

City of Lago Vista Airport Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 29, 2014

An announced meeting of the Airport Advisory Board of the City of Lago Vista was held on Jan 29, 2014 in the City Council chambers of City Hall in Lago Vista. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Coltharp at 7:05pm.

In attendance at this meeting were board members Bill Coltharp, Jim Orr, Kris Dehnel, and Jim Wood. Also in attendance was City Manager Joseph Portugal, Airport Manager David Harrell, POA President Linda Coltharp, representatives of the POA and representatives of the Penn (Sunset) Ranch property located directly north of the Rusty Allen Airport.

The minutes of the September 28th, 2013 meeting were read by Chairman Coltharp and approved by voice vote.

Staff update was given by City Manager Joseph Portugal.

1. David Harrell has been appointed Airport Manager.
2. James LaBlanc will be in charge of airport maintenance.
3. There is a 90 day transition period (which has been extended) to transition from the current City Manager, Horace Miller to Mr. Harrell.
4. The City Manager has walked the property and the Texas Department of Transportation has conducted its triennial inspection, which resulted in a minor punch list which requires such efforts as trimming, vegetation in the horizontal approach corridor on the north end of the runway.
5. It was announced that City Manager Portugal and Airport Manager Harold will attend the March annual POA meeting.
6. The City Manager and the Airport Manager will be looking at airport zoning with an eye towards creating an airport master plan followed by a zoning overlay which will help to encourage the type of growth as determined by the citizens, TXDOT, and the City. The City has identified property owners adjacent to the airport grounds and assessed water, sewer and other infrastructure preparatory to the creation of the airport master plan. The 1998 master plan has been reviewed and will be revised accordingly. The City is considering the issue of the construction of a building to serve as a terminal building as well as a location for staging airport equipment and materials. The City is working with TXDOT for the funding of the master plan. The property owners and Airport Advisory Board will be polled for input to the master plan. The City is meeting with TXDOT next week to discuss the current status of the CIP Project including Southwest Taxi Way rehabilitation and general asphalt rehabilitation. By the time of the next Airport Advisory Board meeting, a timeline and dates should be available. The timeline of the CIP will depend somewhat upon the timing of the funding of TXDOT. The master plan theoretically could be completed this fiscal year, if funding is available, but may wait until the next fiscal year beginning in October, should funds not currently be available.

Property Owner Association update. Linda Coltharp announced that information is being collected for the Annual Property Owner Association meeting which will be held on March 29th of this year. It was discussed that the property owners should communicate with David Harrell for such items as airport maintenance and the issuing of notams.

There was a discussion of the status of the abandoned Fouga on the transient ramp. The City Manager recommended that the provisions of the abandoned aircraft ordinance be invoked to begin the process of using the ordinance to dispose of that aircraft. The white Fouga resting on Jim Awalt's land has been sold and paid for. The owner has been given 30 days to move the aircraft. The second Fouga on private property in the annex will be reviewed by the City Manager with the possibility of including it in the invoking of the Abandoned Aircraft Ordinance for ultimate disposal.

There was a discussion of the airport expansion. Current concepts for airport expansion include runway extension into the Penn Ranch. The zoning of the areas around the airport for economic expansion, the consideration of the development of T Hangers to the east of Rolling Hills Trail and considerations of providing additional transient ramp parking were also discussed. It was explained by the City Manager that the sequence of events is to first create the Airport Master Plan, followed by the zoning overlay umbrella, followed by the actual beginning of airport expansion, this being done to ensure that the objectives of future airport growth are not interfered with or negatively affected by current rehabilitation programs, such as rehabilitating runways with insufficient load bearing capacity to meet anticipated master plan requirements. It was discussed that there was the possibility of perhaps up to 1,200 feet of runway extension to the north into the Penn Ranch property. Representatives of the Penn Ranch in attendance were agreeable to the discussion of a concept which would extend the overall runway length to perhaps slightly over 5,000 feet. Again, it would be ascertained whether or not such a runway length would fit into the master plan requirements. It was discussed that the representatives of the Penn Ranch are in favor of clearing brush from the north end of the runway. The Advisory Board recommended to the City Manager that such brush clearing should be accomplished if it proves to be economically and physically appropriate. Representatives of the Penn Ranch discussed the concept in which Penn Ranch land to the east of the airport would be traded for the triangle of land at the immediate northwest corner of the property of the airport property, allowing the possibility of the expansion of Bar K Ranch Road and the existing taxiway into the Penn Ranch property. Representatives of the Penn Ranch expressed their desire to create a real estate development on the west side of the north end of the runway extension should that extension be realized. It was noted that the master plan would be required to consider such items as weight restrictions on both the taxiway and the runway, wing clearances for maneuvering larger aircraft, the availability of both gasoline and jet A fuels, and the consistency with the development of the surrounding property.

Board members discussed the desirability of the removal of brush from the north end of the runway on the Penn Ranch property given that the Penn Ranch owners do not object and a vote was taken. It was recommended that the City investigate the feasibility of doing such brush removal, realizing that the brush removal must be done either before March 1st or after October 15th to comply with regulations from Fish and Wildlife concerning the nesting habits of the bird population on the north property.

Citizen comments. It was mentioned that some streetlights on Bar K Ranch Road were inoperative. The City has agreed to survey the lights to determine necessary repairs.

Date of the next Airport Advisory meeting was set as March 26th, 2014. Chairman Coltharp called for a motion for adjournment at 8:25PM. The motion was seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

End of minutes.