

AIRPORT PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Monday – July 11, 2022

District #1: Brad Ketcher	Business: Jeff Northgraves	Environmental: Linda Garat
District #2: Roger Peabody	Owls Head: Adam Philbrook	Commercial Pilot: Aladar Nessar
District #3: Dick Witherspoon	Flying Club: VACANT	STH: Jan Gaudio
Airport Business: Bill Packard		

Members present: Dick Witherspoon, Roger Peabody, Bill Packard, Linda Garat, Jan Gaudio, Jeff Northgraves, Brad Ketcher, Aladar Nesser .

Non-members present: Jeremy Shaw (Manager), Dorothy Meriwether (County Commissioner via zoom)

CALLED TO ORDER: Chair Bill Packard called the meeting to order @ 5:00PM.

RECOGNIZED GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS: Erv Deck (Stantec), Amie Gray (Stantec), Gregg Cohen (Stantec), Kathy Allain and TJ Copeland. There were no public comments.

ACT TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 9th, 2022 MEETING: Roger Peabody made a motion to approve the minutes as written, and Aladar Nesser seconded the motion. The vote was 7 yes, 0 no, and Jeff Northgraves abstained.

ACT TO REVIEW AND RECOMMEND THE FLYING CLUB REPRESENTATIVE TO THE KNOX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: The Airport Manager gave a quick update that after a follow-up discussion with the County’s legal team, Katie Shaw would not be eligible to hold the Flying Club seat without taking a term off. The flying Club then elected, by the membership of the Knox County Flying Club, TJ Copeland to serve on the APAC. TJ Copeland introduced himself and gave a quick overview of his interest of in serving on the APAC, and talked about his life as a business owner, a club member and a pilot. His nomination was met with great enthusiasm by the rest of the membership. Aladar Nesser made a motion to recommend the Flying Club Representative to the Knox County Commissioners. Roger Peabody seconded the vote, and it was unanimous 8-0 to forward Mr. Copeland’s recommendation on to the commissioners.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS: The Environmental and Operations sub-committees had nothing to report. Kathy Allain spoke for the Public Relations Committee, and recommended that when the sub-committees have been rejuvenated that an APAC member acts as the chair for any specific committee. She stated that due to the projects, COVID, etc, that the subcommittees have not been given much direction for the last couple years. She gave ideas for more positive press releases for airport related matters.

ACT TO REVIEW AND RECOMMEND THE AWARD OF THE NEW EAS CONTRACT FOR THE KNOX COUNTY AIRPORT TO THE KNOX COUNTY COMMISSION: Chair Packard asked Jeff Northgraves to give the committee a presentation of the analysis he put together directly from the EAS submissions from Cape Air, Boutique Air, and Southern Airways Express. Jeff started with Boutique Air because their presentation stated in their proposal that if they did not get awarded Augusta, they would not be able to service Rockland. Commissioner Meriwether asked for clarification on what role the host community of Rockland’s role was in the process, and Jeff gave a quick recap of how the EAS selection process worked. Jeff went to great lengths to explain that both Boutique and Southern Airways Express had manipulated the numbers to get under the \$200/per passenger subsidy cap. Chair Packard asked if the County elected to pursue a single engine operation, what would the County have to do? Jeff replied that if you say you’re willing to accept one engine, then one engine is now the minimum, and you lose your multi-engine “veto” power. The Airport Manager was asked to discuss Cape Air’s figures being over the \$200/yr, and the Manager relayed Andrew Bonney’s statement from Cape Air that they are seeing EAS contracts go over the EAS cap because of inflation, and that their numbers are spot on what it now costs to operate the route. Jan Gaudio asked if Cape Air intended on using the new Tecnam with the new service. Jeff replied, yes. Brad Ketcher asked about what happens if the County recommends Cape Air, but the USDOT doesn’t agree to the contract because it exceed the subsidy cap. The Manager stated that the USDOT would just put it out for bid again, and Cape Air would continue the service until a replacement was found. Bill Packard asked for a motion. Jan Gaudio made a motion to recommend to the Knox County Commissioners and Rockland that they

recommend Cape Air as the next EAS contract holder. Roger Peabody seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, 8-0 in support of the motion.

AN ACT TO REVIEW AND RECOMMEND TO THE KNOX COUNTY COMMISSION THE AWARD FOR SOLAR DEVELOPMENT SERVICES FOR A SOLAR ENERGY GENERATION FACILITY AT THE KNOX COUNTY AIRPORT: The airport manager gave a brief update on the need to come back and reselect a solar proposal, after it had been awarded to revision Energy, two years prior. Prior to the final guidance for the use of CARES Act funding, the County published a Request for Proposals that articulated that the project must be CARES Act funding compliant, but did not articulate what those specific provisions were. The FAA required that the County put it back out for bid with the specific provisions articulated within the Request for Proposals. Two companies submitted proposals. DP Porter submitted a letter, and Revision Energy provided a full-proposal. Amie Gray explained why the FAA insisted that the technical portions of the proposals be considered prior to the price being considered. Each member was given a tabulation sheet to grade seven different criteria (Company Background Material, Ability to Perform, Local Knowledge, Staff Project Manager, Experience, References and Reference Projects, and Cost). After the members gave their scores for each category, the scores were compiled and reported. The manager reported the final numbers reflected Revision scoring 87.6% of 100%, and DP Porter scored 50.6% of the possible 100%. Jeff Northgraves made a motion to recommend Revision Energy be awarded the contract for Solar Development Services for a Solar Energy Generation Facility at the Knox County Regional Airport. Linda Garat seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion, 8-0.

MANAGER UPDATES: Due to the length of the meeting, the manager gave an abbreviated update on the ongoing airport projects.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Bill Packard adjourned the meeting at 6:18pm.

NEXT MEETING: September 12th, 2022, at 5pm.