Airport Advisory Board Regular
Monday, January 26, 2026 at 5:30 PM

City Commission Chambers
214 Sams Avenue, New Smyrna Beach, Florida 32168

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Roll Call

2. PRESENTATION

3. PUBLIC INPUT (THREE MINUTE LIMIT)

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4.A Consider the approval of the Airport Advisory Board regular meeting minutes from October 27, 2025.

5. AIRPORT NOISE

5.A AIRPORT NOISE DISCUSSION AND REVIEW

6. SAFETY EVENTS

6.A SAFETY DISCUSSION AND REVIEW
None

7. NEW BUSINESS

8. OLD BUSINESS

9. AIRPORT MANAGER COMMENTS

9.A AIRPORT MANAGER UPDATE

10. AAB MEMBERS COMMENTS

11. NEXT MEETING DATE- APRIL 27, 2026, AT 5:30PM

12. ADJOURNMENT

Pursuant to Florida Statutes 286.0105, if an individual decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency or commission of the City of New Smyrna Beach with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, a record of the proceedings will be required and the individual will need to ensure that a verbatim transcript of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based. Such person must provide a method for recording the proceedings.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the City Clerk's office in person or by mail at 210 Sams Avenue, New Smyrna Beach, Florida 32168, (386) 410-2630, prior to the meeting.

THE CITY OF NEW SMYRNA BEACH - AIRPORT

CONSIDER THE APPROVAL OF THE AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 27, 2025.

January 26, 2026

Background:
An Airport Advisory Board Meeting was held on October 27, 2025. The meeting minutes are attached for your review and adoption consideration.

Findings:
None

Fiscal Analysis:
None

Strategic Plan Item:
No

Staff Report Created By: Teresa Merck

Attachments:

Airport Advisory Board Regular Meeting Minutes 10.27.2025.pdf

Airport Advisory Board Regular
Monday, October 27, 2025, at 5:00 PM

City Commission Chambers
214 Sams Avenue, New Smyrna Beach, Florida 32168

1. CALL TO ORDER

Having been duly advertised as required by law, the regular meeting of the Airport Advisory Board of the City of New Smyrna Beach, Florida, was held on Monday, October 27th, 2025, at the City Commission Chambers, 214 Sams Avenue, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168.

Chair James Dempsey called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Present: Chair James Dempsey, Vice Chair Jim Starley, Member Celeste Lester and Member Tim Caudill
Absent: Member David Maib

Also present were Airport Director Arvin Weese, Assistant Airport Director Jacob Cosat, and Airport Coordinator Teresa Merck

2. PRESENTATIONS- NONE

3. PUBLIC INPUT (THREE MINUTE LIMIT)- NONE

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4.A Consider the approval of the Airport Advisory Board Regular meeting minutes from April 28, 2025, and July 28, 2025.

Member Caudill made a motion to approve the Minutes from the meetings on April 28, 2025, and July 28, 2025. Vice Chair Starley second the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

5. AIRPORT NOISE

5.A. AIRPORT NOISE DISCUSSION AND REVIEW

Airport Director Arvin Weese discussed that the Airport meets with Epic Flight Academy monthly (August 6th, September 9th and October 15th since last AAB meeting) to discuss the Voluntary Noise Abatement Program (VNAP).
Arvin discussed the reason for meeting with Epic Flight Academy- re: VNAP- Epic said they hold themselves accountable and they account for 85% of the activity at the airport. Meeting with them and having the Voluntary relationship has been great and the airport appreciate their efforts.
Director Weese provided a brief update on statistics: Touch and Go's- few violations and they were addressed by the Epic instructor.
Inlet Shores- receives the least number of Flyovers- part of our VNAP. Airport can track using the Virtower software using Geofences over the area and it is less than 1% of total operations.
Changes in flight patterns due to TWY B construction and use of different runways.

Chair Jim Dempsey voiced that in his 9+ years of living in Inlet Shores, it has greatly improved, and he offered his sincere appreciation on the efforts of the VNAP by Epic.

6. SAFETY EVENTS

6.A. SAFETY DISCUSSION AND REVIEW

Scott Fansler- EVB Air Traffic Control Manager- 25 years of FAA Air Traffic experience- Previously worked in Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Denver, Milwaukee and St. Thomas- has been with RVA for 3 years in New Smyrna Beach –

Scott offered data year to date:
Surface events:
One Runway Incursion thus far in 2025. A Runway Incursion is any occurrence at an airport involving an aircraft, vehicle, or person that is in the protected area of a surface designated for landing and take-off, and where the presence is incorrect.
Category D- little or no risk. Incident occurred in one of our Hot Spot- a hot spot is a location on an aerodrome movement area with a history of potential risk of collision or runway incursion, and where heightened attention by pilots/drivers/controllers is necessary.

Other minor surface events- one involving a new pilot, who was selling the aircraft, Runway 25- landing and lost control, no injuries;
Aircraft Accidents- 3 accidents this year- 2 on airport, 1 off airport - 2 with no injuries and one with minor injuries.
All resulted in at least substantial damage to the aircraft. Both on airport property had engine failure on take-off and Crash/Fire rescue response was outstanding. Scott discussed the response with the current Fire/Rescue system and that it is cumbersome and puts a little demand on the controller. They talk in Dispatch lingo.

ATCT in the News with the shut down and staffing: Scott voiced that RVA is not part of that and that they are paid from a separate fund and their staffing situation has not changed. Scott was open to questions.

Chair Dempsey commented that Scott was helpful in setting up the presentation and explaining it at the last meeting. Scott explained that the tower has experienced quite a bit of turnover in the last 6 months, and they have been very fortunate to find qualified replacements.
Member Tim Caudill asked Scott to describe the mood and the culture of the tower at this moment compared to the previous history. He further questioned if Scott feels like we have a safe environment at the tower- Scott said there has been a lot of frustration and extended his reply to say it's been a tough 9-10 months during the TWY B construction but it's a great facility. Scott said that staffing has changed on Sundays due to Epic complying with the VNAP which has all helped with the moral of the culture and that we have a safe airport with regard to the ATCT performance.

Member Starley said he admires the work that Scott does and wants to make sure he has what he needs to continue, and Scott encourages that perspective as well.
Scott said they love the work they do. They just get frustrated over things they don't have a lot of control over- examples) Runway construction and short staffing.
Member Starley asked "Has the challenge with the training mode been recognized by RVA's staffing?"
Scott said yes it has. Typically, with the training program a person is certified within 30

days, which is a very short period of time in the ATC world.
Scott voiced that RVA understands they are going to have to amend their training program to accommodate the development of what they are seeing.

Scott said NSB Airport does an outstanding job and said airport management is always on the spot and they do an excellent job.

Chair Dempsey asked about the Crash phone discussion- This is a safety item- Do airports our size, in your experience, have a direct Crash line to the Fire Rescue.

Scott said he's only worked in one airport our size in Tamiami. They did have a dedicated crash phone in the building with a fire squad at the airport.

It is unknown if other airports that are our size have a direct line to an onsite fire department.

NSB has a radio in the tower that goes direct to dispatch, so they do not call 911- they call Dispatch direct which is the county and was previously set up this way. They dispatch whoever can get here the fastest. Fire Department at the Airport is City paid. Per Tim Caudill- if City paid, why are we going through County. Can we reach Fire directly? Arvin suggested contacting the Chief. Member Dempsey and Member Caudill suggested going back to see how that is set up and how we can optimize that. Asst. Director Jacob Cosat said we have the most efficient set up at this time. Director Arvin Weese said we can revisit the topic and review with the new Fire Chief. Ultimately looking for streamlined communications amongst the Tower/Dispatch/Fire and the Airport.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.A. Approval of proposed dates for the Airport Advisory Board Meetings during the 2026 calendar year and suggestion to move time to 5:30pm to include:
January 26, 2026; April 27, 2026; July 27, 2026; and October 26, 2026.
Member Caudill made a motion and Vice Chair Starley second the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

8. OLD BUSINESS

9. AIRPORT MANAGER COMMENTS

9.A. AIRPORT MANAGER UPDATE-

Arvin opened with thanking Scott on his great job and our relationship with the tower on our mission to our community.

Airport inspection on 8/21/2025- FDOT Airport license meets the state airport standards of safety for both FAA and State. All prior deficiencies have been mitigated, which took several years and multiple projects to address all.

Major issue that prevented us from meeting minimum requirements was RWY 7/25 was too close to roads on either end. Arvin said we are waiting for the official study but with government shut down it will be delayed. Member Dempsey conveyed the fact that he read that the original license said, “does not meet” and congratulated the Airport team for everything they did to get everything done to reach this achieve and offered his sincere thanks and congratulations!

New FY 2026 as of October 1, 2025- operations over the past 12 months FY24 vs FY25.

Runway issues- Master plan vs PCI study- RWY 2/20 and life expectance.

Completely rehabilitating this runway would be approximately 12-13 million.

The last PCI report said 2/20 is in such poor condition that the deterioration has slowed.

The impact of loss of use from one of our runways would almost shut us down in certain wind conditions

We can wait to do a Master Plan Update, but the FAA Orlando office said late last week said there’s not enough money in the fund this year.

FDOT does a Pavement Condition Index Report every 2 years. From that report, we decide when we need to rehabilitate. Other than 2/20 we are in good shape.

Strategic plan- Board asked if we can use Airport Reserves and if so, can we add the item to next year’s budget for RWY 2/20.

New Staff Member Dan Tobon, Airport Maintenance/Operations

Land Disposal Requests under FAA Review

Exhibit A update- almost ready to send to the FAA- 1947 survey- shows entire history of the airport- It is a Proper Boundary Survey and shows every time a piece of land changed hands so we have a property inventory, and we will share with the Board upon completion.

Changes to Florida Law- Weather modification equipment Reporting- Florida Statutes- Chapter 403.411- Public use airports are now required by law to report this monthly.

Economic Development- CRA- We currently have a design and study and infrastructure underway for larger corporate hangars.

CIP Update on Projects:

Fuel Farm- Tentative Start Date of February 1, 2026
T Hangar E- Design almost done
Twy B- Substantially complete
Administrative Building- Bids Due November 5, 2025
Papi/Airfield Generator Replacement- running a natural gas line
Ramp Extension- under design
Septic to Sewer- line to tower to include infrastructure
Airport Perimeter Fencing- adding true wildlife fencing
Airport Beautification- CRA Grant- Discussion of traffic enhancement to address safety concerns with traffic in front of Airport on US1
Wildlife Management Update- USDA on site last week and this week addressing our coyote population.
New Airport Wildlife- 7-foot fiberglass shark in front of Airport

Director Arvin Weese spoke about Assistant Director Jacob Cosat's resignation and leaving the airport with his last day being November 11, 2025. Arvin said it is without a doubt that Jacob has left a fingerprint on every corner of this airport with how hard he worked, and he is a true aviation professional. Arvin voiced how extremely proud of Jacob he is and all his outstanding work. The Board all agreed and congratulated Jacob Cosat.

10. AAB MEMBERS' COMMENTS-

10.A. Member Caudill said the work that has been done and how much has been accomplished over the past couple of years is unbelievable and the community should be ecstatic. Losing Jacob is a huge loss to the airport- thank you for your service.

Member Starley reiterated congratulations to Jacob Cosat.

Chair Dempsey shared the admiration of Jacob's proactive approach and creating the website and being awarded Volusia League of Cities Public Works Employee of the Year in May 2025. He said he is proud to have known Jacob both personally and professionally and he has tremendous talent and is going to go to great places.

Jacob said he and Arvin make a great team and he is thankful for the comments and the teams of people at the airport that have worked collectively to make it all work. He said it's been his mission to contribute to the airport and to assist Arvin with his goals to make those come true and to help all the tenants.

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11. NEXT MEETING DATE- January 26, 2025, at 5:30pm

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12. ADJOURNMENT- Meeting adjourned at 6:17pm

Pursuant to Florida Statutes 286.0105, if an individual decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency or commission of the City of New Smyrna Beach with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, a record of the proceedings will be required and the individual will need to ensure that a verbatim transcript of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based. Such person must provide a method for recording the proceedings.

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THE CITY OF NEW SMYRNA BEACH - AIRPORT

AIRPORT NOISE DISCUSSION AND REVIEW

January 26, 2026

Background:

Airport staff will provide an update on monthly statistics and ongoing efforts to educate users and the community about the airport's Voluntary Noise Abatement Program.

Findings:

None

Fiscal Analysis:

None

Strategic Plan Item:

No

Staff Report Created By: Teresa Merck

THE CITY OF NEW SMYRNA BEACH - AIRPORT

SAFETY DISCUSSION AND REVIEW

January 26, 2026

Background:

Deputy Fire Chief Dan Harshburger will discuss the New Smyrna Beach Fire Department and the support they provide the Airport. Airport staff will discuss recent safety related incidents, concerns or issues for discussion and recommendations.

Fiscal Analysis:

None

Strategic Plan Item:

No

Staff Report Created By: Teresa Merck

THE CITY OF NEW SMYRNA BEACH - AIRPORT

AIRPORT MANAGER UPDATE

January 26, 2026

Background:

The airport director will provide an update on airport operations and projects, including:

- Runway Use and Runway 02/20 Funding
- Exhibit A Update
- Airport Administration Building Construction
- Fuel Farm Construction
- T-Hangar E Project
- Wildlife Fencing Design
- New Assistant Airport Director

Fiscal Analysis:

None

Strategic Plan Item:

No

Staff Report Created By: Teresa Merck