



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**AVIATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
FORT LAUDERDALE EXECUTIVE AIRPORT  
RED TAILS CONFERENCE ROOM  
6000 NW 21 AVENUE, FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA  
THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2023 – 1:30 P.M.**

	Attendance	Cumulative Attendance 7/2022 - 6/2023	
		Present	Absent
<b>Board Members</b>			
Mark Volchek, Chair	P	7	1
William Gilbert, Vice Chair	P	8	0
David Ash	P	7	1
Jeff Johnson	A	6	2
Dr. Ed Kwoka	P	5	3
Robert Laughlin	P	7	1
Kevin Macelhaney	P	6	2
Valerie Vitale	P	7	1
John Vratsinas	P	7	1
<b>Non-Voting</b>			
Commissioner Marlon Bolton	P	6	2
Jeff Helyer, City of Oakland Park	P	7	1

**Airport/City Staff**

Rufus James, Airport Director  
Carlton Harrison, Assistant Airport Director  
Ryan Frost, Airport Operations Supervisor  
Angelia Basto, Senior Financial Administrator  
Krystal Permanan, Airport Business Development Administrator  
Linda Blanco, Senior Administrative Assistant  
Tavonne Garnett, Airport Intern  
Isaiah Dorvilne, Airport Intern

**Others:**

Ignacio Martinez, W Aviation

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Volchek called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll was called and a quorum was determined to be present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

• **April 27, 2023**

**Motion** made by Mr. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. Macelhaney, to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2023 meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

**VOTING ITEMS**

None

## **UPDATE ITEMS**

### **A. Noise Compatibility Program**

Ms. Permanan explained they had transitioned from a server-based system to a cloud-based system with a simplified version of ANOMS. This makes noise tracking and reporting more intuitive and efficient. Mr. James informed Dr. Kwoka that since 2016, when Stage 2 aircraft were banned by the FAA, there had been a significant drop in noise complaint calls. Before the Stage 2 aircraft were banned, the decibel levels were between 70 and 90, but today the levels are typically 50 to 65 decibels, with the occasional G3 generating decibel levels in the 70's. Seasonally, there were a lot of westerly departures, so residents in The Lofts were now calling with complaints. Mr. James said they would perform additional pilot and flight school outreach regarding proper westerly departures.

Mr. James said the runway extension would benefit easterly departures. The consultant had determined the western portion of the airport would be more suitable for an extension. He noted that 90% of aircraft depart to the east.

Ms. Permanan reported that in April and May, five households made complaints each month. She noted that sometimes there was more than one call from one household for the same event.

### **B. Development and Construction**

Mr. Frost reported the Taxiway Intersection Improvement Project was 100% complete and showed a video of the project. Operations statistics were provided in the Board's packet. Mr. Frost said April and May were trending positively, with customs numbers very high.

Mr. Laughlin asked how the project compared with their original estimates for time and budget. Mr. James said the project had been completed under budget, and even though there was a delay due to the owl nesting season, it was completed on time.

Mr. James said the Taxiway Intersection Improvement Project was helping to reduce runway incursions because Taxiway Hotel no longer had direct access from the ramp to the runway.

### **C. Arrearages**

There were currently no rent or fuel flowage arrearages.

### **D. Communication to the City Commission**

None

## **E. Other Items**

### **I. 2024 Budget Overview**

Mr. Harrison provided a presentation on the 2024 preliminary budget.

Mr. Macelhaney asked about unleaded fuel and Mr. Harrison said the fuel was still in the testing phase and the goal was to have it in airports by 2030. Once unleaded is available, the 100-octaine low-lead fuel would be gone. It would be the responsibility of the FBOs to make the changes.

Dr. Kwoka asked about the Airport's ranking for runway incursions and Mr. Harrison stated they were still part of Special Focus but were no longer in the top ten. He stated many of their projects were in response to the FAA's requirements to mitigate runway incursions.

Mr. Harrison confirmed they experienced fewer light outages since switching to LED.

Dr. Kwoka said he was recently at Philadelphia Northeast Airport (PNE), which was comparable in size to FXE, and remarked that compared to FXE, PNE looked like a slum. He thanked staff for running a top-notch airport. Mr. James said this was not just due to Airport staff but to the tenants as well.

### **II. Runway 9-27 Extension Environmental Assessment Update**

Mr. Harrison provided a presentation on the Environmental Assessment. Dr. Kwoka asked why they were looking to extend the runway by 1,000 feet since the Airport was completely built out. He asked if FXE was trying to compete with the international airports. Mr. Harrison stated their biggest problem was that G-550's and G-650's could not take on as much gas as they needed because of the limited takeoff length.

Mr. Harrison informed Mr. Laughlin that displaced threshold was full strength pavement that you cannot land a plane on but you can come to a stop on it.

Mr. Vratsinas asked if they were now in compliance with the audit that was done earlier this year. Mr. James stated that they reported the corrective measures to the City Commission. Implementation of a leasing policy was one of the audit findings and they provided a policy that is now being reviewed by the City Attorney's Office.

Mr. James introduced FXE's summer college intern Tavonne Garnett from Broward College and summer high school intern Isaiah Dorvilne.

Mr. James recalled that last year, mandatory work on Parcels 8G and 8AB had not been completed as required and as a result, the leases had been terminated. He said discussions were still ongoing and he contacted the City Attorney's office but there had been no response yet. A ribbon cutting ceremony was planned for completion of the W Aviation terminal building on Parcel 8G.

III. Public Comments

Ignacio Martinez, W Aviation, said they were excited to have completed the renovation project for the terminal on Parcel 8G. He said the new terminal would offer many amenities for pilots and tenants and he invited Board members to attend the grand opening on June 27 at 5:30 PM.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 2:32 PM.

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING DATE: Thursday, July 27, 2023 at 1:30 PM.**

Any written public comments made 48 hours prior to the meeting regarding items discussed during the proceedings have been attached hereto.