

**Airport Advisory Board Meeting  
Fremont County Airport  
February 1, 2012  
8:00am**

Members Present: John Marietta, Chairman; Leonard Mino; Jay Seavy; Dean Baird; Jim Woolworth

Other Officials Present: Airport Manager Richard Baker

Other Attendees: Neil Porter; Ryan Bunch; Randy White; Cory Thompson

Purpose: This was a special meeting called to discuss a request for a **new skydiving business** at the airport.

The meeting was called to order at 0800 by Chairman John Marietta.

Discussion:

A request has been made to establish a new skydiving business at the airport. This new business, not affiliated with the existing skydiving club at the airport, is seeking a lease for a separate landing zone, operating facility and aircraft parking area. Neil Porter, representing the skydiving business, attended to present the request and answer questions from the board and affected airport tenants.

John Marietta opened by referencing comments made at recent local government meetings suggesting that skydiving is recognized as one of the big attractions for the area and provides a stimulus for the airport and the local economy. He noted also that previous requests, dating back to 1999, to create a parachute landing zone at the same site currently proposed were rejected due to bad behavior by the jump operators involved at the time. This request, however, is being made by a different business. One that has stated that it will operate as a good airport citizen, within all requirements and abide by USPA (US Parachute Association) and airport rules. Since it is incumbent upon the advisory board to advise the commissioners on actions that will maximize efficiency and profitability without jeopardizing safety of operations, John stated that this request deserves due consideration.

Neil Porter then presented the details of his request.

His business is seeking::

1. Approval to lease 33,000 sq feet in the north-east corner of the field (across from Pro Av).
2. Approval for a new parachute landing zone (within the leased area).

Features:

- An operating facility would be located on the leased parcel and provisions for parking aircraft and customer vehicles would also be included. The operating facility will consist of three modular buildings to be used for customer check-in, chute packing, etc.
- Sanitation would be provided by Porta-Johns initially.
- Cessna-182 jump planes would be used initially with plans to potentially move to larger turbine powered jump planes
- The requested landing zone provides close proximity of both taxiway and landing zone to the operating facility (which they consider essential for rapid turnarounds).
- The landing zone would be 100 meters in diameter (target would be 50 meters from the nearest obstacle IAW USPA guidelines).
- Only experienced jumpers (B-licensed and higher and tandem jumpers) would be authorized to use the landing zone

- All jumpers carry bodily injury and property damage liability in the amount of \$50,000 per occurrence and \$1 million Aggregate. Neil was advised that his business must carry insurance in the amount specified in Min Standards for commercial operators as well.
- No A-license jumpers would be permitted use of the zone
- No round chutes would be permitted.
- The proposed landing zone is very visible from Hwy 50 and will likely attract business.
- The proposed landing zone will improve safety by assuring better separation of pedestrian onlookers and aircraft traffic on the taxiway.
- The proposed landing zone will reduce taxiway contamination caused by mud being dragged on by vehicles going to/from the old landing zone.
- Jumper patterns and procedures for the proposed landing zone were reviewed relative to existing aircraft patterns at the airport. All present were satisfied with the proposed clearances and traffic separation.

Discussion followed on placement of future hangers at the airport as they would be affected by the proposed landing zone. Concern was expressed that the proposed landing zone may block the area to future hanger development. It was stated, however, that the revenue potential of this lease would outpace that of any future hangers on the site by a significant amount and there would still be room for future hangers south of the proposed site.

The group was asked if there were any concerns over increased risk posed to persons or property near the proposed landing site. Cory Thompson, of Pro Av, (nearest to the proposed site) said he was confident that the proposed operation posed little or no risk to his facility.

The term of the lease was discussed. Pros and cons of terms ranging from 1 to 25 years were reviewed. Neil Porter would like a 25 year lease but said he would accept a 5 year lease with the possibility of 5 year extensions.

The lease of 33,000 sq feet at \$.12/sq foot would yield \$4000.00/year in lease fees not counting a fuel flowage fee which would also apply.

Mr. Porter indicated that the skydiving business wants to start operations as soon as April. He was advised that it may be difficult to get approved by then but the board would assist with the application. It was reiterated that before operations could begin the business would have to have an approved lease, a business license and Insurance.

Motion was made, by Len Mino, to recommend approving a 5 year lease and evaluate for an extension at that time.

Motion was seconded by Dean Baird.

All board members were in favor.

None were opposed. Motion was carried.

Dick Baker requested that Neil Porter contact the airport consultant and advise him of his plan for the landing zone to insure that it is compatible with the master plan for the airport.

There being no further items for discussion, Chairmen Marietta adjourned the meeting at 9:00am.

Minutes submitted by: Jim Woolworth