



**La Porte Airport Advisory Board
MINUTES
June 26, 2024**

Members Present: In person: Deborah Rihn-Harvey, Position 3, Robbie McLarrin, Position 7, Bryan Gwin, Position 4, Mark Follis, Position 6.

Members Absent: Dan Marrouf, Position 1, David Kagey, Position 2, Shane Worsham, Position 5

Others Present: Ray Mayo, Director of Public Works, Andrew Brady, Assistant Director of Public Works

The La Porte Airport Advisory Board meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. by Debby Rihn-Harvey.

1. There was no citizen comment.
2. Debby Rihn-Harvey made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2023 meeting. Mark Follis seconded. Unanimously approved.
3. Mark Follis made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2024 meeting. Debby Rihn-Harvey seconded. Unanimously approved.
4. Ray Mayo informed the Board of a request received through the City Manager's office for a residential through-the-fence access to the airport. Pros and cons were discussed along with requirements from TxDOT Aviation and FAA. Many questions were raised that included the Airport Layout Plan. Mark Follis made a motion to table this request until preparation of the Airport Master Plan. Debby Rihn-Harvey seconded. Unanimously approved.
5. Gate access was discussed and possible improvement to upgrade to a card access system. Board members indicated that this type of upgrade would not be required on all access gates. The Board directed staff to research the project and coordinate with users on the specific gates changing. Mark Follis made a motion to utilize RAMP grant funds for the gate project and also add \$150,000 to the previous amount suggested for the Airport Master Plan, increasing the total to \$400,000. Bryan Gwin seconded. Unanimously approved.

6. Ray Mayo provided a report from TxDOT Aviation displaying the economic impact of the La Porte Municipal Airport. It was noted that one of the statements on the report may have been dated and carried over from a previous report. The Board directed staff to work with TxDOT Aviation to update the statement. Mark Follis made a motion that the report be forwarded to City Council concurrent with the budget request sessions. Robbie McLarrin seconded. Unanimously approved.
7. The lease area of the Air National Guard was discussed. The Board noted there has been no use of the facility since the Air National Guard moved to Ellington Field around or about 2015. This area is desirable for perhaps a future terminal building. The environmental concerns were discussed, notably a potential oil spill on the site and the possibility of asbestos in the abandoned building. Mark Follis made a motion to have the current Lessee provide an environmental report to determine the impacts and involve the City Attorney and TML to see what remedy the City has to force the cleanup. Robbie McLarrin seconded. Unanimously approved.
8. Ray Mayo provided information on construction of the new lift station outside the west fence of the airport. There is a pending permit for the temporary crane during construction and a pending permit for the permanent structure.
9. Discussion was had on the construction of two T-hangars and three box-hangars on the west side of the airport. It was suggested by Mark Follis to possibly re-zone the airport and remove the SCUP requirement, which he felt could hinder potential development.
10. There was discussion about the pavement condition with the re-surfacing product that was applied in 2021. Board members and FBO's have described possible delamination on ramps and taxiways. Tom Dodson spoke about the product as he was the engineer of record, and the product was the desired specification of TxDOT Aviation. Tom recommended a warranty inspection prior to contacting the contractor about a remedy under the 5-year warranty.
11. Board Comments – Debby Rihn-Harvey stated drainage concerns adjacent to her facility. She also noted that the personnel that were mowing need to be more observant to airfield operations. She mentioned the truck parking area and the mud that is sometimes left on the ramp. She also mentioned the condition of Airport Boulevard.
12. The Board members set the next meeting for August 2024 (6,7,8,13,14). Several members noted that they like having a choice of dates to select with their schedules.
13. The motion to adjourn was made by Mark Follis and seconded by Bryan Gwin. The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED
ON THIS DAY 09/10/2024

Chairman


Vice-Chairman