



Draft Airport Advisory Board Minutes

February 15, 2023

6:30 PM

Members Present: Tom Leffler; Willie Sinsel; Alex Huckins

Members Absent: Michael Snow; Kevin Miller

Staff Present: Ray Seif, Airport Manager

Visitors Present: Joe Bertapelle (Augusta Flight Center); Tim McLemore (Kansas Copters); Rob Kuhns (54); Chuck Dugnolle (55); Dave McDonald (21); Demeon Brown (Multiple); Steve Palmer.

Call to Order:

Tom Leffler called the Airport Advisory Board meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

Minutes:

Willie Sinsel made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 16, 2022 Airport Advisory Board meeting; Alex Huckins seconded the motion; Motion carried without opposition.

Public Participation:

Tom Leffler addressed those in attendance, asking for public participation and asking everyone to introduce themselves.

Business:

“Suitcase” Mechanic Discussion- Ray Seif discussed the potential for establishing a process to allow mechanics that don’t have an established commercial relationship in the field to be able to perform maintenance on the field. Seif indicated that although airport leases and airport Rules and Regulations both do not allow suitcase mechanics, in accordance with the FAA Airport Compliance Manual, from time to time, an aircraft owner may need specialized maintenance that is not available on the field. Seif indicated that having a permitting process for those special circumstances would allow owners an opportunity to maintain their aircraft without violating the lease.

Tim McLemore of Kansas Copters said that perhaps a tiered permit that asks questions regarding if they tried someone on the field or not.

Demeon Brown asked that if the FAA issued an Airworthiness Directive (AD) requiring an aircraft to undergo Non-destructive testing (NDT) for airworthiness, would the NDT technician be permitted to work on the field since the on-field Maintenance Repair Overhaul (MRO) shops likely don’t have this capability.

Seif indicated that the NDT technician would need to go through the proposed permitting process, otherwise they would not be allowed to come in to perform the work at the airport.

Rob Kuhns asked if the owner and the partner can still do their own maintenance. Seif indicated that the owners of an aircraft are permitted to work on their aircraft. Nothing is changing there.

Willie Sinsel asked about having his technician that he has used for many years. Seif told Willie that his technician would need to also go through the permitting process as it would not be allowed currently. Willie asked if he were to actually hire them and Seif indicated that as long as they are regular employees, not independent contractors, that aircraft owners can use their own employees and their own equipment to service their aircraft.

Dave McDonald and Steve Palmer discussed Wellington allowing suitcase mechanics. Seif indicated that he wasn't commenting on the appropriateness of the Wellington minimum standards, but if they created an opportunity for the suitcase mechanic to perform maintenance on the field without being permitted or paying a fee, then there may be FAA compliance issues. Steve indicated they do have a permitting process for the suitcase mechanics.

Seif indicated that the airport's permitting process would need to ensure that the City's interests are protected. Suitcase mechanics would need to have the same insurance and environmental requirements as the on-field MROs. They would also need to pay a fee for the permit.

Tom indicated that there seems to be a general consensus for a tiered permit and directed airport manager Seif to forward a suggested draft permit for board review.

Adjourn:

Alex Huckins made a motion to adjourn at 8:12 pm; Willie Sinsel seconded the motion. Motion carried without opposition.

/s/Ray Seif, Airport Manager