

DeKalb County Airport Advisory Board (AAB) Minutes

The DeKalb County Airport Advisory Board met on Monday, July 12th, 2021 at 5:30 PM via Zoom Video Conference call.

Members Present: Doug Miller, Larry Scheinpflug (AAB Chair), Kevin Fowler, Eugene Henry, Airport Director Mario Evans, Christopher Richard (AAB Vice Chair), Reuben Jones

Members Absent: Dan Zanger, Mike Reeves

Others Present: Deputy Airport Director Hunter Hines, and Noise and Environmental Analyst Korey Barnes

The meeting was called to order at 5:52p.m. by AAB Chair, Larry Scheinpflug.

- I. Approval of Minutes: **Motion to approve the June 2021 minutes was made by Doug Miller and seconded by Board Member Eugene Henry. Motion passed.**
- II. Information/Old Business
 - A. **Airport Director's Report:** Airport Director Mario Evans reported the following:
 1. Airport Master Plan Update:
Evans reported per Jim Duguay of Baker International: Jim updates: the Executive Summary is in final draft form, should be available in a few days. Final draft of technical report will be available next week. All materials are on the website through Smartegies. All information will be put on county website for the airport.
 2. Aviation Camp recently at PDK:
Moreno Aguiari of Inspire Aviation talked about a camp organized by Inspire Aviation who are also responsible for building the Air and Space museum at PDK. They are seeking help from FBOs on the property. 15 students from DeKalb County participated, it was very successful. The next week they held an Aviation Day in partnership with Fernbank Museum. 35 kids from DeKalb County participated. PDK Airport Director, Mario Evans did a presentation on the airport as well.
Question from Public: When will the museum go public? Evans answered: that will be up to Inspire.
 3. Hermeus Testing Operation:
Airport Director, Evans said a timeframe was set (10AM to 4PM) for testing engines. AJ Piplica from Hermeus turned discussion over to CEO, Glen Case. Initial testing commenced May 26th, southside of Runway 27. Hermeus just finished construction on a facility to test hypersonic engines. Hermeus presented their Acoustic analysis. From the presentation: THE FACTS: Initial test objective - generate acoustic data to validate models and solicit community feedback. Data suggests perceived sound level and sound exposure level is on par with PDK noise emissions. THE FEELS: Quieter but longer duration testing is subjectively more annoying than louder but shorter duration events at PDK. Hermeus values and cares for its neighbors – they've already taken several steps to improve noise pollution. Future plans are to incorporate "Hush-House" technology that should significantly reduce sound levels.
Public was asked if they had any comments by Evans. None were presented.
 4. T-hangar leases will be on the Board agenda for tomorrow.
 5. RIM Update:
- Hunter Hines reported that we are currently wrapping up Phase 4. Pavement work for project is all that remains. 3R 21L closures went smoothly. Work finished early on both weekends. Taxiway Lima by Atlantic ramp re-pavement should be complete tomorrow. Temporary striping will be complete on Wednesday.
 6. New Rotating Beacon:
Ordered, should be installed in about 2 to 3 weeks.

Question from Larry Scheinpflug: How much of old structure is kept? Hines answered: full replacement of light itself.

Noise and Environmental Analyst Report: - N&E Analyst, Korey Barnes delivered the following report: **The June 2021 Noise Report** will be posted on the website in its entirety: **Total operations were 13,959** which is an increase of 10.21% as compared to June of 2020. There were 442 voluntary curfew operations. Total 2021 year-to-date operations are **70,614** as compared to the total 2020 operations as of June 2020 of 65,270. In June 61% of operations were on a southerly flow, 34% were to the north, and 5% were on the NW/SE runway. **Noise complaints:** 9.1 households made 292 complaints. The majority of the complaints were made between 12:00 PM and 05.59 PM. (38%). The Complaint Percentages by Zip Code chart shows that 45% of the complaints originated from the **30345** zip code. A total of 212 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, 24 advisory letters were sent to the operators whose aircraft exceeded the high noise event threshold(s).

Board Member Doug Miller asked: The night of Hermeus testing there was a lot of talk on social media, however, he didn't hear anything at his home which is close by. Korey Barnes answered: This was because many complaints were to the Southeast.

Motion to accept the June 2021 Noise Report was made by Chris Richard and seconded by Doug Miller. Motion passed.

B. **Other:**
NONE

III. **New Business:**

Larry Scheinpflug addressed the possibility of reconvening these meetings in person. Evans said the County hasn't given OK yet. Larry asked Board opinion. Board Member Chris Richard said he would like to stay virtual for a little longer. Board members Eugene Henry and Doug Miller said they are ready to come back in person. Board Member Reuben Jones said he would like to know if we could ask about vaccinations: can we require all be vaccinated? Evans said that a hybrid meeting structure may be the plan for the rest of this year. Evans will talk with Board about this plan.

IV. **Public Comments:**

Larry Foster asked that the Public be made aware of any present or future press releases.
Jordon Fox: asked about update on the museum. Evans said he will get any updates out.
Jordan Fox: How are meetings being advertised? Evans answered: County notices, distribution out to cities for their communications departments to disseminate. Also info. on website.
Larry Foster asked for an explanation again about the new more secure Zoom meeting protocol. Evans explained the new way to keep meetings secure and not Zoom-bombed.

Motion to adjourn was made by Douglas Miller and seconded by Christopher Richard. Motion passed at 6:54 p.m.

Submitted by:

Lori Bell

Lori Bell (Secretary)

Approved as Submitted:

Larry Scheinpflug

Larry Scheinpflug (AAB Chair)