



The Fort Worth Aviator

Veterans Memorial Air Park is On The Move



On April 28th, the Fort Worth City Council approved a lease for the Veterans Memorial Air Park (VMAP) of Fort Worth. The air park and museum operated by the VMAP had been located at the Vintage Flying Museum on Meacham Field.

In their new lease, the VMAP will be making their home in the former classrooms and gym of Our Lady of Guadalupe School at Ross and Long Avenue on Meacham Field.

Contact Jim Hodgson 817-291-6101 www.ov-10bronco.net

Newly appointed Executive Director of the VMAP, Jim Hodgson, continued; "We simply outgrew the Vintage Flying Museum facility and needed more room to grow. We started with a box of pictures and a few books eleven years ago and today we occupy over 2,400 square feet of display space and provide aircraft restoration operations for our collection of fourteen airplanes. We have been negotiating with the City of Fort Worth Department of Aviation for several months to complete this phase of our expansion. Everyone has been most helpful in making this all happen." In addition to the news of the move to the new facility, the VMAP also announced a couple of staffing changes. Terry Tabor, former Treasurer, was appointed President to replace Jim Hodgson, who had held that position for six years. Hodgson was appointed Executive Director to work on organizing efforts of the planned Fort Worth Aviation Museum and other organizational duties.

This profile is brought to you to help our aviation community know more about each other. To provide information for your company or group please contact our office.

SPINKS GOES TO CLASS D AIRSPACE

The Fort Worth Spinks Airport will be going to Class D Airspace during normal tower operations starting at the end of August. It has been Class G Airspace with an undefined boundary for aircraft to contact the control tower. The Class D Airspace establishes a defined boundary for safety.

The airspace extends upward from the surface to, but not including, 3,000 feet MSL. The area has a radius of 4.1 miles with a notch to the south at 173° bearing extending 4.8 miles.

The airport will continue to operate as Class G (uncontrolled) Airspace when the tower is not in operation. The new airspace will require pilots to establish two-way radio communications before entering and maintain VFR separation. Minimum visibility of 3 miles; minimum distance from clouds of 500 feet below, 1,000 feet above, and 2000 feet horizontal.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

AIRPORT SYSTEMS-CHARTING A NEW BUSINESS PLAN



Kent Penney
Airport Systems
Director

The City of Fort Worth Aviation Department has recently retained Jacobs Consultancy to perform a Management and Operations Audit of the Aviation Department.

The purpose of the study is to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the functions and responsibilities of the department. This will include the current state of the aviation market, examining expenses and revenues, performance enhancement opportunities, contracts, personnel, operational procedures and property management. The study will also provide recommended actions to enhance the value of the city's Alliance, Meacham and Spinks airports. The airports will be benchmarked alongside comparable facilities in the DFW Metroplex and elsewhere and the best practices will be highlighted.

The Airport Management Consulting Division of Jacobs Consultancy provides a full range of industry-leading and planning-advisory services to meet the evolving needs of airport management. Their client list includes approximately 100 airports throughout North America.

I am very pleased that Jacobs will be able to provide this review for our operation. Our goal is for Fort Worth to have one of the best airport systems in the country and I believe taking this critical look at ourselves is essential to accomplish this.

The process involves the collection of various data and reports, the development and analysis of stakeholders' perspectives by conducting surveys and interviews, attending meetings, on-site observations and completing exercises to evaluate the overall organization of the Department.

Fort Worth's rich historic relationship with transportation has made it the thriving place that it is today. We wish to ensure that aviation continues to improve its presence and functionality for our citizens. The study is expected to be complete by late August.

"We look forward to working with Jacobs Consultancy to find ways Airport Management can become even more efficient at what they do," said Reed Pigman, owner of Texas Jet at Meacham and Chair of the Blue Ribbon Committee put together by City Manager Dale Fisseler to work with Jacobs. "Airport tenants are fortunate the City already has highly competent management currently in place at Meacham and Spinks," said Pigman, "The consultant will help them fine tune their operation."

Dirt Is Flying at Fort Worth's Airports

Fort Worth's Meacham and Spinks airports are in the middle of major construction projects, and a runway extension is under way at Alliance Airport.

These investments in the city's airports are more than simply general upkeep of city property — the construction represents an economic investment in the city's future. Improvements totaling about \$13 million at Meacham and Spinks will spur private development and encourage even more general aviation activity at the airports and adjoining facilities.

The work at Meacham has included runway repair, safety areas, lighting, paved shoulders, apron expansion and repair and will include a perimeter road. Meacham Airport caters to business and personal aircraft as well as flight training operations, helicopter and maintenance-related business.

At Spinks Airport, work is taking place on taxi lanes, aircraft aprons, and roads and has been completed in phases. The majority of the air traffic at Spinks is business and personal aircraft as well as small aircraft maintenance-related business. [\(contd on page 3\)](#)

ZONE REDEVELOPMENT PLANNING

The Aviation Department is undertaking a targeted planning effort at both Meacham and Spinks airports. The planning is defined as Zone Redevelopment Planning and is focused on the areas surrounding the terminal at Meacham and the east side of Spinks. Each of these areas includes a variety of existing uses and a substantial area for new development. The goal with these redevelopment plans is to determine the best manner in which to arrange buildings and uses in these areas to accommodate the best aviation functionality for the community.

To assist the Aviation Department in this planning, URS Consulting has been contracted to lead the effort and the department staff is working with a Round Table Committee (RTC) of tenants and users from each of these areas of the airports. The Spinks planning effort kicked off in June and is anticipated to be completed late September. The Meacham planning will begin in July and should be completed early November.



Spinks
East
Side

During the process there are five major steps taken:

- *Inventory the current conditions including reviewing maps, questionnaires and conducting one-on-one interviews of impacted tenants.
- *Create a list of preliminary alternatives for redevelopment which will be about 10-12 alternatives and a selection by the RTC of the three best alternatives.
- *Review the three refined alternatives complete with cost information.
- *The Department will select the best alternative for redevelopment of these areas. Please note the alternatives that are developed are as a result of continued input and advice from the RTC.
- *The last step is incorporating the chosen alternative into the Airport Layout Plan (ALP) for each respective airport.

The RTC meets a total of three times. The first meeting is following the inventory step, the second to review the preliminary alternatives, and lastly for the refined alternatives review. This process is extremely important for our local aviation community as once the decision is made to construct the new buildings, they often direct the layout for the surrounding area for the next 50+ years.

Alliance Airport, in far North Fort Worth, is in the midst of a runway extension project that will allow longer-range, heavier airplanes to land and take off. The project, valued at more than \$200 million, is largely grant-funded and will extend the runway from 9,000 feet to 11,000 feet.

This project meets the needs of Alliance's heaviest users, which include business aircraft as well as cargo, helicopter service and heavy maintenance business. The Alliance project has been under way in phases since 2001 and is estimated to be completed in 2015.



Meacham Runway 16-34 Repair



Spinks
Wildcat
Way Paving

**TOWER TALK
MEACHAM CONTROL
TOWER**

Deborah Chaproniere
Air Traffic Manager, Fort Worth
Meacham ATCT



In case you've heard some new voices on the frequency lately, we've welcomed new individuals this year. Steve, our newest supervisor transferred from Alliance; John has returned from DFW and Dontae, Adam and Stormi are all new to the FAA and to air traffic. Welcome to all five! We're also losing two of our seasoned controllers; Gus and Jay M. are both retiring this month. We wish Gus and Jay many years of happy retirement.

The tower personnel want to thank all of the Meacham Airport pilots, students and FBO personnel for staying alert and observant during the construction. We've had a few vehicle and pilot deviations, but only one was a local pilot.

Only one....that's awesome!

Thanks especially to the flight schools for your patience. Very soon we'll be open for touch-and-go operations again! Once the construction is over, it doesn't mean we can let our guard down though. We'll need to stay on high-alert until we're accustomed to using Runway 16/34 and Taxiway Alpha again.

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Airport Watch:

A Safety Priority

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Please make certain the gates remain closed after you enter or exit to prevent unauthorized persons from gaining access onto the Airport Properties.

If you notice unusual activity or persons at the airports, please call the police.

AIRPORT SYSTEM STAFF

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Like to receive information like this newsletter electronically from the Fort Worth Airport System? Send us an email at aviationwebmail@fortworthgov.org and we will add you to our email distribution list.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where do I pay my rent? City of Fort Worth Aviation Dept, Attn.: Diana Lama
4201 N. Main St, Suite 200
Fort Worth, TX 76106

When is rent due? Rent is due on or before the tenth of each month.

Can I pay my rent online? Currently we do not have an online payment program.

What other forms of payment are accepted? Rent and deposits may be paid by check, money order, cashier's check, or a major credit card (MasterCard, Visa, American Express).

What is the fee for returned checks? A \$25 fee will be charged for any returned check.

When will my security deposit be refunded? Any security deposit held on account will be refunded, less any qualified deductions, to the tenant of record within 30 days after the lease terminates and after the leased premises has been vacated by the tenant. 30-day written notice is necessary.

www.fortworthgov.org/aviation/