



Minutes of Meeting of Gadsden Airport Authority
Friday January 20th, 2023

The Gadsden Airport Authority held a meeting beginning at noon on Friday, January 20, 2023, in the City Council chambers at Gadsden City Hall, 90 Broad Street, Gadsden, AL 35901.

In attendance: Billy Billingsley, Ken Robertson, Robert Turk, Tim McCartney, and Kent Haney. Also attending were Randall Gober, Josh Stump (Neel-Schaffer) and board attorney Ed Howard.

A quorum was present.

Billy Billingsley called meeting to order.

Minutes: Upon a motion by Ken Robertson and a second by Robert Turk, the board voted to accept the November 2022 meeting minutes, Kent Haney abstaining as he was not in place on the board at that time.

Financials: Upon a motion by Tim McCartney and a second by Robert Turk, the board unanimously voted to table any action on the October, November, and December 2022 GAA financial documents and to schedule accountant Todd Hindsman for the February 17, 2023, board meeting.

Scully System installation update: Rebel Aviation Services is the only quote we have at this time. We are waiting for a few more aviation equipment installers to give Randall comparison quotes. All that is required is an industrial electrician to install this system. It would save the board a good bit of money to have a local certified electrician to do the installation. Randall has reached out to local contractor Mack Butler to see if his company can give the Authority a quote, and Randall will be reaching out to a few more contractors. He has received quotes for the product itself to include shipping to our site.

Special Item: Chairman Billingsley requested the board to allow a special presentation from visitors Clinton Melendez and Will Posey, representatives of a charitable group., "G.R.I.P." (Guys Racing In Parking Lots).

The group is seeking permission to use parts of the GAA's aircraft parking area for an automobile racing event at the airport with proceeds going to a Gadsden State Community College Scholarship Fund. The representatives said that the Fox Sports SPEED channel will be filming the April event. They said that Greater Gadsden

Tourism has pledged \$10,000 toward the event, and two other businesses will be sponsoring this event. They expect to generate between \$13,000 and \$15,000 in scholarship funds for the automotive program at Gadsden State Community College. The overall series is composed of nine races, once per month. They said if the April event goes well, the event could possibly come back to the airport for the final event(s).

Kent Haney expressed concern about the effect on aviators. Clinton Melendez said he would plan to move any of their equipment out of the way of any aircraft as needed during the event. All cars are daily drivers. Timed event one car at a time.

Ken Robertson asked about tire marks. Clinton responded that they would take responsibility for any damage to the asphalt and address it. The representatives predicted there would be some 30 to 45 cars involved, and that their average number of spectators is around 200. Board members asked for more information before any decision could be made.

Corporate gate security issue is better as more are getting informed to the way the area needs to be protected.

Randall said he has sought quotes for long-range internet Wi-Fi access for a camera system and/or controllers which could monitor and/or control the gate systems from the main side of the airport. Jonathan McCormick suggested moving the fence near the old Hudak hangar. There was also suggestion whether an accessible lock box outside the fence would be large enough to accept delivery packages. Discussion continued and the board asked Randall to seek prices for fencing and the long range internet.

New airport manager: Tim McCartney said he would work on a job description for the position of Airport Manager so that it could be considered for approval at the February meeting.

February meeting time: Tim McCartney made a motion to change the time of the GAA Board Meeting to 9 a.m. for the February 17, 2023 meeting. Motion was seconded by Ken Robertson and the Authority passed the motion.

Master Service Contract for Airport Planning and Engineering: The master service contract for airport planning and engineering is expiring in March. Tim McCartney made a motion that attorney Howard assemble a bid package to be considered at the February meeting and advertise to accept bids in March. Motion was seconded by Robert Turk and the board unanimously passed the motion.

Hay cutting contract: Presently the Hay cutting contract is with Rodney Austin. Mr. Turk asked to have Rodney Austin present at the next meeting. Recently there have been a few more parties seeing the contract. The board wanted to investigate advertising the hay contract again.

Other grass cutting: The Authority also discussed look into a lawn care contract to maintain the required grass cutting around the airport as required by FAA standards.

Kent Haney asked whether the City could possibly get its contractors involved with the airport maintenance, and it was suggested that Brett Johnson at the City be contacted.

Adjourn: A motion to adjourn was made by Ken Robertson and seconded by Robert Turk. A unanimous vote moved to adjourn.

Next Meeting: March 17, 2023, at 9 a.m.