



RENO-TAHOE AIRPORT AUTHORITY  
COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 21, 2022  
5:30 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Chairman Richard Jay called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll was called. A quorum was not declared.

**Committee Members Present**

Chair Richard Jay  
Vice Chair Jenifer Rose  
Jennifer Baker  
Gus Freitag  
Michael Knox  
Sharon Spangler  
Kristine Caliger  
Stacey Sunday  
Darrin Maddox

**Committee Members Absent**

Chris Barrett  
Eric Stovall  
Jason Smith  
Tim Lukas  
Mimi Fujii-Strickler  
Debbie McCarthy  
Lisa Ruggerio

**Also Present**

Daren Griffin  
Brian Kulpin  
Aaron Lupkey  
Annie Turner

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Larkin, representative of the Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association and Airport Support Network Volunteer, addressed the committee. He explained that General Aviation (GA) is a \$100B industry that provides economic growth to both state and local economies and provides several services to remote areas across the nation. Larkin discussed the legislatively mandated assurances airports must comply with once they receive federal airport improvement funds. Mr. Larkin encouraged RTAA to continue developing relationships with the aviation community by engaging with the local flight schools and holding meetings at the surrounding aviation facilities. The committee was invited to the Reno-Tahoe Aviation Group's Annual Pancake Breakfast on August 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 A.M. The event would be hosted at Stellar Aviation.

Chairman Jay announced the passing of committee member Steve Jackson and asked for a moment of silence in his honor.

3. APPROVAL OF APRIL 21, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

Item was tabled for future meeting due to the lack of quorum.

4. NEW BUSINESS – UPDATE ON KEY ISSUES FACING THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY

a. General Aviation at RNO:

1. Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority (*Aurora Ritter, Mgr. of Economic Development and Adam Tenant, Property Specialist II*): Adam Tenant discussed General Aviation (GA). At RNO, GA is comprised of *Fixed Base Operators (FBO)* like Atlantic Aviation and Stellar; *11 Box Hangars*, where tenants include Air Medical and Fire Fighting; and *80 T-Hangars* designed for single engine aircraft. Additionally, there are two (2) flight schools, Great Basin Aviation and NV Flight, and two (2) Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul facilities, or MRO's, including Dassault Aviation and Advanced Aviation.

Adam welcomed Aurora Ritter, Manager of Aeronautical Properties at RNO. Aurora presented information to the committee regarding the property development set to occur over the next few years. She explained that in 2019, RTAA took out to market five (5) vacant land parcels located along the east side of the airfield on Rock Boulevard, for development. An RFP was issued with intentions of selecting a proposal that would enhance the services and facilities located at RNO. A bid was submitted by Stellar Aviation proposing the development of a new GA campus on parcels A1 and A2. Their concept included building a second FBO and a GA campus composed of T-hangars, box hangars, and an aircraft washing station. They have also leased the fuel farm and plan to bring it up to code to use as part of their program. Construction will occur in three (3) phases over the next several years.

II. Atlantic Aviation (*Bernie Conway, General Manager at Atlantic Aviation*):

Bernie Conway introduced himself and provided a brief history on Atlantic Aviation. Since being founded in the 1930's, Atlantic has continued to expand with nearly one hundred locations across the U.S. today. The Reno facility was purchased in 2007 when Atlantic purchased the Mercury Air Center chain. In 2012, the original structure was replaced with a new structure and hangars added. A new fuel farm and ramp were constructed a few years later resulting in the base as we know it today. The Atlantic team consists of 13 Line Service Technicians who handle all aircraft needs; 3 Customer Service Representatives responsible for billing, as well as hotel reservations and car rentals; 1 Customer Service Manager and 1 General Manager. Bernie discussed several of the area's community outreach events that Atlantic not only participates in, but also hosts.

III. Great Basin Aviation (*Jennifer Fonda, Owner, and Richard Brong, Director of Operations & Academics*):

Jennifer Fonda, Owner of Great Basin Aviation (GBA), began her presentation by introducing herself and spoke briefly to her professional background. GBA was started in February of 2018. It is FAA Part 61/141 and a Cessna Pilot Center. GBA's mission is to create and further encourage safe, competent, and proficient pilots in the most efficient manner possible. Jennifer welcomed Richard Brong. He spoke to the value of aviation in the community saying it creates and fosters future leaders, self-discipline, economic stimulus, while also creating a strong sense of community. Additionally, it teaches time management, life skills, and professional courtesy. While training pilots to fly, there is a focus on flying friendly and working to minimize the footprint over the community. He stressed the importance of making a good representation of what general aviation is by not only teaching people how to fly but why. Richard discussed the benefits of having a local flight school option. These benefits include a standardized curriculum and more personalized support. He shared two media clips featuring GBA.

Jennifer continued with her presentation and spoke to their community outreach opportunities over the next 12 to 24 months. Guest Speaker Koree Bostrom, Reno Air Racing Foundation Scholarship recipient spoke to her experience at Great Basin and her future in aviation. There was a short discussion regarding the use of simulators and their role in the training process.

Daren Griffin asked Jennifer if they have any plans to expand the flight school to meet demand. Since 2018, GBA has been very strategic in terms of growth. This included taking on as little debt as possible and choosing to expand only when it became necessary. Jennifer said they would likely add a few additional aircraft within the next 24 months to meet the needs of the flight school. They also intend to grow the in-house ground school and in-house supplement courses.

Daren inquired about noise complaints and asked Richard Brong what had been done to help mitigate the issue. Richard spoke to the many efforts made on behalf of GBA to reduce noise levels such as changing flight times and patterns. A short discussion ensued.

b. General Aviation - Tour of Atlantic & Great Basin Aviation:

The General Aviation Facility tour would begin following the close of the meeting.

6. DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Next meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

7. GENERAL COMMITTEE COMMENTS, QUESTIONS & ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Dassault, Aloft or a neighboring hotel was suggested as future meeting locations.  
Darren advised that Infrastructure would be included on the agenda at a future meeting.

Darren made a few closing remarks and emphasized how critical General Aviation is in maintaining the connectivity between RNO and the rest of the world. Chairman Jay presented the May tourism report on behalf of the RSCVA.

8. UPDATE FROM PUBLIC OFFICIALS

No public officials present.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no public comment or further business, Chairman Jay adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.