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

CALL TO ORDER

The Airport Board met in the Conference Room at the Joplin Regional Airport Commercial Terminal building on March 13, 2025. The meeting was called to order by Mr. O'Brian at 7:00 am CT.

ROLL CALL

A. Board Members
   a. Rob O'Brian - Chairman
   b. Brian Jones
   c. Kris Zibert
   d. Mike King
   e. Brett LaForest
   f. Joshua Oathout
   g. Randy Moore

B. Staff
   a. Airport Manager – Allison Zahner
   b. Assistant Public Works Director – Jeremy Hagerman

C. Other
   a. Freedom of Flight Museum – Darryl Coit
   b. Olsson – Steve Stockam
   c. Olsson – Patrick Barnes
   d. Olsson – Brian Coomes

MINUTES

Mr. Jones moved to approve minutes from the February board meeting. This was seconded by Mr. King, and it was unanimously approved.

MEETING

At the request of Board Member Brian Jones, the Board took a moment to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Robert W. Karraker. Mr. Karraker was a distinguished member of the community and a highly decorated veteran of the Vietnam War, having received the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars with Valor, and three Purple Hearts. The Board recognized his heroic service, enduring contributions, and the profound impact of his life on both the nation and the local community.

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Mr. Brett LaForest was formally introduced as the newest member of the Airport Board.

Ms. Zahner provided an update on the Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) / Snow Removal Equipment (SRE) facility construction. She reported that the project is now complete, and photos of the finished building were presented to the Board. Airport operations staff have begun the move-in process. A preliminary list of invitees for the ribbon-cutting ceremony has been compiled. The date for the event will be confirmed in the near future and communicated accordingly.

Ms. Zahner presented the February flight report, noting a slight decrease in load factor compared to the previous month. However, the load factor remains significantly higher than in the same period last year. Further review of recent data will be conducted to provide additional insight into the fluctuations and underlying trends.

Ms. Zahner provided an update on the ongoing hangar audit. A meeting was recently held to address and clarify confusion regarding lease agreements, payment procedures, and related processes, with the goal of ensuring consistency and shared understanding among all parties. Preliminary discussions took place regarding potential revisions and additions to the lease language, based on input from both airport and finance representatives. Any proposed changes will be reviewed by the legal department prior to determining next steps.

The Board discussed the condition of the general aviation parking lot, noting the need for repairs and improvements. Options such as stormwater management measures, partial repaving, and incorporating reinforced grass areas were considered. Given the lot's role as a hub for growth and its use for current and future events, the Board agreed that further evaluation and discussion are warranted.

Ms. Zahner presented the DSG research reports covering the period from July 2024 through December 2024. The reports included detailed data on traveler demographics, trip purpose and type, reasons for visiting, points of origin, and other relevant insights. These findings will be used to help interpret seasonal variations in load factors and inform future planning efforts.

Mr. O'Brian continued the discussion on the future of JLN by presenting the revised draft of the survey questions, incorporating feedback from the previous meeting. The Board reviewed the updated version and confirmed that the survey is well-

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positioned to gather meaningful input from companies regarding how the airport can better support their needs.

Mr. Darryl Coit provided information on the Heartland Veterans Festival, a new initiative organized by a local veterans group. The festival is planned as a nine-day event celebrating and honoring veterans. The annual Wings & Wheels event, hosted by the Freedom of Flight Museum, will serve as the kickoff to the festival. Several planning meetings have already taken place, and the effort has attracted broad community involvement, promotional interest, and opportunities for volunteer engagement.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Jones motioned to adjourn. This was seconded by Mr. Oathout and unanimously agreed at 8:07 am.

Rob O'Brian, Chairman

Allison Zahner, Airport Manager