

DeKalb County Airport Advisory Board (AAB) Minutes

The DeKalb County Airport Advisory Board met on Monday, March 11, 2019 at 7:00 PM in Room 227, Airport Administration Building at DeKalb-Peachtree Airport.

Members Present: Larry Scheinpflug (AAB Chair), Kevin Fowler, Christopher Richard, Robert Smith

Members Absent: Dan Zanger, Eugene Henry

Others Present: Airport Director Mario Evans, Deputy Airport Director Marshall Taggart and Noise and Environmental Analyst Nate Schattner

The meeting was called to order at 7:08p.m. by AAB Chair Larry Scheinpflug

- I. Approval of Minutes: **Motion to approve the February 11, 2019 minutes was made by Christopher Richard and seconded by Robert Smith. Motion passed.**
- II. Information/Old Business
 - A. **Airport Director's Report:** Airport Director Mario Evans reported the following:
 1. Ultimate Air Shuttle, a subsidiary of Ultimate Jet Charters, is adding an additional route (from PDK to Charlotte) which brings total operations to 4 per day Monday through Friday. Ultimate Air operates under Part 135 with aircraft carrying up to 30 passengers. For more information, see www.pdkairport.org under "What's New" tab.
 2. Economic Impact of DeKalb-Peachtree Airport report handout. Highlights discussed:
 - Board Chair Larry Scheinpflug referenced a 2/14/19 AOPA article: 'Could Meigs Field Make a Comeback?' an article about the susceptibility of profitable GA airports to closure, based on political whim. Given discussion by public members in prior meeting and in a social media website, Nextdoor post, about a similar fate for PDK, Larry communicated that if this were to occur, the investment that the FAA had made into the airport would have to be paid back by the county to the FAA.
 - Board Member Robert Smith discussed a similar situation to Chicago's Meigs field, that happened to an airport on Long Island in NY.
 3. Master Plan Update: Evans deferred to Jim Duguay from Michael Baker International. Jim shared that Working Paper 1 of the Master Plan has been completed and will be posted on the Master Plan website after review by Mario Evans before March 26th.
 - Second round of meetings will be on March 26th: Citizen's Advisory Committee (6P-8P, Chamblee Civic Center), Intergovernmental (10A) and Technical Advisory (2P) in Room 227 at PDK.
 - A member of the public stated that they were not receiving emails. Jim Duguay appreciated the feedback, and said he will talk with Smartegies staff.
 - A member of the public asked about why the PDK 101 meeting was canceled. Mario Evans answered that it was canceled due to low participation. Evans said that the Power Point presentation created for the meeting can be found on the PDK website under the "What's New" tab. PDK will be happy to schedule another meeting.
 - Elaine Epps of Epps Aviation was present in the meeting and stated that Epps is available to do airport tours.
 - B. **Noise and Environmental Analyst Report:** Prepared and delivered by Nate Schattner. **The February 2019 Noise Report** will be posted on the website in its entirety: **Total operations were 9,021** which is a decrease of 15.43% as compared to February of 2018. There were 340 voluntary curfew operations. Total 2019 year-to-date operations are 20,106 as compared to the total 2018 operations as of February 2018 of 22,796. In February, 61% of operations were on a southerly flow, 30% were to the north, and 9% were on the NW/SE runway. **Noise complaints:** 33 households made 337 complaints. The majority of the complaints were made between 12:00p.m. and 5:59p.m. (38%). The Complaint Percentages by Zip Code chart shows that 54% of the complaints originated from the 30341 zip code. A total of 150 advisory letters were sent to aircraft operators who flew during the Voluntary Curfew Period who were not identified as MedEvac and/or

other emergency flights. Regarding High Noise Events, 23 advisory letters were sent to the operators whose aircraft exceeded the high noise event threshold(s).

- Larry S. asked that mention of Super Bowl be added to February report.
- Member of the community asked about the status of a request to reduce the noise threshold. Nate answered that quality research has been performed. Consideration is being given to changing the thresholds of noise monitors 2 and 4.
- Board member Robert Smith suggested running a report to determine how many airplanes are over 85 db. Evans will run report.
- Member of community asked if the noise monitors move? Evans answered that they are permanent, but then discussed the 5th portable monitor: old one is being replaced for a new one.
- Nate discussed the virtual noise monitor that will be available with the NOMS upgrade. It will monitor noise through the geo-code in computer system.
- Nate went over data in the Annual Noise Report handout, which is also available on the website. One highlight brought out: 2018 was the second rainiest year on record, which made ceilings lower and therefore noise louder.
- Nate discussed creating/putting a Noise Abatement pamphlet in FBOs at PDK to educate on the topic.
- Member of community asked how much is being invested in new NOMS system. Evans answered: Half a million for a 5-year plan for upgrade. Should be complete by late Summer to early Fall.
- Member of Harrell Grove Baptist Church Cemetery, Samantha Lowry, spoke on behalf of the church. She stated that the ditch created when sewer lines were moved for EMAS construction, is causing gravesites to move. Evans said that this issue will be addressed.
- **Motion to accept the February 2019 Noise Report and the 2018 Annual Noise Report was made by Robert Smith and seconded by Kevin Fowler. Motion passed.**

- C. **Other:** Open DeKalb presentation was handed out by Susan Gouinlock, regarding the KB Environmental Sciences report completed for PDK airport. Ms. Gouinlock referred to the report as "garbage", stating that it used old (1995) data, and the team was not asked to do environmental sampling of the airport, max. weight of aircraft etc., for their assessment. Evans deferred to Jim Duguay from Michael Baker International to address. Jim stated that the KB report was not used for the Master Plan. Jim stated that instead, an aviation design tool will be used.
- Susan stated that the previous failed Emory study did find lead by the T-hangars. Susan wants to know how much lead was found. Mario Evans stated that the EPA doesn't monitor lead but instead carbon monoxide. Jim stated that the Master Plan is concerned with whether project will impact air quality. The environmental analysis is currently underway and expected to be concluded soon.

III. **New Business:** None

IV. **Public Comments:**

- A member of the community asked if Emory study could be used. Evans said it couldn't. Susan from Open DeKalb then asked: what's next?

Motion to adjourn was made by Christopher Richard and seconded by Robert Smith. Motion passed at 8:29 p.m.

Submitted by:

Approved as Submitted:

Lori Bell (Secretary)

Larry Scheinpflug (AAB Chair)