

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF THE
GREATER ROCKFORD AIRPORT AUTHORITY**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Greater Rockford Airport Authority was held on Thursday, February 24, 2022, in the Greater Rockford Airport Authority Auditorium, 60 Airport Drive, Rockford, IL.

Chairman Cicero called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.

Commissioners & Legal Counsel	Present	GRAA Staff	Present	Guests/Other Staff
Pat Agnew	X	Mike Dunn	X	Audrey Moon – Chartwell
Paul Cicero	X	Shelly Cassaro		30 Citizens
Tom Dal Santo		Kathy Bruggeman	X	Tim Schaffer – Public Speaker
Tonya Lamia	X	Zack Oakley	X	Jillian Neece – Public Speaker
Tom Myers	X	Tracey Halbrader		Judy Pollock – Public Speaker
Mike Schablaske	X			Frank Langholf – Public Speaker
Leslie West	X			James Hanson – Public Speaker
Tom Lester	X			

A motion was made by Commissioner Agnew, seconded by Commissioner Lamia, and was unanimously approved to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Commissioners on January 27, 2022, and the Planning and Finance Committee Meeting on February 17, 2022.

STAFF REPORTS:

Mike Dunn – Executive Director reported the following:

- Shelly Cassaro is attending a finance conference.
- This week has been spent primarily on real estate and construction. We are anticipating Building #2 opening sometime between March 15 and April 1.

Shelly Cassaro – Deputy Director of Finance and Administration reported the following:

- No report

Zack Oakley - Deputy Director of Operations and Planning presented a PowerPoint presentation on the following:

- Monthly air cargo landed weight for January 2022 is up 25% year-over-year. Emirates moving product out of here has helped to increase the numbers. It was a very large undertaking and we are happy that they have set up a station at RFD. It is quite an accomplishment for us as their base standards are pretty high.



- New visitors:
 - Two Antonov 124 through DB Schenker carrying auto parts flew in to RFD instead of Detroit making it more economical for them. DB Schenker is our new main tenant in Building #2 to open in April.
 - Elusion 76 – specialized heavy cargo aircraft carrying three cereal machines for the General Mills plant in Belvidere.
- Attended the ROUTES conference in February. Met with six different airlines, with five of six of those being very positive meetings. We met with Allegiant as well. Follow up to all of the carriers are being made. Two of the carriers are not only interested in commercial service, but cargo as well. It is very different seeing cargo opening up doors for passenger service.
- Passenger numbers continuing to return to normal. We had seven additional flights added to the market.
- Snow removal is going on right now. It can be very challenging with the UPS sort going on at this time. However, with our new equipment, Matt Zinke, Maintenance Manager and Tadd Varney, Assistant Maintenance Manager gives the ability to bring in employees 12 hours earlier and finish faster than before.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

James Hansen, stated that the expansion project can and should be altered/modified to include keeping the Bell Bowl prairie intact and asked the Board to look at alternative plans.

Frank Langholf, pastor at Emanuel Lutheran Church, expressed his support for the preservation of the Bell Bowl prairie. He asked for consideration from the Board as stewards to listen to alternatives to destroying the prairie.

Tim Schaffer expressed offense to comments made about appreciating hearing from the public. He stated that he cannot reach some commissioners to have a conversation. He also feels that the civility policy has been violated.

Jillian Neece, talked of her opinion of the lack of transparency and cooperation of the Airport Authority throughout the planning and construction process of expansion.

Judy Polluck, president of the Chicago Audubon Society, stated that the destruction of the Bell Bowl prairie will take out 1/3 of the remaining gravel prairies in the state of Illinois and the decisions will have an impact on our natural resources. She asked that the Board reconsider saving the prairie.

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

Commissioner Schablaske motioned to approve **Resolution #22-03**, approving an Advertising Agreement with WTVO, Fox39, My Stateline Digital for a two-month television and digital campaign for \$35,650. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Myers and was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Schablaske motioned to approve **Resolution #22-04**, approving a design build agreement with Scandroli Construction for Cargo Building #3. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Myers and was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Agnew made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner West and was unanimously approved by roll call vote. The meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.