

# Airpark Community Advisory Committee (ACAC)

February 18, 2025  
7 – 8:30 PM

Montgomery County Upper County Community Center  
8201 Emory Grove Road  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877



## Attendees:

### Members:

Bobbi Besley  
Justin Bollum, non-voting  
H Michael Brown  
Councilmember Luedtke Aide Aaron Kraut, non-voting  
William “Skip” Reindollar  
Lynne Stein Benzion  
Dale Tuttle  
Rony Ledany

### MCDOT Staff Liaison:

Joe Pospisil

### Guests:

Jeanie Bayer	Barbara Fischer
Mollie Hilty	Bruce Vivari
Esther Wells	Manu Chopra
Marc Foelsch	

## Action Items

### January 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes Approval

No modifications were proposed by committee members to the January 29<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Minutes were approved unanimously by the committee and posted on the [ACAC Webpage](#).

## Reports and Announcements

### Updates from Data Subcommittee

The Data Subcommittee continues to meet with the vendor that provides the Airpark with flight operation data, FlightAware. In their last meeting they discussed further the possibility of creating a geofence for the Airpark that would identify pilots not adhering to the noise abatement procedures when taking off from runway 3-2. It is still unclear when such a service could be implemented at the Airpark or whether it would come at an additional cost.

Since these procedures were established to provide relief to the Hunters Woods neighborhood, which is located on the west side of Snouffer School Road in a direct line with runway 3-2, a committee member raised the question of whether more pilots following the noise abatement procedures could negatively impact other neighborhoods. Other ACAC members believed noise levels in other neighborhoods would remain the same because the noise impacting Hunters Woods is the result of planes being at a lower altitude with more engine thrust as they take off. Following the procedures has planes gaining altitude over the Montgomery County Public Safety Training Academy (PSTA) before the reach surrounding neighborhoods.

### **Updates from Community and Facilities Subcommittee**

In their meetings, the Community and Facilities Subcommittee discussed the need to engage with the FAA and MAA and ask that they send representatives to attend an upcoming ACAC meeting. With June's annual report approaching, there are a number of questions and concerns only these agencies can address. The subcommittee came up with 5 initial questions listed here:

1. What can the FAA do to reduce aircraft noise at the Montgomery County Airpark?
2. What can the FAA do to increase safety at the Montgomery County Airpark?
3. What impacts do tower operations have on operations, safety, and noise?
4. What is the process and timeline for implementing tower operations?
5. What impacts has the FAA observed from the assessment of landing fees at airports?

These questions could serve as a starting point for these agencies to address. Depending on the answers provided by the FAA or MAA, follow-up questions may be necessary for specific community concerns and explain what, if anything, can be done at the local level to address pilot and flight school behavior.

#### The following motion was made after committee discussion:

The committee requests that Montgomery County engage both the FAA and MAA to request each agency send a representative to participate in the March 18<sup>th</sup> ACAC meeting by answering questions from the ACAC and Airpark Community.

This motion was unanimously approved.

Aaron Kraut indicated that he would contact Senator Van Hollen's Office on this matter to ask that it reaches out to the FAA and MAA on behalf of the ACAC or provide contact information for these agencies. He would also provide Van Hollen's Office with the initial questions.

Another topic covered by the subcommittee was the continued need for updated Airpark FAQs. A new idea discussed was the possibility of making regular revisions to the FAQs based on new questions and concerns that may arise. One plan could be to have those in the Airpark Community send questions to the ACAC liaison, who could collect them on behalf of the committee. The committee did not make any final decisions following this discussion.

### **New Business**

Mr. Kraut shared with the committee that Councilmember Luedtke would be submitting her own FIOA request to the FAA. In addition to the noise and safety related records desired by the ACAC, Councilmember Luedtke requested specific information for an incident in 2024 where a piece of aircraft N302VM fell onto the PSTA property during takeoff. A copy of the letter has been attached.

### **Community Input/Feedback**

One member of the community, Mollie Hilty, provided in-person comments during the community input portion of the meeting. A copy of Ms. Hilty's statement is attached.

Following a unanimous committee vote the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.

February 18, 2025, Airport Community Advisory Committee (ACAC)  
Mollie Hilty, Hadley Farms Community, Gaithersburg, md.

Since this Committee is sanctioned by the County Council why isn't this meeting announced every month on the County Council website?

After 9 months testifying at these meetings I feel powerless to those on this committee to hear my voice.

I ask the committee what else I could say or do to take my suggestions seriously to the noise and safety of aircraft flying at low altitude over my home? Am I wasting my time and effort in addressing this committee?

I am sorry if these remarks seem harsh, these are my feelings after 9 months. This committee has not been addressing my concerns to reduce the noise of aircraft fly<sup>ing</sup> over my home.

If you do nothing else to provide a safer airspace for our Airpark neighbors, at the least recommend to the County Council to redirect these training flights away from our homes.