

AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD
JUNE 28, 2004

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. Board members present were Chair Jim Futch, Vice-Chair Stephanie Osborn, Debbie Chandler, Jorge Egues, Hertz Halperin, Melinda Hart, David Oakes, Mitch Topal (departed at 8:55 p.m.) and Don Zane (departed at 7:50 p.m.). Also present were Mayor Truex, Councilmembers Crowley and Starkey, consultant Brenda Lee Chalifour, Planner Brad Swing, and Board Secretaries Angela Salinas and Janet Gale recording the meeting. Andre Parke was absent.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 20, 2004

Mr. Halperin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Chandler, to approve the minutes of May 20, 2004. In a voice vote, with Mr. Parke being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 9-0)**

3. PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Broward County Commission Candidates to make Individual Presentations
Chair Futch asked for suggestions regarding a format for the presentations.

Mr. Topal made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hart, that each candidate be allowed to speak for five minutes followed by a 15 to 20 minute question and answer period. In a voice vote, with Mr. Parke being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 9-0)**

Rick Bruns spoke of his involvement concerning the airport expansion and indicated that his opposition to the expansion was based on the quality of life and the increased cost to taxpayers. Following his presentation, he answered questions posed by Board members.

Suellen Fardelmann provided background information regarding her service and accomplishments as mayor of Cooper City. She had serious doubts about the expansion; however, if it happened, she believed there should be a fight to hold out for the best possible mitigation, and implement restrictions in order to reduce noise levels. Ms. Fardelman believed that as different issues evolved, her voting actions would be based on what her constituents indicated was in their and the future's best interests. When answering questions she was asked about displacing people from their homes for the expansion, she stated that "it seemed to be more immoral than saying you might have to wait when flying in here".

Lois Wexler spoke of her experience as a former Broward County School Board member for 12 years. She explained her method of researching issues and stated that she was "from the people". Ms. Wexler indicated that at this point in time, she was under the premise that the expansion was a "go" and that the only way to control the growth was through the amount of gates. When asked how she would handle this issue if she were elected, she responded that she would "stop it right now, open it up and discuss it again", so she would be satisfied that they were headed in the right direction. After answering questions, she indicated that providing affordable housing was a major concern of hers.

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Roger Wishner provided background information and indicated that he had served as a commissioner for the City of Sunrise. He had also served on the Transportation Committee in the Florida House of Representatives and had experience dealing with the issues of international expansion and cargo transportation at Miami International Airport. While Mr. Wishner acknowledged that the airport was a significant revenue generator, he believed that before moving forward with anything, it was incumbent upon political leaders to make sure that the “dollars” were there to protect people’s lifestyles. Mr. Wishner spoke of his concerns on home relocation with respect to the loss of homestead exemption, the loss of the three percent cap in the Save-Our-Homes Program, the difference in assessment values on newer properties and how all these tax issues would affect anyone who was forced to relocate. When asked how he would have voted on this issue had he been a County Commissioner last year, his reply was that he would not have supported it under the current conditions.

Randy Dunlap indicated he had experience on this subject from his involvement on the Airport Task Force. He supported the proper expansion of the airport and utilized graphics to explain his position. When asked about mitigation costs, Mr. Dunlap provided calculations on the revenue that would be received from increasing landing fee structure which he believed would cover the cost. He also provided his proposal to resolve the issue of the tax burden encountered by homeowners who were relocated due to eminent domain. Mr. Dunlap stated that his goal was to have no new impact west of the airport and to limit impact east and south of the airport to the perimeters he displayed in his graphics. He answered the Board’s questions.

Gary Siegel, representing Commissioner John Rodstrom, reminded the Board that Mr. Rodstrom was one of the two votes opposing the expansion and that Mr. Rodstrom did advocate flight tracking and the mitigation of those people already affected by excessive noise.

3.2 Questions/Answers

Earlier in the meeting, questions and answers were taken individually.

4. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Hart reported on the company that had sent out letters which had indicated that it was interested in purchasing the property of homeowners in her community. She clarified that it was a land auction company which was only interested in purchasing vacant land. It was the consensus of the Board to have a statement put in the Davie Update explaining that the company was looking to obtain vacant land.

Ms. Hart advised that she had been approached by many interested neighbors asking whom they may contact regarding airport issues. She was in favor of any method of communication in order to inform residents of the urgency of this issue, whom to contact, and provide them with the means to become involved.

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Mr. Topal commented that he was disappointed by the small turnout of residents as he believed the candidates expected to present their viewpoints to an audience. He believed this event should have been promoted to the general public more efficiently. In the discussion that followed, it was established that Ms. Chalifour would be the "contact" person for public outreach. Ms. Chalifour expressed the opinion that although there was not a "full house," people expected this Board to represent their interests up through the Council and it was expected that the Board could garner which of the candidates would be appropriate to represent the Town's interests. Councilmember Starkey conveyed that Board members may act independently to endorse a candidate; however, it would be inappropriate to do so collectively or as a Board member.

Mr. Halperin referenced a newspaper article which led him to believe that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Department of Transportation supported the expansion of the runway. He asked what options were left if these two government agencies supported the expansion. Mr. Oaks responded that he had read the FAA report and he did not see anything that specifically stated that Fort Lauderdale needed to be expanded. He contended, however, that the Board needed to put together some type of plan, that as a group it should conduct its own research to find answers to take to the County Commission and provide it with information, especially the candidates, in order to help them make the right decisions about the airport.

Councilmember Starkey reminded the Board of the achievements it had made; however, she cautioned that it needed to have "current, accurate" information on which to make decisions. She also advised of the status of the Part 150 process and the Environmental Impact Study (EIS). Ms. Chalifour added her synopsis on the actions of the County Commission and how it has been reacting to various strategies.

Mr. Egues agreed that the Board needed to come up with a strategy that would make sense for the Town; however, he also believed that it should consider the whole County's perspective thereby soliciting support from other residents. Messrs. Egues and Oakes stated that the role of the Board was to become educated and then educate and rally others. Mr. Oakes suggested that based on the FAA report that he had read, a Freedom of Information Act should be filed to ask the FAA for the basis for their study. Councilmember Starkey agreed that it was a good idea and that Mr. McAliley was probably the appropriate person to file that request.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the temperament of the public and Chair Futch provided historical information regarding its interactions with this Board. Councilmember Starkey spoke of the various outreach efforts implemented in the past. She encouraged Board members to write editorials to the Sun-Sentinel and Miami Herald. Ms. Chalifour recommended that each Board member lobby a County Commissioner as it was ultimately the County Commission's decision. Discussions included noise monitors and Councilmember Starkey apprised the Board of their locations. She also recommended that Board members living within those locations join the Noise Abatement Committee.

Once again the discussion reverted to the vision, purpose and function of the Board with members expressing their viewpoints.

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Mr. Oakes made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hart, to request that attorney Neal McAliley file a Freedom of Information Act request to get background information in order to understand the basis for the decision of the FAA to put Fort Lauderdale as one of the top 15 airports in the country that need to be expanded. In a voice vote, with Messrs. Zane, Topal and Parke being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 7-0)**

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 N.O.I.S.E. Summer Conference & Aviation Noise Symposium

Earlier in the meeting, Chair Futch asked who would be interested in attending. Ms. Chandler and Mr. Egues responded that they would attend.

Mr. Halperin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Topal, to request that the Town Council fund two Board members to attend the conference. In a voice vote, with Messrs. Parke and Zane being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 8-0)**

6. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS

Chair Futch asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak.

Pat Johnsen, 8305 South Lake Forest Drive, indicated that she was unable to find any information regarding meeting schedules on the Web or on the Public Cable Channel. As Ms. Gale was responsible for sending the monthly activity list to the cable tv provider and to the person who puts it on the Web, she would research what the problem was and report back to the Board.

Mr. Oakes made a motion, seconded by Mr. Egues, that the Town look into the possibility of providing a link/page on its Web site for the Airport Advisory Board. In a voice vote, with Messrs. Zane, Topal and Parke being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 7-0)**

Ms. Johnsen commended the Board on its efforts and indicated that her homeowners association would be interested in working with this Board. She also volunteered to serve on the Noise Abatement Committee.

Karen Stenzel-Nowicki, 5480 SW 55 Avenue, thanked the Board for its support on behalf of the community. She expressed three points which she believed were important for the Board to pursue: 1) restrict landing and takeoff times; 2) reinforce that the present runway would accommodate the newer designed aircraft; and 3) to take the issues piece-by-piece and persevere.

The Board discussed the next meeting and decided to try for July 27th. Ms. Gale indicated that she would confirm the availability.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Oakes made a motion, seconded by Mr. Halperin, to adjourn. There being no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Date Approved: _____

Chair/Board Member