



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, AUGUST 22, 2024 – 1:30 P.M.**

<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Cumulative Attendance</b>	
		<b>7/2024 - 6/2025</b>	
		<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Mark Volchek, Chair	P	1	0
William Gilbert, Vice Chair	P	1	0
David Ash	P	1	0
Kelly Gordon	P	1	0
Dr. Jeff Johnson	P	1	0
Dr. Ed Kwoka	A	0	1
Robert Laughlin	P	1	0
Kevin Macelhaney	P	1	0
Valerie Vitale	A	0	1
John Vratsinas	P	1	0
<b>Non-Voting</b>			
Commissioner Marlon Bolton	P	1	0
[arrived 1:41]			
Jeff Helyer, City of Oakland Park	P	1	0

**Airport/City Staff**

Rufus A. James, Airport Director  
Carlton Harrison, Assistant Airport Director  
Khant Myat, Airport Engineer  
Chelsea Jones Finley, Airport Programs Manager  
Angelia Basto, Senior Financial Administrator  
Miguel Laca, Financial Administrator  
Linda Blanco, Senior Administrative Assistant

**Others**

Stephen Martin, AOPA  
Suzanne Jacob, The Lofts of Palm Aire  
Don Campion, Banyan Air Service  
Debbie Puia, The Lofts of Palm Aire  
Marshall Myles, FXE Jet Center  
Alexander Rivera, FXE Jet Center

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

## **ROLL CALL**

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

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- **June 27, 2024**

**Motion** made by Mr. Laughlin, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2024, meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

## **VOTING ITEMS**

### **1. FXE Runway 9-27 Rehabilitation Project**

Mr. Myat provided the presentation and recommended applying for and accepting the FAA AIP grant for approximately 90% of federal funding, up to an amount of approximately \$8,800,000, and awarding the contract to the lowest responsive bidder, General Asphalt Co., LLC, in the amount of \$9,772,352.51.

**Motion** made by Mr. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. Vratsinas, to approve staff recommendations. Motion passed 8-0.

**Motion** made by Mr. Vratsinas, seconded by Mr. Gordon, to add Walk-On Voting Item 2 to the agenda. Motion passed 8-0.

### **Walk-on Item**

### **2. John Fuhrer Downtown Helistop Painting and Fireproof Coating Contract Award**

Mr. Myat provided the presentation and recommended awarding the contract to the lowest responsive bidder, Champion Painting Specialty Services Corp., in the amount of \$167,529.

Mr. Bolton arrived at 1:41 PM.

Suzanne Jacob, The Lofts of Palm Aire, asked about the useful life of the helistop facility. Mr. James said that FXE would maintain the facility until the City no longer wanted it. He stated that FXE had already received inquiries from advanced air mobility companies that were interested in using it.

**Motion** made by Mr. Laughlin, seconded by Mr. Gordon, to award the contract to Champion Painting Specialty Services Corp. in the amount of \$167,529. Motion passed 8-0.

## **UPDATE ITEMS**

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

Ms. Permanan reported that in June, Noise Monitor 2 recorded one aircraft that registered at the 80 decibels threshold, however, it did not generate any community noise complaints. There was a total of 59 noise reports in June. In July, Noise Monitor #2 reported

no aircraft registering at 80dB or above. In July, there was a total of 34 noise reports. She noted that neighbors sometimes used their at-home noise monitors and complained according to what those units recorded. Ms. Permanan reported that as of June, Noise Monitor 1 installation was complete, and as of July, it was fully operational.

Mr. James said WebTrak provided statistics from the noise monitors, such as altitude and decibels generated by aircraft. He said residents sometimes believed WebTrak was inaccurate and, so they used their own equipment.

Mr. James said he and some staff members recently attended the Noise Abatement Committee meeting at the Florida Airports Council Conference and he noted that FXE's noise complaints were significantly lower than other airports in the State. When asked how they accomplished this, Mr. James explained that low numbers were due to the collaboration between residents, the flying community and the air traffic control tower. He was proud of FXE's program and the collaboration with the community.

## **B. Development and Construction**

### Runway 9 Run-up Area Relocation and Southend Taxiways Project

Mr. Harrison reported they were now in Phases 5 and 6 which deal with the overlay of Taxiway Echo 3 and construction of the new run-up area. It was progressing nicely and he anticipated work would be completed by October.

### Runway 31 Bypass Taxiway Project

Mr. Harrison stated this was nearly complete; they were addressing the punch list items and he anticipated it would be completed by the end of August.

Operational data was included in the Board's packet.

## **C. Arrearages**

Mr. James reported there were no rent or fuel flowage arrearages to report.

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

None

## **E. Other Items**

Mr. James said last Monday was National Aviation Day, and he had distributed an article regarding the benefit of general aviation over driving. The article demonstrated how general aviation was benefiting local communities. He noted that most pilots had their start at a general aviation airport, where most flight schools were based.

Chair Volchek congratulated Mr. James on being at the Airport for 25 years.

Mr. James confirmed that some staff would attend the National Business Aviation Association convention. He said they had invited their prime tenants to share FXE's booth and remarked on the collaboration among tenants.

## **II. Public Comments**

Suzanne Jacob, Vice President of The Lofts of Palm Aire Village, discussed noise complaints from her development. She requested that the Airport try to do something about aircraft operating at 300-500 feet. She said since the water treatment plant construction began, there has been an increase in traffic at 300-500 feet, which was illegal over a residential area. Ms. Jacob said The Lofts of Palm Aire was not in the Airport's standard traffic pattern and this could be happening due to weather or some other reason.

Mr. James stated when Air Traffic provided instruction to pilots, there was little time to question the reason. He believed in this scenario, it was what Air Traffic Control was asking them to do. He also noted the turnover in the last five years of three different Air Traffic Managers. Ms. Jacob requested they converse with the cargo carriers because this was where the problems seemed to be coming from. Mr. James said they had inquired into low-altitude departures when it was reported. They had also added a new system to determine what caused the low altitude.

Ms. Jacob said she has been refraining from contacting the Tower, the FAA, and/or their congressional representatives despite the Association wanting her to. Mr. James said they reported low altitude aircraft to Flight Standard District Office in Miramar and they performed research and determined if it was safe or not.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING DATE: Thursday, September 26, 2024, at 1:30 P.M.**

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