

Minutes of Fairhope Airport Authority
July 8, 2025

The Fairhope Airport Authority met July 8, 2025 at 5:00PM in the City of Fairhope Council Chambers at 161 N Section Street.

Present: Don Ward, Chairman, Ronnie Holyfield, Pel Henry, and Len Strickland. Will Bruce, Susana Freeman, and Jack Burrell were absent. Also Present was Dave Friedel, Airport Manager. Cynthia A Boothe took the Minutes.

Before the agenda items, Don Ward recognized the newest Authority Member, Ronnie Holyfield and welcomed him to the Airport Authority.

The Minutes of the June 10, 2025 Regular Meeting were considered and approved with a motion by Pel Henry, second by Len Strickland and unanimously passed.

Airport Manager's Report: Dave Friedel reported that the traffic count for June was 7,690, up from June, 2024, which was 6,281.

Dave stated that although the weather interfered with the planned launch, the Air Race Classic was still a great event. He heard great feedback from the pilots regarding the event and their visit to Fairhope. Many said they would be planning trips back here.

The total budget (not counting the start fee of \$12,500.00, which was budgeted and paid earlier) was approximately \$25,000.00. The Authority had only \$500.00 out of pocket thanks to donations, sponsorships and the volunteers who stepped up throughout the events.

Dave said that he is looking into getting mailboxes for the East Side as previously discussed.

Dave stated that he is not sure if Josh Myrick has sent out the termination letter which would terminate the lease agreement with thirty days notice as per the lease agreement for the Viking Aircraft in one of the T-Hangars that

was discussed previously. He did say that the owner of the Viking Aircraft has been out at the Airport working on it regularly.

Don Ward thanked Dave for the hard work he and others had done to make the ARC a success. Dave thanked Pam Caudill for all the help she had given him in the organization of the entire event.

Flightline First Report: Ethan McDonald stated that he thought that the Air Race Classic was really great and helped advertise Fairhope and brought in some tourism for the City.

Ethan said the ARC bought 1,206.5 gallons of fuel while in Fairhope. For June 9,072.8 gallons of AV gas were sold, 25,623 gallons of Jet-A were sold for a total of 34,695.8 gallons.

Engineer's Report: Jordan Stringfellow stated that the grant application for the Runway Project was submitted and included the cost to widen the taxiway to use as a temporary runway during the construction of the Runway Project with the full FAA required buildup of six inches of rock and three inches of asphalt. The cost of widening the taxiway was approximately \$350,000.00. The FAA reviewed it and came back to Jordan saying they would not pay for that. She and Don Ward talked with the FAA about looking at other options and they also spoke with ALDOT who is requiring the widening of the taxiway. ALDOT told Jordan that as the engineer of record for the project that she needed to run the pavement analysis of what is required to widen the taxiway, and they would approve it. Since it is only a thirty-day piece of pavement and will be supporting 12,500-pound aircraft, they would only need two inches of asphalt over a compacted red clay base to support the traffic for thirty days. Jordan reached out to the Contractor for an updated quote which came in at \$106,000.00. Jordan then reached out to the FAA, and they said that they would approve it.

Pel Henry asked how long the widening would be and Jordan stated that it would be for three thousand feet. Pel then asked if it would affect the new lighting and Jordan said it would, and they would probably ask the lighting contractor to wait until the temporary widening material is removed before

installing the new lights. Everything will be discussed at the Pre-Construction meeting next week.

Don Ward stated that they needed to make a motion for a resolution to approve and resubmit a revised grant application for the Runway Strengthening and Lighting Replacement Project. A motion was made by Pel Henry to submit the revised application, second by Len Strickland and unanimously passed. The resolution will go to the City Council for Approval next Tuesday and once approved, then the Mayor can sign it.

Jordan stated that ALDOT has issued it's call for projects letter and they will be meeting with ALDOT in the next couple of weeks to talk about updates to Capital Improvement Plans and what the outlook is for the different airports so she wants to meet with Don and Dave next week to go over everything and the pre-apps for 2026 are due at the end of September.

Don Ward asked Jordan about getting core samples on the large dirt pile at the south end of the Airport to see if it would be okay to move it to fill in low spots over on the East Side of the Airport. Jordan stated that when the Geo-Techs come out to do compaction tests that she will have them do it then.

Aspire Aviation Report: Quinton Dupper stated that they had eighty-one hours of flight time for June and five and one-half hours of Discovery and Charity Flights. They also had one hundred eighty-four hours of instructional time. He said once they average about 87 hours of flight time, they will receive another aircraft and more instructors. Quinton also stated that they had three students who had solo flights.

Treasurer's Report: Pel Henry stated that the bank accounts are in good order and Don Ward stated that most of the money in the grant account and the escrow account is spoken for to go toward the upcoming projects.

Legal Report: No report.

Board Discussion/Approval Requests: No Report.

Other Business: No Report.

Comments from Advisory Council Members: Russ Kilgore stated that the Aviation Council will meet the last week in September in Muscle Shoals, Al.

Russ also stated that everyone should be aware of how hard everyone worked before and during the ARC, especially Dave Friedel, Pam Caudill, and Ethan McDonald, to make it a success and that Fairhope should be proud of being able to participate with the ARC also. He also stated that if Fairhope ever got the opportunity to host the ARC again that they should do it.

Comments from the General Public: No Report.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Pel Henry to adjourn the meeting, second by Len Strickland and unanimously passed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45PM.



Don Ward, Chairman



Submitted by Cynthia A Boothe