

Athens Ben Epps Airport Authority Meeting

August 23, 2022, 3:00PM

Minutes

Live Stream on ACCGOV YouTube Channel

<https://youtu.be/LQ5yIUH7X5Q>

In attendance: Mike Mathews, Diane Napier, Keith Sanders, Grant Tribble, Craig Westwood, David Asman, Jeff Benjamin, Davin Welter, Jim Duguay (MBI), Andrew Bolin (RS&H), Chris Lowery (Holt Consulting)

Apologies: --

Note-taker: Davin Welter

- 1) **Chair Update and announcements:** Dr. Napier welcomed the participants and previewed the agenda. On behalf of the Authority, Dr. Napier expressed condolences to Mr. Mathews for the loss of his mother and Mr. Sanders added some thoughts in sympathy.
- 2) **July Meeting Minutes:** The July minutes were approved as submitted, per unanimous vote. Mr. Tribble moved and Mr. Sanders seconded to approve the minutes.
- 3) **Airport Manager Reports**
 - a) **Financial & Operations Report:** Mr. Mathews reported that AHN changed over to the Atlas FBO system for our operations and because of that change, there was a delay in reporting to ACC and therefore there are no financials to report this month. They will be sent when they are available.
 - b) **Capital Improvement Project Updates:** Mr. Mathews said that there were several things to report.
 - i) The self-serve fuel station is moving forward. Mr. Asman and Mr. Mathews have identified a site on the airport and Mr. Mathews has an agreement from Titian that they will help with this project.
 - ii) On the new tower project, there is no new information to report.
 - iii) The request for proposals for leasing the Colvin and 990 Ben Epps hangers is in the works but it has been slow. We are committed to getting it done soon. The new T-hanger potential project can go two ways: one is a land lease; or we could build them and finance them ourselves. We have had discussions with a local company about a land-lease arrangement, but we have not seen any progress at this time.
 - iv) Mr. Asman pointed out that new leases were sent out to all tenants in 2021 but that not all of the tenants have signed a lease. Mr. Asman mentioned that from a risk management perspective, all tenants need to sign a lease. Mr. Mathews said that there are five tenants who have not signed one, and he will confer with the county attorney to see what steps need to be taken to get that done. **Action Item:** Mr. Mathews will provide an update to the Authority at the next meeting or as soon as is possible.
 - v) Mr. Westwood asked about the situation with the Taxiway Alpha. Mr. Mathews said that we had a meeting with Astra and they presented change orders after the redesign was done. Now Astra is dealing with supply chain issues. In the meantime, Mr. Mathews has sent the contract to the ACC attorney to see if the change orders are compliant with the original contract. He also reported that the localizer will be flight-checked in three weeks. The Runway Obstruction Free Area (ROFA) project will need to be scaled down and more work will need to be done on a local basis. The Runway 2-20 project is also delayed because of supply chain issues. There was a discussion about the steps being taken during football season to deal with the construction. Dr. Napier asked about the possible use of goats to deal with the kudzu overgrowth adjacent to the taxiway area, as noted in the Minutes of the July meeting. Mr. Mathews said that he is still in the process of determining the most cost effective way to clear the kudzu.

- c) Marketing & Outreach: Mr. Mathews reported that the LEAD Athens class came to the airport in early August, and he asked Mr. Welter to report. Mr. Welter said that David Bradley, CEO of the Athens Chamber, asked AHN to be a part of their Economic Development session of LEAD Athens. We presented the history and the statistics of the airport and the economic impact that the airport has on the Athens area. Questions were answered and then the group received a tour of the airport.
- d) COVID: Mr. Mathews stated that for the September meeting, we will plan to meet in person with masks (if required), and in the large conference room in the commercial terminal so that participants can practice distancing.

4) Old Business

- a) Lexington Highway Corridor Update: Dr. Napier reported that at their early August voting meeting, the Mayor and Commission voted to approve the TSPLOST funding for the sidewalk extension projects along the Lexington Highway corridor that had been recommended by the Lexington Highway User Group. Earlier, the M&C had approved the preliminary plans for these projects. Dr. Napier reminded that the Intersection Improvement Projects will become active in fall, including the one containing a potential access route to the Airport with a new entrance on Lexington Highway. Mr. Mathews added that City Manager Blaine Williams had checked with him as to whether or not he has been kept informed about the potential plan for a new entrance, and Mr. Mathews reported replying in the affirmative. Dr. Napier added that as a member of the User Group, she will continue to provide updates as they emerge, including and especially on the projects containing the potential new entrance for the Airport.

5) New Business

- a) There was no new business.

6) Standing Committees: Issues & Updates

- a) Business/Finance: Mr. Sanders said there is nothing to report from this committee at this time.
- b) Operating: Mr. Asman informed the Authority that the topics discussed above were the only issues considered by the committee.
- c) Air Service Development/Marketing: Mr. Mathews and Mr. Tribble stated that they had no new business to report. Mr. Mathews said that he has been in contact with Blaine Williams about visiting Dallas to continue the discussions with American Airlines.

7) Other Business:

- a) Athens Technical College, NE GA Human Resources Management Team: Town Hall Meeting, Monday August 15: Dr. Napier reported that at the June 30 Chambers of Commerce Forum on Economic Development held at the Airport (see July meeting Minutes), we had invited Mr. Marvin Nunnally, Economic Development Coordinator at Athens Technical College, to make a presentation on Athens Tech programs and to discuss opportunities for a potential partnership with the airport focusing on worker and workforce training programs. Dr. Napier attended the August 15 Town Hall meeting that focused on worker training programs (MANUFACTUREasy, QUICK START, and the new "Micro-credentialing" program, as well as a keynote address by Mr. Rope Roberts of GA Power Company highlighting workforce needs and issues in the 12-County NE Georgia region. At the invitation of Mr. Nunnally, Dr. Napier distributed the Airport Fact Sheet and the Dimensions Diagram to all attendees at this Town Hall meeting including manufacturers, local community leaders, and elected officials. She shared two documents from the Town Hall meeting with members of the Authority: The Rope Roberts presentation and an overview of Athens

Tech Programs. Action Item: Dr. Napier will obtain confirmation that we will indeed meet in person for the September 27 meeting, then follow up with Mr. Nunnally to confirm his visit and presentation. Authority members are encouraged to review the Athens Tech Programs, to identify questions of interest for Mr. Nunnally's visit.

b) Next meeting: Tuesday September 27, 2022, 3-5 p.m., in the Event Room (large conference room) of the Terminal Building.

8) **Adjourn:** 3:54 PM - Mr. Sanders moved and Mr. Benjamin seconded to adjourn the meeting, with unanimous agreement.

Minutes Approved, DATE: 9/27/2022

Diane S. Napier

Diane Napier _____

Davin Welter _____

Davin Welter