Aviation Advisory Committee
March 19, 2008
Milton, Florida

The Aviation Advisory Committee met on the above date with the following members present: Chairman Carlos Diaz and members Theodore Elbert, Mike Harris, Marty Martin, and Randy Roy (NAS Whiting Field representative). Also present were the County Administrator (Hunter Walker), County Engineer (Roger Blaylock), and Administrative Services Manager (Tammy Simmons). Chairman Diaz called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Martin moved approval of the minutes from the January 16, 2008 meeting; Harris seconded, andthe vote carried unanimously. (5-0)

Chairman/Member Issues

Diaz said the beacon at Peter Prince Airport has been non-operational for a long time. He said the motor in the beacon was determined to be bad and unrepairable. Diaz said the original manufacturer of the beacon is out of business. Blaylock said a new beacon unit has been ordered. He said the beacon will be installed within two days of delivery.

FBO Issues

Davis Glass discussed deer being a problem at Peter Prince Airport during all times of the day. He said the only other issue at Peter Prince Airport is some of the main trusses on the new hangars are rusty. Glass asked staff to check on the rusty trusses.

Pensacola Flight Watch, Inc.

Dale Holbert said there are three safety items he needs to address. He said the beacon being out for a long period of time is a safety problem. Holbert asked when the new beacon will be delivered. Blaylock said the beacon should arrive in about 2 to 4weeks.

Holbert said the Superunicom at Peter Prince Airport is too weak to activate hand transmissions unless you are less than 2 miles from the airport. He said the Superunicom is an important safety item that needs to be addressed. Holbert said the problem is simply a matter of range.

Holbert said there is a contradiction between the published and unpublished NOTAMS (Notices to airmen) on the 36 PAPI (Precision Approach Path Indicator) lights at Peter Prince Airport. He said the published NOTAMS show 36 PAPI out of service, but it is in service. Holbert said the local unpublished NOTAMS received when a flight plan is filed is correct. He said the contradiction needs to be corrected.

Holbert said the status of the PAPI lights for runway 17 at Pensacola Regional Airport is in the design stage with FAA (Federal Aviation Administration). He said he is hoping the design will be approved and installed. Holbert discussed the reason the PAPI lights were not installed concurrently with the reopening of runway17.

Holbert said Pensacola Regional Airport has a problem with runway 26. He said runway 26 meets 5 of 6 criteria for a black hole illusion at night and all 6 criteria with an instrument approach at night. Holbert said the Pensacola Area Flight Watch Safety Committee is trying to get that information published in the AFD (Airport Facility Directory) for Pensacola Regional Airport. He said Pensacola Air Traffic Control Tower agreed this is important information and said they will look into alerting all pilots. Holbert discussed a safety problem with the instrument approach to runway 8 being resolved by a safety team member.

Holbert said the Chappie James Honoree column and plaque is installed at the Aviation Discovery Park. He said the radio installation at the park is underway and should be completed soon. Holbert said the large sky shade structure is scheduled for completion sometime next week. He said the honoree plaques for Betty Skelton and Jackie Cochran are estimated to be installed by April 18. Holbert said the engraved paver installation is being worked on. He said the park is coming along, but funds are still needed.

Diaz asked why a plaque is being installed for Betty Skelton. Holbert discussed the aviation history of Skelton and why she is included as an honoree in the park. He said he felt Skelton deserves recognition as a local aviator. Holbert discussed other aviators who will be honored in the Aviation Discovery Park. He said there will be a short biography on each honoree's plaque at the park.

Diaz said the Superunicom at Peter Prince Airport was installed by Ingram Electric. He said the person who did all the work on the system is no longer with the company. Diaz said no one else at Ingram Electric is familiar with the Superunicom. He said he had a contact person who could give him directions on how to fix minor things with the system, but he no longer has that contact. Diaz said he adjusted a knob on the Superunicom which increased the range to 1 ½ miles out. He said that is not enough range. Diaz asked staff to find a new contact person for the Superunicom. Blaylock said he will check on a contact for the Superunicom. Holbert said the Superunicom should be effective out to 10 miles. He said the system decreased to its present range within the last two months. Holbert said the Superunicom is a very effective safetydevice for the airport.

Holbert said the Aviation Discovery Park is open to the public even though portions of it are still under construction. He urged everyone to visit the park.

Other Business

Diaz said staff provided a project financing data sheet to the committee. (Attachment in file) He said this information was requested by committee members to determine if hangar rental rates should be increased. Diaz asked committee members to review the information for discussion at the next Aviation Advisory meeting. Walker said the first two pages are capital projects at Peter Prince Airport. He said the third page shows operating revenue and expenses of Peter Prince Airport. Diaz asked what is included in the expense figures for each of the years shown. Walker discussed what is included in the expense figures listed.

Blaylock said the capital projects listed represent improvements at Peter Prince Airport over the last 20 years. He said some of the funding used for the capital projects came from grants from the DOT (Department of Transportation) and/or the FAA. Blaylock discussed current operating funds and the expenses to be deducted from those funds. There was discussion on sources ofthe revenue listed. Diaz asked what is included in the $225,644.00 expense for 2007. Blaylock discussed depreciation in relation to expenses. He said he believes the current operating fund balance for Peter Prince Airport is about $330,000.00. Martin said the committee wants to know the amount of the Peter Prince Airport operating fund, revenue coming into the fund, and detailed expenses going out. Diaz asked if the $266,560.00 for Santa Rosa County's share of the new T-hangars will have to be deducted from the current $330,000.00 fund balance. Blaylock said yes. There was discussion on when the T-hangar payment will be made.

Elbert said the purpose of the financial data sheet is to determine if the hangar rental rates need to be adjusted. He asked if staff has a breakdown of actual expenses and depreciation figures. Blaylock said staff has summaries for revenue and expenses. He said he can get depreciation figures. Elbert said most organizations have reserve funds to cover depreciation. He said he felt that is a good idea for Peter Prince Airport. Elbert said breaking down expenses into two categories (repair & maintenance and depreciation) will show the cost of running the airport and the amount needed in a reserve fund for a "rainy day." He asked if there are State regulations for enterprise activities counties are involved in. Blaylock said all information is handled through the county finance department. Walker said the requirement is that revenue generated at the airport is not used anywhere except at the airport. He said the Board of County Commissioners has to cut the county budget by $4 or $5 million, and the Board will be looking everywhere for those cuts. Walker said airport expenses are subsidized by the county. He said staff can get a breakdown of actual expenses for the committee. There was discussion on reserve funds for depreciation and what should be included in determining hangar rental rates.

Holbert said he thought the committee requested the cost of maintenance of the airport plus the amount needed for the county's share of JPAs (Joint Participation Agreements) over the next several years to determine hangar rental rates. He said he does not understand why the county is providing the total cost of depreciation of projects when portions of the funding came from the DOT and/or the FAA. Blaylock discussed grant amounts received for projects at Peter Prince Airport. Elbert said anytime someone accepts a federal grant to build capital properties, they assume the responsibility to maintain those properties. Blaylock said depreciation is the replacement cost of the structure. Diaz asked if there are any tax issues for the county in regards to depreciation. Walker said no. He said funds need to be set aside for replacement structures. There was discussion on depreciation and replacement of structures that were built with partial funding from grants. Blaylock said the county borrowed money for the match for the new T- hangars. Diaz asked where the county borrowed money from. Blaylock said a bank. Diaz asked the committee to review the data provided for more discussion at next month's meeting.

Holbert said he appreciates the county going forward withconstruction ofthe new T-hangars. He said cost of future needs utilizing JPAs needs to be determined, and those costs may warrant an increase in hangar rental rates. Holbert said figures are needed to determine rational rental rates for hangars at Peter Prince Airport.

Next Meeting/Adjournment

The next meeting of the Aviation Advisory Committee is scheduled for April 16, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Aviation Advisory Committee at this time, the meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.