



**Joplin Regional Airport**

602 S Main Street  
Joplin, Missouri 64801  
417-623-0262

The Airport Board met in the board room at the Joplin Regional Airport Commercial Terminal building on Feb 9, 2023, at 7:00 am. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 am. Mr. Osborne moved to approve, and Mr. Loudermilk seconded.

**ITEM 1: Roll Call and Approval of Minutes from the last meeting:**

Board members attending included Mr. O'Brian, Mr. Bentley, Mr. Jones, Mr. Loudermilk, Mr. Osborn, and Mr. Moore. Staff present included Bart Starkey, Airport Manager, Mr. Kaufmann of Airport Operations, and Dorothy Weber, Admin Assistant. Mr. Coit from the Freedom of Flight Museum, Steve Stockam from Olsson Consulting, Kris Ziebert from the Joplin Flyers, and Mike King were also in attendance.

**ITEM 2: Old Business:**

Mr. Starkey spoke about the approval of council bill 2023-108 for the SRE consulting project. Mr. O'Brian asked if it was still 95/5 funding. Mr. Starkey assured that it was. Mr. Osborn asked about the timeline for construction. Mr. Starkey stated that it was still in the works.

Mr. O'Brian stated that at the end of this month City Council will decide on a new Airport Board member. He stated that it was a great group of candidates. Mr. Osborn stated that there has been increased interest in serving on the Airport Board.

Mr. Starkey went over the flight totals for 2022. He stated that even though the numbers look lower than previous years, the load factor has been consistent. The number discrepancy is because the airlines went to a 50-seat option rather than the larger capacity airplanes of years past. Mr. O'Brian asked what load percentage the airline needs but Mr. Starkey wasn't sure of the exact number and told him that he would get that to him later. Mr. O'Brian asked about the Joplin to Chicago flight with the Decatur layover. Mr. Starkey spoke about the difficulties passengers have been having with the United app.

Mr. Starkey spoke about changing some security elements at the airport and when they will be implemented.

Mr. Coit brought a mock-up of the proposed observation area. Mr. Coit then spoke about the 8x10 memorial tiles that will be available for purchase for around the observation area. He stated that they will have a QR code on them that would take the visitor to the YouTube video made about the person on the tile. Mr. Coit then spoke possible flags and lighting around the observation area. Mr. O'Brian asked about the final look of the plane. Mr. Moore suggested motion activated



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lighting. Mr. Loudermilk brought up possible issues with too much lighting that close to the runways. Mr. Jones asked about the pricing for the memorial tiles. Mr. Moore talked about the success of memorial tiles at other establishments. Mr. Coit brought up geocaching. Mr. Stockam then spoke about the next steps with the observation area and the possibility visual issues with the signage at the GA terminal entrance after the observation area is installed. The board talked about the possibility of moving the sign to a different area. Mr. Osborn asked about fundraising.

**ITEM 3: New Business:**

Mr. Starkey spoke about the open position of an Airport Police Officer and that JPD is currently covering the open shifts. Mr. Jones asked about the requirements and Mr. Loudermilk spoke about the difficulty in hiring people.

Mr. Jones spoke about the Civil Air Patrol disaster response exercise this Saturday from 8am to 4pm. He stated that they will be bringing in planes to help.

Mr. Loudermilk asked if there were any updates on the tower grants and Mr. Starkey said that they should hopefully hear something by the end of the month.

Mr. O'Brian moved to adjourn at 7:28 am. Mr. Loudermilk seconded.

Rob O'Brian, Chairman of the Board

Dorothy Weber, Admin Assistant