



Meeting Minutes

City of Gainesville
Airport Advisory Board Meeting
Airport Terminal Conference Room
Monday, January 8, 2007 10:30 AM

Members Present: Earl Clement, Mike McKenzie, Nancy Brannon, Ginger Herrmann, Earl Russell, Carroll Johnson

Members Absent: Richard Lira

Staff Present: Vince Nelson

Visitors Present: Kathy Floyd, Roger Martin, Rod Tyler, Nicole Holt, Ed Graham, Sara Billie Tyler, Harold Ott, Bernice Montgomery, Warren Flowers, Jack Merrick, Wilma Leach, Preston Bartley, Robin Brown, Andy Hogue

The **first item of business** was calling the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m., by Nancy Brannon.

The **second item of business** was Discussion and Action on meeting minutes from December 11, 2007. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Ginger Herrmann, with a second made by Mike McKenzie. Ayes: Clement, McKenzie, Herrmann, Russell, Johnson. Nays: None. Absent: Lira.

The **third item of business** was citizen/tenant comments. Nancy Brannon requested the third item be addressed under item five and proceed to item four. Earl Russell joined the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

The **fourth item of business** was Discussion and Action on Utilization of NPE Funds. The Airport Director listed various items to utilize the funds to include: security upgrades, fuel farm upgrades and ramp/taxiway extension. The Airport Director indicated that a motivated individual expressed interest in constructing a row of private T-Hangars and the ramp/taxiway extension would be a positive project towards that development. No discussion was required. A motion was made by Nancy Brannon to approve utilization of the funds with a second

made by Ginger Herrmann. Ayes: Clement, Herrmann, Russell, Johnson, McKenzie. Nays: None. Absent: Lira.

The **fifth item of business** was Discussion on Previous Presentation by Joe Leonard to Rename the Airport. Nancy Brannon opened discussion to the citizens present and asked if they all wished to speak individually or would one person speak for the entire group. Mr. Rod Tyler opened the discussion stating he had been a resident of Gainesville for fifty (50) years and the City of Gainesville would be missing out on a substantial opportunity if they did not consider naming the Airport after General Lew Allen. He mentioned the need for a positive role model and possible scholarship opportunities. Mike McKenzie replied that the citizen's of Gainesville had that opportunity now and as an administrator and scientist, not an aviator, General Lew Allen's name could be applied to the new high school's science department or possibly to the new high school itself. Mr. Tyler stated we would be missing out on National Air Force recognition. Mike McKenzie then expressed his passion for the men and women that passed through Camp Howze, and that those individuals were indeed the Citizen's of the Century. Carroll Johnson stated he was reluctant to single out one certain individual when so many went through the gates of Camp Howze, adding the Board had been addressed in 2003 regarding this issue which prompted him to gather further information about General Lew Allen in which he discovered the General had no real connection to the Airport. Earl Russell acknowledged General Allen's accomplishments and stated there were thousands (1,000's) of brave men and women who had served and it would not be possible to single out any one individual. Earl Clement added that if any one individual had made a significant contribution to the Airport, it would have been former Mayor, Jim Hatcher. Mr. Jack Merrick questioned what the name of the Airport should be to which Mr. Clement replied, "it should remain the Gainesville Municipal Airport". At this time Nancy Brannon advised all citizens the Board minutes from the 2003 meetings recording previous actions taken on this matter were available for their review. She also inquired as to what supposed business opportunities would be brought to Gainesville and the Airport by renaming the Airport and stated infrastructure and economic development brings growth, not renaming the Airport; if financial and economic growth could be proven, the Board might consider re-visiting the issue. Earl Russell questioned the driving force behind their desire to rename the Airport, with no reply. Mr. Merrick stated this was not the only effort made and asked for each Board member to state their reasons for NOT changing the name. Earl Clement stated that under the name of Gainesville Municipal Airport, the Airport had been voted the most improved Airport in the State of Texas. Carroll Johnson spoke of the Board's responsibility to look after the Airport's best interests and naming it after one individual, not taking into consideration the thousands of men that trained here prior to the Army handing the Airport over to the City, was not appropriate. Ginger Herrmann stated these were her exact feelings on the subject and thanked all of the citizens for attending the meeting and voicing their support for General Allen. Carroll Johnson then asked the Airport Director to convey his opinion from an aviation business standpoint. The Airport Director stated from a financial standpoint, many airport tenants would have to create new marketing materials; letterhead and other office related material, which would cause an unnecessary financial burden. In addition, the Airport Director noted his marketing efforts during the past three (3) months had been very specific to the name of the Airport and it's location, and renaming the Airport could undermine those efforts, not to mention the City would spend additional monies related to advertising and office supplies, much like our Airport tenants. Mr. Tyler reiterated Lew Allen was a great man and the City could really build on this idea. Earl Clement questioned how this name change would bring more money to the Airport and the community. Earl Russell mentioned it

was not uncommon for name changes to be made after significant financial donations as is common in renaming a wing to a major hospital or sporting arena. At this time Nancy Brannon thanked everyone for coming out and requested that the meeting proceed to the next item of discussion. At this time citizens expressed thanks for taking time to readdress the issue and left the meeting.

The **sixth item of business** was Airport Director Reports. Reports were given on December 2006 fuel sales and mentioned the positive responses he received from a recent email campaign that was focused on the winter ski season with regard to cross country refueling customers. The Airport Director spoke regarding a visit to Alliance Airport's FBO and their customer service related to our Airport employees. The Airport Director informed Board members of the upcoming NBAA conference he will be attending in late January 2007 and mentioned it had the largest enrollment in its 15 year history and added it will be a great marketing opportunity. Nancy Brannon asked Board members if there were any questions for the Airport Director. Earl Clement asked if the University of North Texas/School of Economics has been contacted to perform a study on the economic impact of the Airport. The Airport Director said he would contact the school. Nancy Brannon asked him to make sure the Officer Nominating Committee Discussion and Action be included on the February Agenda. There were no further questions. At this time Nancy Brannon requested the Board return to Item 5. Mike McKenzie thanked all Board members for their stance on the renaming of the Airport. Carroll Johnson pointed out that it shouldn't be construed that the name of the Airport was for sale based on an earlier comment. There were no further comments.

The **seventh item of business** was a motion to adjourn made by Mike McKenzie, with a second made by Ginger Herrmann. Ayes: McKenzie, Johnson, Herrmann, Russell, Clement. Nays: None. Absent: Lira.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.