact a higher density community who never moved to an area under a flight path.

He further reported that there were no plans to redo the 1990 Airpark noise study. He noted the drop in the number of take-offs and landing since 1990 and reduced noise from newer aircraft. Any such study would be costly and would result in a smaller noise footprint for the Airpark. He noted that FAA noise standards were based on a Day-Night Average Sound Level, which represents the total accumulation of all sound energy, but spread out uniformly over a 24-hour. The noise from any individual aircraft may be louder than 65 decibels but FAA standards reflect average sound levels.

Committee member Shenk asked about a loud low flying airplane that flew over her house at 3:15 AM. Ms. Wallenmeyer reported on her research that these particular flights did not land or take-off from the Airpark.

Mr. Miller agreed to send a written statement on his responses for distribution to the Committee.

Ms. Wallenmeyer reported that noise and unsafe operation are continuing. She, other attendees, **and Committee Member Shenk** and reported many more flights this past summer. She pointed to the increased number of flight school aircraft as a source of at least some of the problem and violations of the noise abatement flight pattern. She suggest some change to the flight plan should be made given the past decades of growth. She suggested diverting of limiting the number of some of the training flights.

Mr. Miller noted that the Airpark did not and could not regulate the number of take-offs and landings.

Mr. Miller reported that in addition to Ms. Wallenmeyer 12 other residents made complaints **about noise or low flying planes**.

Mr. Zyontz reported the Council agreed to sell land located at the end of a Davis Airport runway to **the owner of** the Davis Airport. That sale may allow for runway improvements and increased operations there, but there is no authority by the Council or the Revenue Authority to direct where training flights should go.

Ms. Wallenmayer reported that the mission, membership, contact information, meeting schedule, and minutes of prior meetings of the Airpark Liaison Committee was unavailable to the community.

Mr. Zyontz said he would create a web page on the Council web site to provide that information. Before that occurs, any questions of information requests can be addressed to him at jeff.zyontz@montgomerycountymd.gov. He noted that he will retire in January 2021 but that his successor will get his email.

4) AOPA comments by Mike Ginter and Adam Williams

AOPA supports the community friendly operations of airports and is available if it can help. Mr. Ginter suggested another ALC meeting to review the Airpark web site's new complaint system. The Chair noted that the Committee would meet if was an issue to discuss and there was a request to meet to meet. No issue has been raised and a future meeting was not scheduled.

5) Other questions and comments not otherwise noted

A question about whether there were any vacancies on the ALC. He also reported that on paper there were no vacancies but the Committee was due for reappointment by June 2021. The Council would seek applications for Committee membership. Notice will be on the Council website.