



MEMORANDUM

Date: July 2, 2015
To: Records Management
From: The Planning Commission
Subject: Planning Commission Minutes: 10/25/1976

The following minutes for the Planning Commission of James City County dated 10/25/1976 are missing an approval date and were either never voted on or never presented for approval in the year surrounding these meetings.

These minutes, to the best of my knowledge, are the official minutes for the 10/25/1976, Planning Commission meeting.

They were APPROVED by the current Planning Commission at the July 1, 2015 meeting.

Please accept these minutes as the official record for 10/25/1976.

Robin Bledsoe
Chair

Paul Holt
Secretary

8
11-23-76

A SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE JAMES CITY COUNTY, WILLIAMSBURG
AND YORK COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSIONS, HELD IN THE COURTHOUSE,
WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA ON THE TWENTY-FIFTH DAY OF OCTOBER,
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SIX.

1. ROLL CALL

Mr. W. J. Scruggs, James City County
Mr. Bill Maner, Williamsburg
Mr. Bill Maddox, York County
Mr. Thomas Brummer, York County
Mr. Maywood Wilson, York County
Mr. Stephen Turner, James City County
Mr. Gerald Mephram, James City County
Mr. John Hodges, Williamsburg
Mr. Melvin Bryant, James City County
Mr. Harlin Eaton, Williamsburg

OTHERS:

Mr. Charles Quittmeyer, PAC
Mr. George Wright, PAC
Mr. Gene Marlin, PAC
Mr. Gary Varga, Talbert, Cox, Associates
Mr. Jim Bland, Va. Division of Aeronautics

STAFF:

Mr. William F. Brown, James City County
Mr. Bill Mettler, Williamsburg
Mr. Marshal Findley, York County

2. DISCUSSION

Mr. Jack Scruggs, moderator, introduced the members present and opened the meeting for discussion.

Mr. Charles Quittmeyer, James City County, discussed the genesis of the study. A Williamsburg area airport was first recommended in a state study. Based on this recommendation, consultants were hired to make the Williamsburg Area Airport Site Selection Report.

Mr. William Brown stated that the impact of noise created at the various sites should be investigated.

Mr. Bill Maner questioned the need for another airport.

Mr. Bill Maddox pointed out that the Patrick Henry Master Plan (on Table B-7, Phase I, p. B-20) noted that the demand curve became exponential curve after 1970. He questioned the reason for the expected changes in demand.

Mr. Stephen Turner asked what type of airport was actually planned for the Williamsburg area.

Mr. Quittmeyer in response to Mr. Turner's question explained that the new airport would have runways of 3,500 to 4,000 feet in length. No jets or commercial aircraft would be permitted.

Mr. Bill Maddox stated that all documents should be airtight and concise. This is not now the case. Forecasts are not substantiated. The confidence level of the people toward the report is low. There are too many questions unanswered. Mr. Maddox does not accept the opinions voiced in the report and does not feel the report is of sufficient quality.

Mr. Scruggs stated that the study should be reviewed with regards to the new input of public opinion. He agreed that many questions had been raised, but also agreed with the concept of planning ahead.

Mr. Melvin Bryant stated he would like to know much more about each of the 7 final sites.

Mr. Gerald Mepham said that the figures in the report do not seem consistent to him. He stated that he may not be in favor of any new airport.

Mr. Jack Scruggs said that it seems the Airport Commission has already decided that the need for a new airport exists and all that they desire is some inputs on the site.

Mr. Maddox questioned the state report which recommended the new airport.

Mr. Jim Bland said that drafts and summaries of the state report are available.

Mr. Maner questioned why sites beyond the Peninsula Airport Commission boundaries were not more carefully considered. He does not feel there is sufficient data to make a decision on an airport site.

Mr. Bryant asked about the steps to be followed with regards to the airport site selection.

Mr. Wright stated next September had been established as a date for a final decision by the various member bodies to amend the Patrick Henry Master Plan. The proposed amendments are based on the Virginia study which classified Patrick Henry as a carrier airport and Jamestown Airport as a local service airport. The study also recommended the proposed Williamsburg Regional Airport. The Airport Commission would like to have 1 or 2 sites recommended for the new airport.

Mr. Quittmeyer said that by a 7 to 2 vote the Airport Commission had rejected tabling the report and had thus committed itself to proceed.

Mr. Turner questioned the \$30,000 spent on the consultant's report.

Mr. Varga stated that the consultant's efforts would go beyond the preparation of the report, through the site selection, and preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement.

Mr. Mettler stated that his personal position and the City's concern was that the location not be near Williamsburg. He is also concerned about the effects of an airport on the area around any site.

Mr. Stephen Turner was concerned about the lack of local input into the development of the report. He was very critical of the lack of consideration shown the James City County Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance. Much information was available that was obviously not used in the study.

Mr. Wright stated that in his opinion the local governments had vetoes over sites in their jurisdictions by refusing to approve Patrick Henry Master Plan amendments.

Mr. Scruggs said that he is not sold on the need for a new airport. The need has not been proven by the figures, but even if there is a need the sites presented are unacceptable. Mr. Scruggs offered the following recommendations:

1. The Peninsula Airport Commission should acquire the existing Jamestown/Williamsburg Airport.
2. The Peninsula Airport Commission should select a site for a new general aviation airport.
3. Site 11 and the airport at West Point should receive the major consideration for a new airport.
4. Phase I of the Airport Study should be revised to reflect new inputs from the localities.
5. The Jamestown/Williamsburg Airport should be phased out of use when the new airport is constructed.
6. The Jamestown/Williamsburg Airport should be sold for nonairport development.

Mr. Wilson of York County said that he had no position to recommend for James City County or Williamsburg. He said he is not convinced of the need for the airport. York County has lost much land to government uses and is not prepared to support any site in York County.

Mr. Maddox, also of York County, emphasized that York County would not accept any site in the County.

Mr. Bryant stated he is opposed to site 11 because it is 16 miles from Williamsburg.

Mr. Brummer felt that a delay should be requested for further study of the report.

Mr. Mettler suggested that a second meeting should be held to unify the response to the report.

3. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Mr. Mepham, seconded by Mr. Brummer, the Joint Meeting of the James City County, Williamsburg and York County Planning Commissions was adjourned.



William F. Brown
Secretary