

Blairsville Airport Advisory Board Meeting

579 Airport Terminal Rd. Blairsville, GA. Conf Room

Minutes

March 21, 2024

Call to Order: 12:14pm

Determination of Quorum: All members present.

In attendance (Officer positions were newly elected at this meeting):

- Chris Wadle (Chair)
- Sonny Hinson (Vice-Chair)
- Stan Vangilder (Secretary)
- Corey Payne (member)
- Tracy Martin (member)

Others:

- Aaron Manheim (Blairsville Airport Manager)
- Marvin Harkins (Blairsville City Attorney)

Conflict of Interest: none

Public Comments: No members of the public present

Minutes: N/A

New Business:

- **Review ordinance & establish guidelines (Marvin)**
 - Marvin reiterated the Open Records / Open Meetings nature of our work - suggests dedicated email addresses / cloud storage for Board work to separate from our other work or personal activities.
 - Marvin stated that if 3 or more of us are discussing Board business anywhere or any time, then it is an official meeting, and these same "Open" rules apply.
 - Sonny and Chris noted that we have a shared email address (blairsvilleairportboard@gmail.com) already in place that might be most of what we need as a group. This in effect provides a distribution list of Board members to those who send to it.
 - Aaron will serve as the Board's conduit to the City Council and reserves the right to disagree with the recommendations or conclusions of the Board, and will have the opportunity to state and argue his position.
 - There are federal and state laws insulating volunteers from liability resulting from board business.
 - Chris mentioned that these are two-year terms but will be adjusted to ensure continuity. I.E. all positions won't turn over at the same time. We will probably meet once per month for the next several months, then quarterly.
 - City Council has full control of Board membership. City can remove or add anyone at any time. All new members must be approved by the City.
- **Elect Officers**
 - Officers were nominated and approved as listed above under attendance.
- **Establish Regular Meeting Date(s)**

- o Meetings will be held the third Thursday of the scheduled month at noon within the conference room at the Airport Terminal.
- **Determine goals & objectives of the Board, Airport, City**
 - o Four major goals for the Board were identified. For Blairsville Airport, the Board will establish an effective, consistent, and transparent:
 1. Hangar lease rate plan, starting with an inventory of all hangars and their lease classification, suitable for upcoming renewals.
 2. Hangar wait-list process. Ensure that the list accurately and fairly represents pilots committed to securing hangar space when available.
 3. Hangar lease violation policies and methods for enforcement.
 4. Newly constructed hangar lease strategy.
- **Debrief existing hangar leases**
 - o Marvin will provide all current hangar leases with financial information redacted. Chris will assign lease reviews to all or part of this Board.
- **Establish Mission Statement**
 - o *The mission of the Blairsville Airport Advisory Board is to serve our community by providing guidance to the City of Blairsville, and enhancing our airport through responsible economic development, environmental stewardship, and community engagement while ensuring the highest standards of safety and accessibility for all users.*
 - o There was discussion as to whether we should more specifically define “community” to avoid misinterpretation. Tabled final action until next meeting.

Old Business – N/A

Executive Session (not held at this meeting)

Adjourn