

**Airport Authority Minutes**  
**February 27, 2020**  
**7:30 p.m.**

The Chairman, Jack Robson, called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM in Meeting Room B in the Airport Terminal Building. Members David Dorsch, Chris Dullnig, James Garvin, David Kolesar, and Anna Sandberg were present. Gabriel Iriate was absent. Lee Sommer, Airport Manager, and Stephen Edgin, Assistant Manager, attended.

The Minutes of the 11 August 2019 meeting, previously approved via email, were distributed.

Mr. Sommer advised work on the Paint Branch Stream Remediation project had begun in a very limited manner. The Purple Line contractors placed "Limit of Disturbance" markers in the project area. No date has been set for actual work on the creek has been set. Current plans call for from two to four gates to be added to the airport fence adjacent to the creek. They will be used to provide construction equipment access to the south side of the creek. Access to the north side will be via the Lake Artemesia park. Some trees, on both sides of the fence, will be removed. Little or no interruption to airport operations is anticipated.

There were no Mussel (military Huey helicopter) complaints during the last reporting period. There was one helicopter complaint. However, the caller would not provide either their name or address so no research as to where the problem occurred could be done. Ms. Sandberg advised that a number of PG Police helicopters were observed by her operating outside of the desired flight path. When the City agreed to allow the helicopters to be based at the airport it was understood that they would fly the normal departure and arrival corridors.

Mr. Sommer advised that the helicopter unit commander was currently away for two weeks of training. He would discuss the problem after the commander returned. He would also invite him to our next Airport Authority meeting.

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) was tasked by local members of Congress to do a study of helicopter operations in the Washington, DC area. Mr. Hoyer, our Congressman was asked to write to the GAO requesting that the City be added to the study. Nothing further has been heard. GAO studies are not normally done very quickly.

Phase 2 of the Runway refurbishment study consisting of taxiway refurbishment, lighting upgrade, and Precision Approach Indicator (PAPI) installation, continues. Initial engineering work on the Precision Approach Path Indicator lights (PAPI) revealed that some additional trees needed to be trimmed. Further, the airport safety inspection previously conducted by the Maryland Aviation Administration revealed that some previously topped trees had grown into the approach and departure paths. M-NCPPC was advised by their airport engineering contractor that the FAA had changed some of the requirements for the required clearance on those paths. M-NCPPC decided that it would be better to remove\replace trees with lower total height trees, thereby eliminating the need for topping. Topping eventually destroys a tree. M-NCPPC made a presentation to the Mayor and Council on the corrective action required. Unfortunately, more trees were removed than had been estimated and work stopped.. M-NCPPC met again with the Mayor and Council and later with some members of the City's Tree and Landscape Board. An action plan is now being developed to resolve the issue. PAPI design will ensure that the Yarrow neighborhood is shielded from the PAPI lights.

Primary flight instruction continues.. There is one instructor and one aircraft. There are four part-time students. There have been no complaints.

Usage of the Redbird Flight simulator remains low but is increasing. Mr. Sommer is working on ways to further increase its use.

Mr. Sommer provided the following administrative information for the 1 October/December 31quarter:

There were 44 based aircraft, 754 tenant operations and 255 transient operations, a total of 1,019. Helicopter operations, included in the totals, consisted of 224 by PG County helicopters and 48 transient GA helicopters and 11 military and other police helicopters.

The proposed 4422 Knox Road building has been reduced in height to comply with FAA and MAA requirements ( not greater than 198 feet AMSL). Another project , located behind the old Kinko's site may be too high. No details are available yet.

WSSC needs to rework some sewer lines that cross the northwest end of the airport. Mr. Sommer continues working with WSSC to work out the details and schedule.

The County Council voted to allow rezoning the land that Freeway Airport occupies. It will probably take about two years for actual rezoning to take place. Three aircraft have relocated to College Park from Freeway. More are anticipated.

The walkway between the Operations Building public entrance and the children's play area is protected by a plain perforated screen. M-NCPPC plans to replace the screen with some form of more esthetically pleasing screen. A stylized depiction of the atmospheric jet stream been selected .

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.